

# UT

JOURNAL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

FALL 2019

Hall of Fame Alumna  
Elected Tampa Mayor

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Breaking Down Defenses

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Construction Begins on  
New Arts Center

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## A Day on the Bay

Students Explore the Deep Blue Sea  
on the BIOS II

*mlarthe*





## COMFORTING ART

Recent graduates Natalie Miro and Sara-Jessica Dapolito paint a butterfly cupboard as part of an art therapy project for St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. The cupboard will be used as a comfort care cabinet to assist families in the grieving process with the passing of a child.





# UT

[www.ut.edu/utjournal](http://www.ut.edu/utjournal)

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## Chiseling Out UT's Future

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The July 16, 1971, issue of *Life* magazine published a story about the “Grand Old Hotels” in America. One section of the story, “New Lease on Lost Splendors,” featured grand old hotels that were converted for different uses. UT’s Plant Hall (the former Tampa Bay Hotel) was listed and photographed, along with Poland Spring House in Portland, ME, and Windsor Hotel in Cape May, NJ. The two latter hotels were both, sadly, destroyed by fire a few years after the article was published.

A curious side note is that a *Minaret* article in 1970 explained that the *Life* editors had visited campus to decide whether to feature Plant Hall or Flagler College’s Ponce de Leon Hall — also a former grand hotel. But, according to the *Minaret* writer, “restoration projects by the Chiselers and other benefactors pushed UT out front.”

Interestingly, this anecdote happened only 10 years after the Chiselers were founded. For a fledgling organization to make such an impact on a building that it is noted nationally is impressive. It accurately describes the impact the Chiselers have had on Plant Hall and the University in general. Plant Hall is not only UT’s iconic, landmark building, it also represents the rich history, culture and diversity of the city of Tampa and the Tampa Bay area.

I’m pleased to help the Chiselers celebrate their 60th anniversary.

It’s well known that the Chiselers’ first project in 1959 was to chisel, clean and polish the tiles that decorate the fireplaces in the Plant Hall ballroom. After that initial project, the Chiselers raised \$800 — on a “money tree” — to fund draperies for the ballrooms to both decorate the rooms and improve acoustics. Since then the Chiselers have raised millions of dollars and made improvements to Plant Hall big and small.

I talk a lot about the importance of philanthropy and the urgency of building UT’s endowment. In many ways, I consider the Chiselers’ support of Plant Hall as one of UT’s most important and lasting endowments. In 1959, UT’s endowment was negligible. But, the “interest” that UT received and still receives from the Chiseler’s support of Plant Hall is invaluable. How many people associate UT with Plant Hall? How many alumni consider time spent in Plant Hall as central to their UT experience? How many prospective students come to UT because of UT’s mix of historic and modern buildings?

Just like an endowment is the foundation of an institution, Plant Hall is UT’s foundation and is the spirit of campus and the community. Plant Hall anchors campus, and many of its architectural elements are referenced in newer buildings and spaces.

Martha Ferman, who passed away in 2011 and whose son, Jim Ferman Jr., is an emeritus chair of the Board of Trustees, was a founding member of the Chiselers. I often call the Fermans UT’s “first family,” as their support of UT — for more than 70 years and continuing with new generations — has been unwavering (see page 9 for the Ferman family’s latest major contribution to UT’s future). But, perhaps Mrs. Ferman’s foresight in being a founding member of the Chiselers — and grabbing her gardening gloves and heading over to UT on that summer day in 1959, thereby inspiring generations of future Chiselers — will always be remembered as one of the family’s greatest gifts.





UT FEATURES

## 14 All Hands on Deck

With a newly christened re-search ship, UT students have unprecedented access to discover the wonders of Tampa Bay.

## 20 Moral Victory

It was a loss for the Spartans, but 50 years later, the historic game between FAMU and UT proved a win for race relations in sports and society.

## 24 Tampa's New Leader

Jane Castor '81 is the third UT Spartan to be elected as mayor of Tampa.

IN EVERY ISSUE

### 4 NEWS OF NOTE

### 30 ALUMNI REPORT

### 42 SPARTAN READY

### 60 MINARET MOMENT

ON THE COVER: R/V Bios II sets sail.  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: Michael Paraskevas





## NEWS OF NOTE

HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY



# Rebuilt for a New Era

**The rebuilt and enlarged Southard Family Building is a modernized take on the former Riverside Center.**

When it opened in May 1963 the Riverside Center was known as the Student Center and included a bookstore, dining center, library and student lounges.

Last spring, the Riverside Center officially opened as a rebuilt structure with a new name, but the same mission — to enhance student academic and co-curricular needs.

The building was renamed after Mike '82 and Amy Southard, who met at UT, are parents of a UT student and longtime supporters and donors. In honor of their recent, generous gift to the University, the Riverside Center is now the Southard Family Building.

The rebuilding project resulted in the building being two-stories through-out, with unobstructed views of the

Hillsborough River, the Riverwalk and downtown Tampa.

"The Southard Family Building benefits the UT community in so many ways," said Pres. Ron Vaughn. "Students especially benefit from the expansion of Career Services and the addition of classrooms and study spaces, and they've enjoyed the more functional post office."

The Southard Family Building features more than 50 pieces of art by abstract artist Audrey Phillips. Phillips has spent most of her life in Florida and received her Bachelor of Fine Art from the University of Florida. She has exhibited in solo and group shows in Minnesota, New York, Michigan, California, Texas, New Mexico, Geor-

gia, North Carolina and Florida. Her work is in numerous United States and international corporate and private collections.

The rebuilding is enhanced by landscaping, new sidewalks and outdoor, riverfront seating on a plaza facing the river. The centerpiece of the plaza is a 9-foot interlocking UT sculpture, made entirely of a superior food/marine-grade stainless steel. The sculpture was fabricated by Sarasota-based creator Scott Hamblin of The Resource Factory, which calls itself "Creators of Really Cool Stuff."

Mike Southard, who is a member of UT's Board of Trustees, said he is pleased to see how UT has grown and prospered, and sees his gift as helping UT continue its momentum.

"Record numbers of students are seeking admission, and we need to make every effort to help them realize their dreams," he said.





▲ Career Services offices feature space for placement services, including interviewing, corporate recruiter meetings, receptions, employer programs and numerous student programs to aid career exploration and job search. An adjacent multipurpose room opens onto a plaza that overlooks the Hillsborough River.



► The language lab consists of two classrooms and spaces for language tutoring. The spaces were designed with collaboration in mind and include language learning specific classroom management systems, mobile workstations and international broadcasts.



▲ Mail Services, UT's post office "of the future," incorporates self-service lockers for students to pick up their packages, which students are notified about via email. In a typical academic year, the UT community receives more than 100,000 packages.

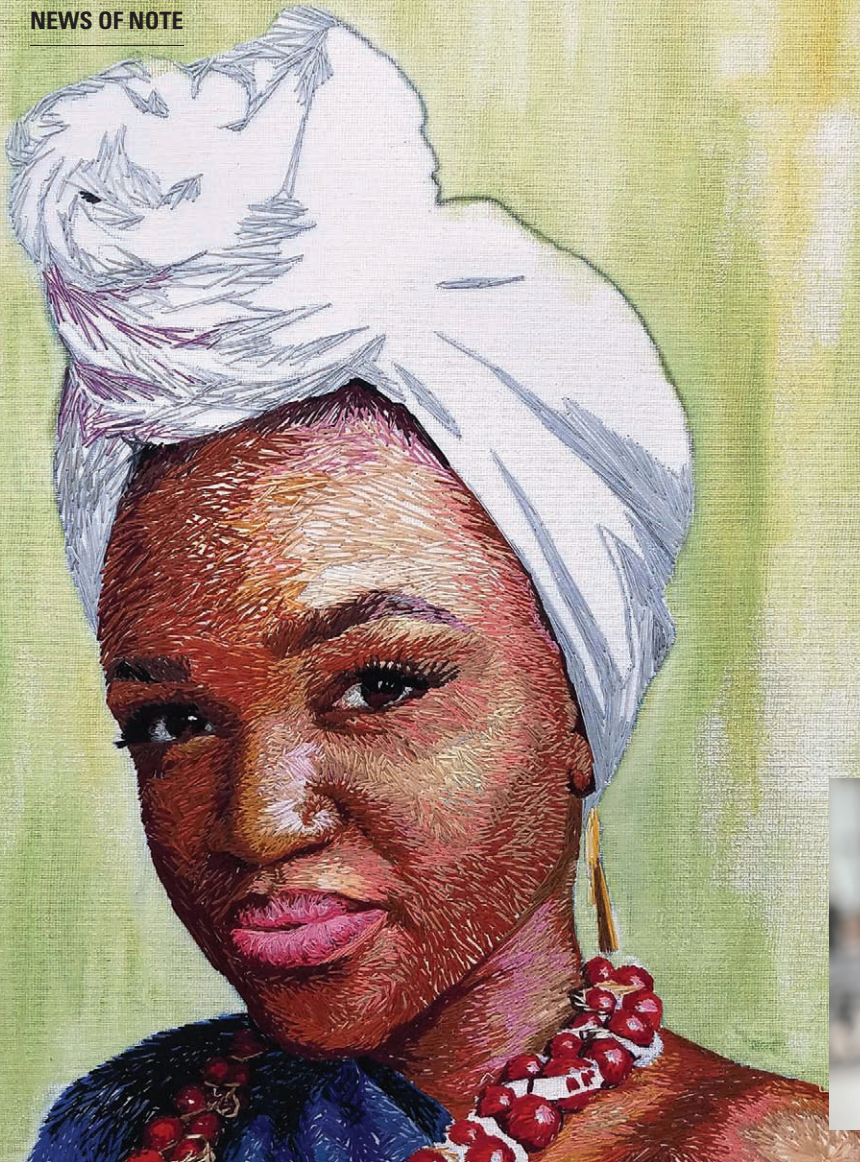


▲ The building includes 10 classrooms and  
► conference rooms, all of which have the latest 4K display technology.

Other highlights of the new facility include:

- Numerous faculty offices to help keep pace with the rapid addition of new employee hires.
- The Office of Admissions' presentation room, which was expanded.





The experimental art course she took at UT opened her eyes to creating art on different surfaces. For one piece she created a self-portrait using embroidery that required a second look to realize it wasn't paint but threads. For another piece she used condoms as the base of a series of three portraits to bring awareness to the issue of sex trafficking. Those two pieces earned her the award at the festival.

"My art is very narrative..., so faces, expressions and emotions help with communicating a story or evoking emotions," said Jones, whose artwork focuses on social injustices, especially with women.

The Gasparilla Festival of the Arts was her first ever public show.



# Student Named Emerging Artist

**Nneka Jones '20 credited an experimental art course for opening her eyes and taking risks.**

Growing up in Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago, Nneka Jones '20 was always doodling and drawing. Her mother, father and three sisters would open their work planners and school notebooks to find Jones' sketches serendipitously in the margins.

Her doodling and drawing has

reached a new level as Jones won the William P. O'Dowd Memorial Emerging Artist Award at the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts last spring.

Jones, a fine arts major with a concentration in printmaking and painting and a minor in marketing, doesn't prefer a particular style or medium.

"It was amazing and much more than I expected," she said. "People who had never seen me or heard me speak about my work had their own reaction to it by just looking at the art, without me speaking to them before. It was amazing. I don't even have words to describe it."

Jones nearly didn't apply for the show when applications were due last fall. She was slammed with finals and end-of-semester projects, and didn't think she'd have time. But there was a small voice inside her, telling her to take a risk.

"Part of me was like, just put yourself out there, because you never know what could happen."



# Red, blonde or brunette?

Which hair color is most preferred by men and women?



Which hair color is most preferred by men and women? Red, blonde or brunette?

According to UT professors Jennifer Wortham and Abraham Miller, and alumna Daniela Delvescovo '17, the answer is...brunette.

"Brunette hair color was preferred overall by both males and females, followed by blonde and then red hair,"

said Wortham, a professor of health sciences and human performance. "Male hair color choice in females did not vary between geographic regions, but female choice for female hair color did."

The data, recently published in the journal *Florida Scientist*, showed that both men and women prefer the hair color they have been around within their family and population.

"There's evidence to show why brunette is preferred," said Wortham. "If the hair color is the most common in the environment, then it's probably the most evolutionary stable. There's something stable about picking what everyone else does. If you think about it, in our culture, anytime you choose to do something that is outside the norm, you will face consequences."

Wortham, Miller, an associate professor of health sciences and human performance, and Delvescovo collected more than 3,000 surveys from college-aged students in the Tampa Bay area. They asked respondents what geographical region they were from, what their parents' their own and their significant others' hair color is (and if any dyed their hair), and what they personally preferred.

—SYDNEY RHODES '21



## CHISELERS' 60TH ON EXHIBIT

The Chiselers, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, is being recognized with a Community Case exhibition at the Tampa Bay History Center.

The exhibition, "60 years of Preserving a Tampa Icon: The H. B. Plant Hotel," will run October through December. The exhibit will include posters and colorful artifacts to describe the Chiselers' history, mission, fundraising activities and more

The History Center's Community Case offers organizations the unique opportunity to tell their story within the History Center's galleries.



Looking for Spartan gear? This spring Barnes & Noble launched the Spartan Team Store at [www.spartanteamstore.com](http://www.spartanteamstore.com) which sells UT-branded apparel. The team store focuses specifically on athletic- and spirit-inspired merchandise, including apparel, drinkware and tailgate accessories.



5 MINUTES WITH

# Lauren White

**A nurse practitioner and Ph.D. student, White is the co-founder of a company called The Natural Nipple and is a participant in the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center Spartan Incubator.**

**Tell us about your product.**

The Natural Nipple provides seamless and stress-free breast and bottle feeding with the first and only bottle that matches mom's shape, feel and milk flow. That means you'll be able to swap between breast and bottle without confusing baby. So, you can bottle feed when you need to, and breastfeed when you want, for as long as you want.

**You're dealing with a life-sustaining, bodily function. Is that intimidating?**

Oh man, intimidated is an understatement. Good health starts with making a matchless preventive solution, like breast milk, accessible to optimize wellness worldwide. This is important to me so I am intrinsically careful with getting this product right, as well as extrinsically motivated by expecting and breastfeeding mothers who reported looking for a bottle nipple that is closest to their natural nipple in shape and in flow rate.

**Recently you said your company is hoping to create a movement to reduce barriers to breastfeeding. Is that attainable?**

100 percent. Our immediate impact is being seen on @thenaturalnipple, where we are creating a culture of parents supporting other parents through the breastfeeding journey—with zero tolerance for mom shaming, regardless of how long you are able to breastfeed!

**What is your company's biggest challenge?**

Preventing burnout while we wait, and juggling clinical jobs until the product is ready to beta test.

**You're a nurse practitioner. Did you ever see yourself being an entrepreneur?**

This journey from clinician to researcher and now entrepreneur has given me the opportunity to bring an innovation to market that will reduce \$300 billion in preventable medical costs, save hospitals an average of \$15 million every year, cut the 150 million formula containers that end up in landfills every year and help families THRIVE for our future.

**Breastfeeding is a sensitive topic. Have you found that makes your product a harder pitch?**

This made me laugh out loud. Nipple is a funny word, and this is an issue men are typically uncomfortable discussing. The name is in your face, but yes, this is part of your body and it's a real issue families struggle with. So, having the opportunity to talk about economic implications and challenges, and having a simple solution to fix that, is a blessing.







A black box theater is designed for flexible stage and audience interaction, including rehearsal spaces.

A multi-use lobby space provides gallery walls for displaying art work, which leads into another area for music and dance performances.

There is a courtyard with casting/sand pit area and furnaces for casting metal or ceramic art.

#### AT A GLANCE

## FERMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**The new arts center will transform arts on campus and in Tampa.**

In April UT broke ground on a new, four-story, 90,000-square-foot building on campus that will provide spaces for UT's fine and performing arts.

The Ferman Center for the Arts building, named in honor of the Ferman family—long-time supporters of the University—will include a recital hall, black box theater, classrooms, practice rooms, art and dance studios, faculty and administrative offices, and student study spaces. The building is set to be complete by Fall 2020.

David Gudelunas, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, said the center will be a place where the UT community can learn, create, innovate and break artistic boundaries.

# 2

sound insulated music classrooms and six general education classrooms

# 200-seat

acoustically-tuned theatre for recital, musical performances, dance programs, film screenings and speeches

# 4

stories

# 12

music practice rooms, music teaching studios and instrument storage

# 3

recording studios with a professional level control room

# 20

small advanced painting collaborative project studios, a large painting studio, sculpture studio and wood/metal fabrication shop, including a plasma cutter



BY THE NUMBERS

## New Degree Program Kicks off with Success

UT's degree program in physician assistant medicine, which began with a cohort of 48 students this fall, was recently granted Accreditation-Provisional status by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). The program received 997 applications for acceptance in the inaugural class of 48.



**1,000+**  
**hours**

clinical experience by  
nearly half the class



**62.5 : 37.5**

Female to male ratio



**3.48**

average under-  
graduate GPA

**20%**

are veterans.



**7%**

are UT alumni.

**40%**

are Florida residents.

**30 years**

average age of student



### 45 YEARS STRONG

On April 5, the Sykes College of Business hosted a Gala to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the MBA program. The event featured John H. Sykes, Tampa philanthropist and Sykes Enterprises founder, who shared his story through moderator and alumna Eileen Canady MBA '05. Five Alumni Impact Awards were presented to Robert C. Calafell MBA '75, Marcus Greene MBA '87, Kevin Shukur MBA '95, Judith DeStasio MBA '06 and Ronice Barlow MBA '17 for making an impact on their industry and community.





Assistant Professor of Physics Denija Crnojevic received a grant from the NSF to discover dwarf galaxies.

# Endlessly Searching for Small Galaxies

**A UT professor seeks to understand galaxy formation by searching for dwarf galaxies.**

Standing on the roof of the West Parking Garage on campus, a group of students and faculty gathered in the middle of the night above the lights of campus to stare up at the heavens.

To one of the students peering through the eight-inch reflecting telescope, Denija Crnojevic, assistant professor of physics, pointed to the left at the planet Mars. Crnojevic beamed while explaining the visible ice caps millions of miles away.

“When I was very young, I remember being in love with the night sky and stars,” Crnojevic said. “I wanted to be an astronaut of course, but then that became tricky, and I decided to study the galaxies.”

In the summer of 2018, the College of Natural and Health Sciences announced select faculty members who received three-year grants from the National Science Foundation for research. Crnojevic was funded for her research on “Testing the Lambda Cold Dark Matter Paradigm with Dwarf Satellites of Low-mass Galaxies.”

“In astronomy, we know that we live in a very big galaxy,” said Crnojevic. “We also know that surrounding our galaxies, there are smaller galaxies called satellites. These are just tiny versions of ours, which are called dwarfs.”

Recently, Crnojevic has discovered these small galaxies could also have other satellites of their own, so even

smaller dwarf galaxies. Her observations and research are now debunking her past theories.

“So, this is my goal: to find all the small galaxies,” Crnojevic said. “I want to find these little galaxies, then compare them to our current understanding. By doing this, we hope to get a better understanding of galaxy formation overall.”

Crnojevic uses advanced and powerful telescopes in Chile and Hawaii, as well as other locations around the world, collaborating with other professors and professional colleagues.

So far, she has found that galaxies living in different environments (i.e., whether they live in populated groups of galaxies or in isolation) show very different characteristics. This means that whichever environment a galaxy lives in, it will influence how it evolves. Crnojevic said she and her colleagues are trying to find out why this happens.

“As soon as I discover something new, there are always more questions that develop from that discovery,” she said. “Galaxy research is endless.”

—SYDNEY RHODES '21





## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

# Winning Under Pressure

## UT baseball wins eighth national championship

With index fingers pointed towards the sky and smiles on every face, the UT baseball team posed for pictures donning t-shirts and hats with two important words on both – national champions. The energy was electric in the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, NC.

Despite inclement weather and late innings, UT won its eighth Division II NCAA championship by defeating Colorado Mesa University. Eight must have been the lucky number this season, as this eighth title collected on the eighth of June was the eighth straight game won in Cary since 2015. Just one cham-

pionship win behind Florida Southern College, UT is second for most NCAA Division II baseball national titles.

The first lead of the championship game did not occur until the top of the sixth inning, and it was scored by Colorado Mesa. By the bottom of the sixth, the Spartans stepped up their offense. A single, followed by a double, tied up the score. In the bottom of the seventh, two Spartans hit back-to-back singles, and Yorvis Torrealba, a junior left fielder, walked up to the plate and hit a base hit to left field to bring the two runners to home. This lead was all that was needed. The final score of three to one sealed the deal.

UT experienced success all season, owing credit to strong performances off





# SPARTANS SET HISTORY

**Volleyball teams claim championships indoors and out**

In only its second season, the UT beach volleyball team concluded an incredible season as the 2019 American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Division II National Champions.

Under the direction of Jeff Lamm, the Spartans made history as the first team in University history to win a championship title both indoors and on the sand in the same season. Lamm served as an assistant coach for the 2018 indoor squad, which included players from both championship teams. With an overall record of 20-10, the team earned a perfect 7-0 during the Small College Beach Championships event in April in Tavares, FL, taking the title by defeating Texas A&M Kingsville.

With the success experienced during the first two seasons, the Spartan community can look forward to a thrilling showcase in 2020.

the mound from the Spartan starters, and consistent late inning offense. In a post-series interview with the *Tampa Bay Times*, head coach Joe Urso said that he puts a lot of pressure on the players. "It's unfortunate, but to be remembered as a Spartan, you have to win a national championship," Urso said. "Nobody remembers who's the runner up. That's how big this is for our program."

This mentality must have inspired the players.

"This is the reason we all decided to come to Tampa. It's to be a part of the history, to win a national championship, and have our names in the book," Torrealba said.

For 19 seasons, Urso has led the University's baseball program. Five of

the eight national championships were won under his leadership, making him the Spartans winningest coach. This year's team's 45-14 season included the selection of four players in the Major League Baseball (MLB) amateur draft. Prior to their appearance in the NCAA Division II Championship series, the team experienced a season-high by winning 11 games straight.

The team's accolades extended to Urso, who was recognized as the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Diamond Division II National Coach of the Year. His career record of 831-242-1 resulted in him becoming the fastest coach to receive 800 wins.

—EMILY STOOPS





BY ERIC CÁRDENAS | ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAEL PARASKEVAS

# *A Day on the Bay*

**A pleasure cruise this is not ...**

By the end of the daylong cruise, the 19 students — most first-year students experiencing their inaugural ride on the R/V Bios II — were visibly exhausted, sun-drenched and satisfied. The bore of the twin Cummings diesel engines and the ubiquitous odor of mud, saltwater and shellfish made the 45-minute cruise back to the marine field station a dreamy, blissful ride, perfect for staring out to the horizon and falling in and out of sleep.

For six hours on Tampa Bay, students dragged nets in and out of the water, hurriedly observed, separated, documented and released sea creatures, ran hydraulic equipment and cleaned the decks. Definitely more *Deadliest Catch* than the *Love Boat*, but without the risk of 12-foot waves, capsizing and hypothermia.





Under a picture-perfect April sky, 19 UT students spent a day on Tampa Bay trawling for, documenting and releasing sea life that included scorpionfish, sea urchins and blue crabs.





UT's new 47-foot, 2-inch research vessel, the R/V Bios II, was custom built for student research and dive trips in Tampa Bay. It has an 1,800-pound winch, an air-conditioned cabin and less than four feet of draft to access all but the shallowest flats.

UT's research vessel, the R/V Bios II, is a 47-foot-2-inch trawler custom-built for marine science research. It is docked at UT's Marine Science Field Station on Tampa Bay, a short drive from campus, that allows quick and easy access to the water. The boat was built in Slidell, LA, by Newton Boats and christened in 2018. It is taken out up to 20 times a semester. It holds 400 gallons of diesel fuel, can accommodate 30 and sleep six (but hasn't yet), has a boom and 1,800-pound winch, and can be easily configured for trawling or dive trips.

While the flybridge offers the most panoramic views of Tampa Bay, its air-conditioned cabin offers a welcomed respite from the elements. Its shallow draft — at less than four feet — helps the student and faculty researchers access most reaches of Tampa Bay. It can comfortably cruise at 18-20 knots, making half-day trips manageable. And perhaps most of all, the boat's hull graphics — sporting the UT logo and UT colors — leaves no doubt who is filling the marine science research space in Tampa Bay.

John Ambrosio, coordinator of the Marine Science Field Station, and a member of the class of 2001, said there really is no comparison between the Bios I, a converted 1958 fishing boat that required an occasional tow, and the Bios II.

"The Bios II is a well-equipped, highly effective research vessel. Being able to run these trips is an amazing opportunity for students," Ambrosio said.

Sitting in the air-conditioned cabin with three fellow students on the settee, Haley Lasco, a senior from Illinois, is one of the last students to have studied on the Bios I. Like Ambrosio, she said the Bios II is a welcomed change.

"It's easier to trawl, and you don't feel like you might sink," Lasco said.

Kaitlyn Wykoff, a freshman from Houston who is majoring in marine science-biology with a sustainability minor, said she came to UT because of the marine science program and the many job opportunities in the field. As for the Bios II, she was to the point: "I think it's sweet. Super cool," she said.

In addition to the Bios II, UT also owns smaller research vessels to further facilitate research in Tampa Bay's estuaries. The fleet includes 23- and 27-foot Grady White center console boats, the former with a single Yamaha 250 outboard engine, and the latter with twin Yamaha 250 outboards. Plus, there is an assortment of small jon boats, inflatables, canoes and kayaks.

Most of the students on the day's trip were enrolled in an introductory marine science class (MAR 200) joined by a couple upperclass mentors. Although most of the students hadn't yet completed a full year at UT, they were already experiencing first-hand field research in marine science observation and recording.

A representative from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection-Tampa Bay Aquatic Reserves, who studies hard bottom fish, and a representative from the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council joined the trip to see first-hand what the students would net that day. A University of South Florida student, contemplating graduate study





## **“The Bios II is a well-equipped, highly effective research vessel. Being able to run these trips is an amazing opportunity for students.”**

—JOHN AMBROSIO '01, COORDINATOR OF THE MARINE SCIENCE FIELD STATION

in marine science, was also invited to get experience deploying a trawl net.

While UT professors welcome non-UT research scientists and local professionals to observe and work on their own research, it also serves a dual purpose — networking.

“I occasionally bring on board some local professionals for the students to interact with,” said Michael Slattery, an assistant professor of marine science who organized the trip. “I wanted students to have the opportunity to talk to professionals doing the jobs they claim to want to pursue. This is

invaluable for finding internships.”

The students arrived at 8 a.m., shoved off by 8:30 a.m. and headed approximately 19 miles toward the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and the waters offshore Fort De Soto Park near Mullett Key. It was a picture-perfect, mid-spring “Chamber of Commerce” day, with clear skies, calm waters and a comfortable 80-degree temperature. Porpoises tracked the boat’s progress.

The plan was to do two trawls, observe and document the organisms that come up from the deep, and then head back to the marina.

In the 45-minute cruise to the destination, amongst breakfast snacks of Dunkin’ Donuts and pastries, students took selfies, discussed summer plans, and weighed options for marine science internships, jobs and graduate school. Of course, small talk devolved to regular collegiate conversation — parties from the night before, campus housing and assignments due on Monday.

Of the 19 students, 17 were women, nearly typical of the demographics of marine science majors and researchers internationally.



# A Day Job

Each of the 19 students were assigned a job on the Bios II, which rotated for each trawl. Like for any newbie boat crew, the jobs require a fast learning curve, decisive action and an understanding that sweat, stinky hands, wet shoes and a saltwater drenching may be a result. And of course, one poor decision or step in the wrong direction could end in a swim. On the Bios II, the jobs include:

**The net crew:** The half-dozen students who deploy and secure the trawling net.

**Hydraulics:** The person who controls the hydraulics that lift and lower the boom, and runs the winch that deploys and retrieves the trawling net.

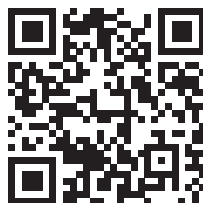
**Spooler:** The person who ensures the winch cable spools correctly as it is being retrieved.

**Timer:** The person tracking the trawl's bottom time.

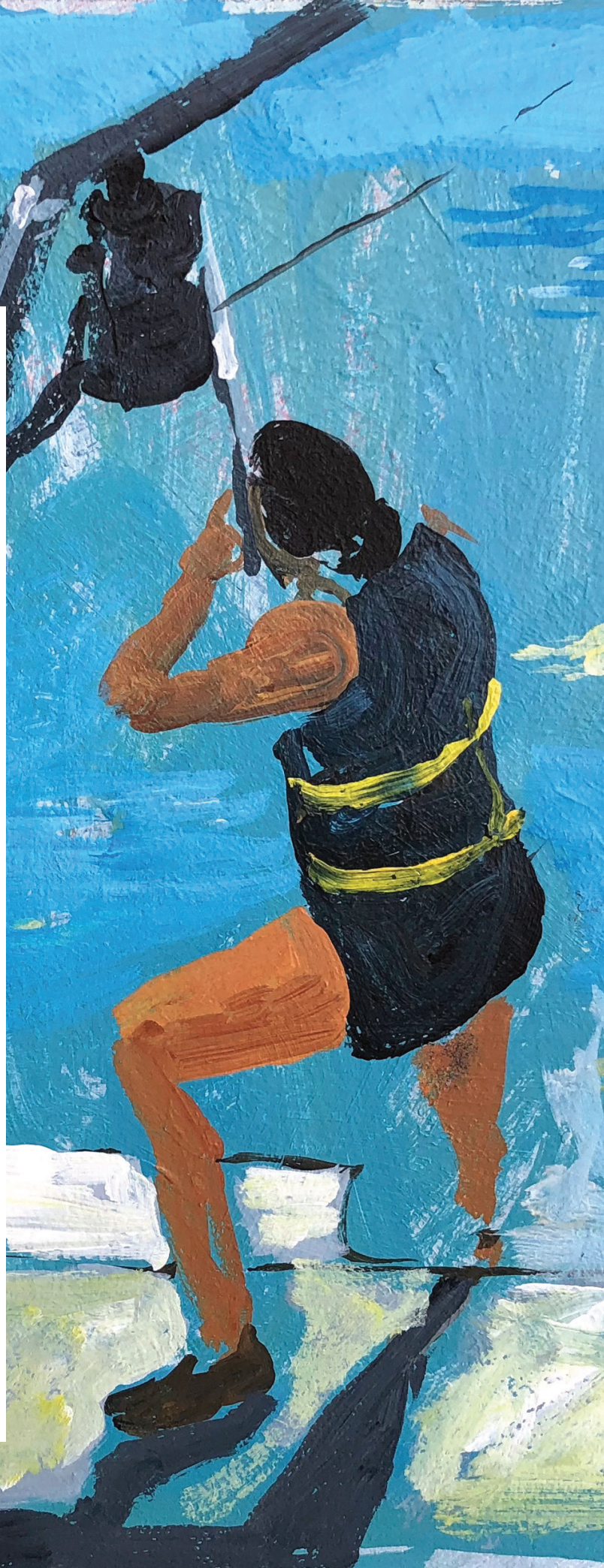
**Observers and sorters:** The half-dozen students charged with sifting through the "catch" to identify the organisms. The organisms are sorted and then returned—as quickly as possible—to the water.

**Documenters:** The people assigned to photograph each unique organism for later identification and count.

**Clean-up crew:** No description necessary.



Scan QR code to view a video  
about UT's marine biology program.





# “This trip helps them to start thinking about what’s beyond the classroom experience.”

—MICHAEL SLATTERY, AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARINE SCIENCE

Trawling is no different than fishing. Find a site that looks promising and work like crazy to deploy the gear. And then wait, and wait some more. After a while retrieve the gear, deal with the catch (if any) and then try it all over again.

The Bios II utilizes an otter trawl, a rectangular, bottom-trawling net that includes a turtle excluder so that turtles and large fish can escape. The first trawl was a jackpot. Amidst shells and seaweed the net overflowed with blue crabs, sea stars, sea urchins and lizardfish. A chorus of appreciation erupted as a student came up with a seahorse, only to be topped by the finding of a baby octopus.

But, the second trawl was a dud. A virtually empty net. A few

shells. No sea stars, no urchins and not even any lizardfish. Perhaps the net didn’t set right, or maybe the crew hit a dead zone. Either way, it called for a third trawl.

Fortunately, the third trawl, much like the first, overflowed with sea creatures. There were fewer sea stars, but more sea urchins. The highlights of the third trawl included three inflated burrfish, brittle stars, a flounder and a juvenile skate.

Starting this year Slattery and Ambrosio are building a dataset of organisms that are observed on trawling trips. The MAR 200 students will own the dataset and will be responsible for updating/tracking the data, which could prove to be invaluable for

researchers studying the health and diversity of species in Tampa Bay.

Slattery said he hopes students learn three main things after a day on the water. First, they learn how hectic boat work can be, as well as how much sitting around may be involved. Secondly, about the biodiversity of organisms in Tampa Bay. And thirdly, and perhaps most important, is that there are a ton of opportunities — like research on the Bios II — at UT, but it’s up to them to take advantage of each opportunity.

“This trip really gives students an introductory experience to marine science research,” Slattery said. “And it helps them to start thinking about what’s beyond the classroom experience.” 📌

## Daily Catch (and Release)

A sampling of what the students caught on this trip.

High fin scorpionfish | *Pontinus rathbuni*  
Striped Burrfish | *Chilomycterus reticulatus*  
Pin fish | *Lagodon rhomboides*  
Leopard Sea Robin | *Prionotus scitulus*  
Lined Seahorse | *Hippocampus erectus*  
Inshore lizardfish | *Synodes foetens*  
Southern Puffer | *Schoeroides pachygaster*  
Gulf flounder | *Paralichthys albigutta*  
Juvenile skate unknown (not stingray)  
Caribbean pygmy octopus | *Octopus joubini*  
Iridescent swimming crab | *Portunus gibbesii*  
Brittle star species unknown  
Variegated urchin | *Lytechinus variegatus*  
Purple sea urchin | *Arbacia punctulata*  
False Arrow crab | *Metoporhapis calcaratus*  
Blue crab | *Callinectes sapidus*









# Breaking Down Defenses



**UT vs. FAMU, widely considered the first interracial NCAA football game, turns 50.**

BY JOEY JOHNSTON

ILLUSTRATION BY  
ELEANOR SHAKESPEARE

Fifty years later, it's a treasured part of college football history. Fifty years later, it's a wondrous memory, a back-and-forth contest that took everyone's breath away. Fifty years later, it's still an example of what can happen when people come together in the name of possibilities.



But on Nov. 29, 1969 — when The University of Tampa Spartans faced the Florida A&M University Rattlers in what is considered the first ever NCAA football game between a team from a predominately black university versus a team from a predominately white university — there was plenty of worry.

Privately, Tampa police lobbied to cancel the game. It seemed too great of a risk, especially in the South, which grappled with school integration and civil rights. There was fear of an ugly incident.

Instead, it became a landmark event, a showcase of spirit and sportsmanship, a spectacle of spine-tingling athleticism. There were no incidents — only great football and an unforgettable atmosphere.

By the time FAMU, a black college, had defeated the overwhelmingly white UT Spartans 34-28 at the old Tampa Stadium before a sellout crowd of 46,477, the two diverse sets of fans were alternately energized and exhausted.

Now that game is part of a faded scrapbook for the once-notable UT football program, which was disbanded following the 1974 season.

People of a certain age still spin romantic tales about the old days, when UT's play-making luminaries (including NFL-bound John Matuszak '73 and Freddie Solomon '75) and the program's giant-killing reputation transformed Spartan games into Tampa's hottest ticket on a Saturday night.

In terms of national significance, though, UT football will forever be remembered as the Southern program that boldly helped to usher in college football's new social era.

"It was a night and an experience that none of us will ever forget," said Tampa resident Fran Curci, the UT coach who later led the programs at the universities of Miami and Kentucky. "I can still close my eyes and feel it."

Thirty minutes before kickoff, the stadium's two free-standing sides were

filled to capacity. About a thousand more spectators stood wherever there was room.

On the west side, all the fans were white.

On the east side, all the fans were black.

"There was a tension in the air like I had never seen — before or since — in that stadium," said Tampa businessman David Epstein, who was a 14-year-old Spartan ballboy that night.

"Just the aura and the noise that was all around us, it was a positively electric, big-time feel," said UT quarterback Jim Del Gaizo '69, now a South Florida resident who played five seasons in the NFL and later worked in the mortgage business.

Curci even cut short his halftime speech, so UT players could return to the field and witness a performance by the FAMU band, the "Marching 100."

"None of them had ever seen anything like that," Curci said. "Everybody dancing. The tuba guy spinning around. The whole night was a show, and that was part of it."

As a UT student, Marc Tand '71, a trumpet player from New York, was mesmerized.

"There were no cell phones, but after the game I called my parents back home and said, 'You won't believe what that band did,'" said Tand, a retired music teacher. "They filled up the football field and the sound they produced, it was just mind-blowing."

"For me, that made the night. It was bigger than the game. And don't get me wrong. That was one heck of an exciting game."

When Del Gaizo's fourth-down pass fell incomplete from the FAMU 14-yard line in the final seconds — and the combined offensive output had reached 1,135 yards — the outcome had been decided.

Curci sprinted to midfield for an embrace with legendary FAMU coach Jake Gaither, who died in 1994 at

age 90. Curci also visited the Rattler locker room to compliment key FAMU players.

If there was even the threat of a combustible spark, Curci's gestures snuffed it out. The game stood on its own merit. The aftermath was peaceful.

In 2009, Curci was invited to speak at FAMU's homecoming ceremonies in Tallahassee, where 20 members of the 1969 Rattlers returned to celebrate the 40-year anniversary of a game that broke racial barriers.

"I'm very proud that I had a role in such a game and that the University of Tampa was part of it," Curci said. "This wasn't some sort of pre-meditated attempt to make history. Look, we were just trying to put our program on the map. We were trying to get attention and national publicity by building a big-time team."

Curci, a former Miami assistant who was hired by the Spartans before the 1968 season, set things in motion during his first meeting with UT officials.

"I told them, 'If you won't allow me to recruit black players, I'm not coming,'" Curci said. "When we got started in that room, I pretty much took over the meeting. I said, 'I know you have questions for me, but let me start with my own questions. Why haven't you had a black football player? Is this the attitude of the university?'"

"They said, 'No, that's why we brought you here. We want to break the color line.' So that's how it started."

Curci, hired at a \$13,000 annual salary, scheduled notable opponents over a multi-season span, such as Miami, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, Vanderbilt University, Tulane University and the University of Tulsa. He immediately signed four black players — offensive lineman Noah Jackson '71, defensive end Willie Lee Jones '71, center Fletcher Carr '73 and, most importantly, running back Leon McQuay '70 of Tampa's Blake High School.





## **“Just the aura and the noise that was all around us, it was a positively electric, big-time feel”**

—JIM DEL GAIZO '69, UT QUARTERBACK

“All The Way” McQuay was a spectacular talent, a 195-pound back who ran 9.5 in the 100-yard dash and seemed bound for the University of Wisconsin in the Big Ten Conference. But Curci made McQuay his personal mission.

“I was at their house every single night,” Curci said. “Leon’s mother finally told him, ‘This man is interested in you. You’re going to Tampa. You wouldn’t like that weather in the North anyway.’”

As Curci built his Spartan war chest, Gaither’s frustrations mounted. Times were changing. Slowly, programs around the nation were integrating. Gaither no longer had his pick of black athletes.

His no-nonsense “recruiting pitch” letter to McQuay — *Dear Leon, You are invited to attend Florida A&M University* — was no match for Curci’s persistence.

Gaither, who had 22 conference titles and six black-college national championships, enjoyed a secure legacy. But something was missing. Eddie Jackson, a longtime FAMU administrator who served as Gaither’s sports information director, said Gaither was bothered by being labeled as a “black coach.” He wanted to play a white team and show his program’s prowess.

State politicians often courted Gaither’s favor, trying to sway the black vote. But when Gaither sought repayment — the scheduling of a game against the University of Florida or

Florida State University — he was consistently rebuffed. For two years, Gaither unsuccessfully lobbied members of Florida’s Board of Regents, which oversaw the state’s public universities.

Then Gaither got a call from Curci, an old coaching friend who was now leading the private-school football program in Tampa.

“Jake, I know you want to play some games in our stadium (Tampa Stadium), but you should just play us,” Curci said.

Gaither was all-in.

“A black school playing a (predominantly) white school was unheard of,” said Carr, who was recruited by Curci out of Erie, Pa. “Those guys (FAMU players) were giving us a hard time that night, saying that we (black players) belonged with them. I never gave black and white a thought until I got to Tampa. I wasn’t prepared.

“I went into a place to get water and the guy said, ‘We don’t serve you people.’ The first night I was getting a tour of the campus, we drove around town and saw this mini-riot in the streets, whites against blacks. I was ready to go back home right then. There were times I should have left. But I stuck it out. It showed me the world for what it is.”

The UT-FAMU game showed the football world what it could become.

On the field, it was a classic.

“They scored, we scored, they scored, we scored...it was unbelievable,” Del Gaizo said. “I don’t know if

the fans ever got a chance to sit down.”

FAMU quarterback Steve Scruggs, of St. Petersburg, rushed for 111 yards and passed for 189. Del Gaizo was 23 of 45 for 423 yards, including two touchdowns to running back Paul Orndorff ’72, a future professional wrestler (known as “Mr. Wonderful”).

McQuay, largely held in check, scored twice. But so did FAMU’s Hubert Ginn, a future Miami Dolphin, including a 4-yard touchdown run that put the Rattlers up 34-28 with 1:58 remaining.

Del Gaizo needed just four completions to position UT at the Rattler 14-yard line for a frantic final-minute finish. From there, though, with the crowd noise at jet-engine levels, he tossed four consecutive incompletions.

Game over.

History recorded.

“We were crushed to come up short,” said Carr, also a standout Spartan wrestler who became a wrestling coach at the University of Kentucky and Arizona State University. “But I think the game helped race relations all over, not just in Tampa. I guarantee you people in other schools took notice of it.”

Gaither (203-36-4 in his Hall of Fame career) never forgot.

Years later, he was honored at a reception. Somebody asked him about all the FAMU championships. Which one was the biggest?

“None of those,” Gaither said.

“The biggest game was when we beat The University of Tampa.” 📌





After earning 73 percent of the vote, Jane Castor '81 was sworn in as mayor of Tampa on May 1.



Jane Castor '81 starts strong as the new mayor of Tampa

# POWER FORWARD

BY MICHELLE BEARDEN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JESSICA LEIGH

It's a question retired Tampa police chief Jane Castor '81 was asked more times than she could count: Why would you possibly want to run for mayor and put yourself in the contentious, often ugly world of politics?

It's not like she had anything to prove. The Tampa native had served her city well, working her way up from street cop to the department's first female chief. When she stepped down in 2015, she got a friendly sendoff after 31 years and two days on the job.



Next up was a gig as a consultant for law enforcement. With a more relaxed schedule, she could spend time with her two teenage sons, three months apart and adopted as toddlers from a Ukraine orphanage with her former domestic partner, and their three rescue dogs.

She could get back to cruising on the Hillsborough River in her 22-foot hybrid boat, which she says “mysteriously” veers into Ulele whenever she takes it out. She would have more time for leisurely lunches of Cuban sandwiches at Michelle Faedo’s Tampeño Cuisine, long-distance bike rides and daily workouts at the gym, necessary for both her physical and mental health.

Castor says she never really had any political aspirations. But what she did have was a passion for Tampa. What began as a knock-around idea evolved into a concrete plan. Her city was transforming, and she saw an opening to play an integral role in it.

So in a giant leap of faith, she entered the crowded mayoral field to succeed two-time Mayor Bob Buckhorn, who gave her his endorsement.

“This is where I’ve spent my entire life. I love Tampa with all my heart. And I know it so well,” says Castor, 59.

“I’ve seen slow, steady growth over the years, and now it’s exploding. It’s on fire. I think there’s going to be more change in the next 10 years than ever before. Here was a chance to be actively engaged, and I didn’t want it to pass me by.”

The months-long campaign trail was more treacherous than she anticipated. Sometimes it got downright dirty, but Castor didn’t flinch. She stood by her commitment to steer clear of the mudslinging and stay positive.

She kept her focus on Tampa’s pressing issues — such as clogged roads, rapid transit, crime, the homeless, outdated infrastructure, business development and affordable housing — and delivered plans on how to fix the problems. When her record was ques-

tioned and her past mistakes magnified, Castor stood her ground or offered ideas on how she would do better.

The *Tampa Bay Times* gave her a strong endorsement. And when the polls closed, she had the overwhelming support of her fellow citizens. In the runoff election, Castor topped her opponent with 73 percent of the vote. In doing so, she made history, becoming the first openly gay mayor of a Southeastern city.

Though some national media seized on her sexual orientation and how she was part of a trend of successful political candidates coming out of the LGBTQ community, Castor dismissed it.

“It was never even an issue,” she says. She remembers it only coming up once after she addressed a prayer breakfast. “A few people stopped by afterward and said to me, ‘I don’t agree with your lifestyle, but I’m voting for you because I think you will be a good leader.’ So that’s fair enough.”

As police chief, she commanded 1,300 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$200 million. In her new job as Tampa’s 59th mayor, she oversees more than 4,300 employees and a budget upwards of \$1 billion. With fewer federal funds and more demands than ever to keep up with a growing population, Castor has some substantial challenges ahead of her.

Bring it on, Castor says with confidence. “There’s been so much groundwork laid and work already under way,” she says of Tampa’s future. “And I’ve got a great vision to keep it moving forward.”

## TAMPA’S FINEST

For Castor, there’s never been any place but Tampa. She and her four siblings grew up in north Tampa near Lake Magdalene, back when there was plenty of land to roam. Castor rode horses, water skied and fished. She also worked in the family’s custom cabinet business, which still operates today. She mastered skills that would come in

handy later in life when she rehabbed three houses in Seminole Heights, where she’s lived since she was 21.

At Chamberlain High School, she was a hoops standout. UT took notice of the 6-foot rangy athlete with the size 11 feet, and offered her a scholarship for basketball and volleyball.

The coziness of the campus back in 1977 appealed to her. She traded in a class size of 600 at Chamberlain to about 70 at UT, and began pursuing a degree in criminology. Castor always had a keen interest in justice and the forces of good versus evil. That’s why she could recite most of the dialogue, word by word, from her favorite book, “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Castor also didn’t let down the scouts who had recruited her. In her four years at the University, she scored 1,055 points and notched 508 rebounds in basketball, and was an all-state selection in both sports her senior year. That earned her a place in UT’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

“Best decision I ever made,” she says. “So many doors opened and so many opportunities came to me because of UT.”

Castor got the attention of associate professor Ed Ward, now a retired judge, when she enrolled in his business law class. “She brought the same excitement to class that she brought to the court when she played,” he recalls. “Always prepared, always curious. She made a big impression on me.”

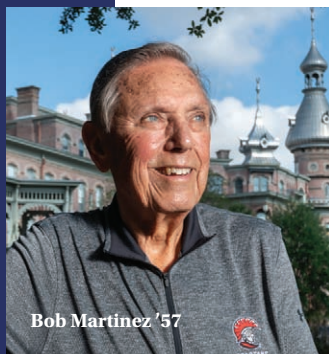
Ward says he’s interacted with Castor at multiple stages of her life: beat cop, police chief and mayoral candidate.

“She leads by example and exudes professionalism. Whether it’s a university or a police department, Jane is a person you want to represent you,” Ward says. “You saw how she handled herself in the campaign. Not a lot of huffing and puffing and BS. She was no-nonsense and thoughtful with her answers and her plans. I have no doubt this city is going to benefit greatly by her leadership.”



# Alumni Ex-Mayors Dish Up Advice

UT now has bragging rights to being the alma mater to not one, not two, but three Tampa mayors.



Bob Martinez '57



Dick Greco '56

When Jane Castor was sworn into office on May 1, she followed in the footsteps of two fellow UT alumni: Former drug czar Bob Martinez '57, and four-time mayor Dick Greco '56.

They also share something else in common. All three are Tampa born and raised.

Both men give a thumbs up to Castor, who they believe brings a wealth of civic experience from her decades in the police force and a passion for this city to the job.

She can expect a lot of advice in her first year. But with their experience, Greco and Martinez are uniquely qualified to give pointers to the freshman politician.

## BE A GOOD LISTENER.

Citizens like to be heard. Getting out to hear their concerns will keep you in touch with the people you represent. Getting out of your comfort zone is a must, Greco says.

"The advantage Jane has is that she's walked this entire city in her years with the police department," Greco says. "So she brings a perspective to this job that is unique and valuable."

## YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL.

No matter what, you can't please everyone. Set priorities and stay the course.

Martinez suggests getting immersed in city finances and knowing where you stand with revenues in every single department.

"It's like you're the CEO of a big corporation," he says. "That means making decisions that are going to make some people happy, and others not."

## SAVOR THOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

All those goals you set forward in campaign speeches likely will not get met. Don't let that defeat you. Take pride in what you do make happen.

## SET ASIDE PERSONAL TIME.

Public life can be a strain on personal time. Learn how to say no, or you may end up balancing two or three commitments a night for several days straight.

For extroverts like Greco, switching the "off" button wasn't as easy as it was for the more reserved Martinez.

"In all my years of public life, I tried to protect Sunday as family day," says Martinez. "And if I just spent it in the backyard, that was fine with me."

## ENJOY THE RIDE.

Being part of transforming a city the size of Tampa has its challenges. It also comes with a great amount of satisfaction.

"No doubt about it, the good far outweighs the bad," Martinez says.

Every mayor has daunting issues. Transportation and affordable housing will likely be at the top of the list for Castor.

"A lot of the federal money available to us has dried up. So here's your chance to be creative," Greco says. "You have an opportunity here to be part of history."



Throughout the campaign, Castor emphasized her police experience and lifelong connection to Tampa, saying those factors gave her an edge over the other candidates.

Among the accomplishments she touted: Claiming a 70 percent drop in the overall crime rate and 90 percent reduction in car thefts; putting at-risk youth into jobs programs; managing a nearly crime-free Republican National Convention in 2012; cleaning up the drunken debauchery and public urinating that traditionally came with the Gasparilla parade; and fast-tracking the use of social media with community policing.

She didn't gloss over some of the worst moments, either, like the shooting deaths of two officers and the four-day manhunt that followed. And when the *Tampa Bay Times* published an investigative series on police ticketing a disproportionate number of black bicyclists in high-crime areas, she and Buckhorn faced so much criticism that they requested a U.S. Justice Department review.

"We made some mistakes and learned some hard lessons," she says now. "The intentions were right, but in hindsight, how we went about it was wrong."

Working as a cop also gave her a credible perspective on a hot-button issue that consistently divides citizens.

Castor is a Second Amendment supporter, but like a majority of Floridians, she wants responsible gun regulations such as weapon registration and universal background checks. Accessibility has become too easy. She's seen too many deaths from firearms in her lifetime.

Passing the bill that allows teachers to arm themselves was a "particularly bad idea" by Florida lawmakers, she says.

"Police officers train on a regular basis," she says. "When it comes to deadly force, even they only hit the target 30 percent of the time. Owning a firearm does not make you safer."



## BALANCING PRIORITIES

Castor knows that all eyes are on her, not just locally, but nationally. She got congratulatory calls from Democratic presidential candidates Cory Booker and Pete Buttigieg, signaling her support will likely be sought by politicians seeking votes in a crucial swing state.

A few years ago, they may have bypassed her. Castor was a lifelong Republican but became disenchanted when the Tea Party ascended to power. Realizing her values no longer aligned with the party, she broke ranks in June 2015 after retiring from the police department.

Her landslide victory prompted State Democratic Party chairwoman Terrie Rizzo to call her "a rising star" and the Miami Herald to write that she was a "Twitter moment."

"Yeah, a Twitter moment 31 years in the making," Castor says with a laugh. "This idea that I came out of nowhere is pretty funny."

She won't be representing any party, as the mayor's position is nonpar-

tisan. Her first responsibility is to the city of Tampa and all its residents. But for the record, Castor says she's socially progressive and fiscally conservative.

She also has other attributes that will serve her well, says Hillsborough County Clerk Pat Frank, a fellow trailblazer.

"In politics, you have to have tough skin and a soft heart. She's got both," she says. "Jane knows about handling adversity. She's gay and she's a woman, yet she excelled in a profession dominated by men. She proved she has the right stuff to stand up to anything and be a good leader."

In just a few months on the job, Castor is showing the same stamina she had as a cop. Work hard, do your homework, stay visible in the community and find solutions to problems.

Of all the issues she's promised to tackle, transportation is No. 1 right out of the gate. She's helped by a citizen-led "All for Transportation" countywide referendum that was passed in November 2018, securing





As a lifelong resident and Tampa's first female police chief, Jane Castor '81 knows Tampa intimately, which serves her well as mayor.

**"She leads by example and exudes professionalism. Whether it's a university or a police department, Jane is a person you want to represent you."**

— FORMER UT CRIMINOLOGY PROFESSOR ED WARD

a penny tax to go toward new roads and maintenance, adding bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways, fixing sidewalks, overhauling the bus system, exploring mass transit and using the waterways. It's expected to generate \$280 million a year.

"We haven't lacked in ideas for this area, but we've lacked the funding," she says. "This is crucial to going forward."

In May, Castor became the first Tampa mayor in 16 years to join the Hillsborough County Regional Transit Authority, giving her both a voice and oversight into the transportation challenges affecting the entire Tampa Bay area. But on her first day, she had to decline a nomination to serve as secretary of the HART board.

"Things are a little busy right now," she quipped with her signature dry wit.

Another campaign promise that demands attention is the dearth of affordable housing. "It's unacceptable that a city built by immigrants is on the verge of pricing out lower-in-

come residents," Castor says. "We need more housing they can afford. Period."

Among her ideas are encouraging private-public partnerships for these projects, converting mom-and-pop motels along Nebraska Avenue into affordable apartments for millennials and pushing for inclusionary zoning, which requires developers to set aside a certain amount of money or land for new construction that people with low to moderate incomes could reasonably afford.

Upping the minimum wage to \$15 would help, too, but Castor says that can only be done on an "incremental" basis. Ditto for making the city more "green" and sustainable by implementing renewable resources. Taking steps like converting to solar energy and electrical vehicles takes money and time, Castor says.

"We can all start by taking personal responsibility. The average person uses 100 gallons of water a day. Is that really necessary?" she asks. "My friends call

me 'the recycling police,' because I'll pick recyclable items out of their trash cans. We can all do our part for the planet."

As demanding as this new chapter of her life will be, Castor knows she has to maintain some balance. Living close to nature on the Hillsborough River helps. She's got support from her live-in partner, lobbyist Ana Cruz, and her big extended family. And she's loving this stage of being a parent, with the pride of witnessing her sons evolve into accomplished young men.

In the same way, she now has a front-row seat in history as her hometown grows up.

"Who wouldn't want to live here?" says Tampa's biggest cheerleader. "We've got 365 days of great weather, we've got diversity, we've got a beautiful waterfront. This is a big city with a small-town feel.

"In my book, we've got it all. We're a great destination to live, work and play. And we're just going to get better." ♡



## ALUMNI REPORT

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### ONE STEP AHEAD

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UT's iconic minarets are open to alumni each year during Alumni Weekend. Join us this fall on Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. to check this unique tour off your bucket list.

PHOTOGRAPH: CLIFF MCBRIDE



## CLASS NOTES

### 1960s

**Lisbeth Calandrino '66** is the associate publisher of *Fabulous Floors* magazine and has been a business coach for more than 20 years. In April she wrote an article for the *Times Union* (Albany, NY) in which she mentioned sitting next to Lou Pinella and Mark Belanger in art class.

**Bob Calafell '66 MBA '75** is retired as a senior vice president of GTE (Verizon) and is an emeritus member of the UT Board of Trustees. He received a Sykes College of Business Alumni Impact Award at the MBA 45th Anniversary Gala in April (See page 10).

### 1970s

**Frank Permuy '70** was profiled on Bay News 9. The segment featured Frank's storied baseball coaching career, and his current battle against brain cancer.

**Ruth Taylor '76 M.Ed.** has been named principal at Mary Ford Elementary in Charleston, SC.



**"I can't begin to thank you enough for connecting me with my fellow alum Kevin Mbundu '15, founder of Kivu Noir coffee. I'm in my third year of directing the Health and Humanitarian Logistics international conference. Learning that Kevin works in Rwanda was great timing, and he proved to be an awesome addition to the panelists this year."**

—VIA FACEBOOK ON AUG. 5 FROM JOSCELYN COOPER '12

**Charlie Miranda '77** was re-elected to Tampa City Council in March. Charlie has spent a total of 26 years on City Council, and his reelection will bring his total time on council to three decades of service.

**Erica Shames '78** is the president/founder of *Susquehanna Life* magazine. She was the morning ceremony speaker at the UT Commencement in May. (See page 41.)

**Mark Testoni '79**, president and chief executive of SAP National Security Services, was presented his fourth Wash100 Award in May. The Wash100 award recognizes the most influential executives in the GovCon industry.

### 1980s

**Jane Castor '81** was elected

mayor of the City of Tampa (See story, p. 24).

**Alan Charles '82** has been doing motivational speaking to high schools and colleges and recently started a radio show about addiction, recovery and reality. He is also on a data safety management board of a study being conducted by the Mount Sinai Department of Psychiatry and Department of Neuroscience, Friedman Brain Institute.

**Kris Haggbloom '85** opened Poetic Justice Books & Arts, an independent bookstore and publisher focusing on poetry, small press and local talent in Port St. Lucie, FL.

**Lawrence (Larry) Schreiber '85** was recently named

president and CEO of SantaFe HealthCare.

**Marcus Greene MBA '87** is a senior vice president at BB&T. He received a Sykes College of Business Alumni Impact Award at the MBA 45th Anniversary Gala in April. (See page 10.)

**Bill Carlson '88**, president of Tampa-based public relations firm Tucker Hall, won a seat on the Tampa City Council in March. He hopes to transform Tampa into a "global city."

### 1990s

**Paul Heth '90** is the founder and principal of Patton Vision, a North America-based company. He was the afternoon ceremony speaker at the UT Commencement in May. (See photo, p. 41)

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

The UT Alumni Association is looking for your partnership to help create opportunities for our students and provide them with important connections to the greater UT community. This January we will be holding receptions in Boston, New York City and Washington, DC. If you live in one of those cities and are interested in making an impact for our students, email us at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu) for details.



**Alan Randolph '90** was recognized as one of the *South Florida Business Journal's* 2019 Business of Pride Awards honorees of 2019. The Business of Pride awards honor LGBTQ executives or straight allies of the LGBTQ community who excel in business and advocate for LGBTQ businesses and/or the LGBTQ community. The honorees were recognized at a June 6 celebration at the Epic Hotel in Miami. Alan is the New York/Florida Regional Director of Community Banking at Bank OZK and is a current member of UT's Board of Trustees.

**Craig Boortz MBA '91** was promoted to executive vice president, paper, by Mac Papers, one of the largest merchant distributors in the Southeast U.S. He most recently served as vice president of sales, paper and regional manager.

**Mark Jerome '91** was interviewed in a story during the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament, about his son Ty Jerome, who Mark coached in basketball and was a point-guard for the University of Virginia.

**Andrea Sugden '93** has been hired by Workforce Logiq, a workforce management company, as its chief global sales officer. Most recently, Andrea was executive vice president, U.S. Sales and National Accounts, for Adecco Staffing.

**Lisa Nummi '95 MSN '97** has been named chief operating officer of Blake Medical Center in Bradenton, FL. In her role, she is responsible for the day to day operation of the hospital. Lisa has a 30-year tenure in hospitals and health systems.

**Kevin Shukur MBA '95** is West Florida Market President for BBVA Bank. He received a Sykes College of Business Alumni Impact Award at the MBA 45th Anniversary Gala in April. (See story, p. 10.)

**William Vasana MBA '95** has joined Keller Williams Jacksonville Realty, in Jacksonville, FL. William previously was a top producer with the Watson Realty Corp. Southside office.

**Melissa Haskins '96**, a Valrico-based financial adviser and civic activist, has announced a campaign for

the Brandon-based District 59 state House seat.

**Marc Silver '96** is the CEO of Marrow Nation, which is dedicated to help save the lives of individuals afflicted with life threatening diseases curable with a marrow/stem cell transplant by recruiting potential donors, educating patients and the general public and empowering patients and families in need of a transplant. He was on campus in February and is looking to get more involved with UT staff and students.

## 2000s

**Kristen Nelson '00** spoke at UT's Writers at the University Series in April. She has been a creative writing instructor since 2010, and specializes in teaching personal narrative essay writing, text/image collaborations and divinatory poetics. She is the author of the *length of this gap* (Damaged Goods, 2018), and two chapbooks.

**Christy Ihlo '01** has joined the Brevard Zoo as its new conservation coordinator. In her new role, Christy will oversee the Women of the Wild program while also

playing a role in the expansion of the zoo's international conservation efforts.

**Apryl Boyle '03** was featured in the *Daily Breeze* newspaper (Redondo Beach, CA) in July. Apryl, who lives in West Los Angeles, has started a nonprofit called El Porto Shark that educates the public about sharks and replaces "fear with facts." She also offers shark and eco tours out of Redondo Beach.

**Jayne Warischalk '03** was recently hired as a medical writer for MedEvolve. She earned a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.S. in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Viancca Burger Williams '03** has been named as a 2019 Real. Strong. Women. Of Distinction by Alpha Chi Omega.

**Adam Jones '04** is the chief revenue officer for the Miami Marlins. He was awarded with the Alumni Achievement Award at the UT Commencement in May. (See stories, p. 33 and 41)



## DAY AT THE RAYS!

UT will take over Tropicana Field for the second annual UT Day with the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday, Sept. 22, when the Rays take on the Red Sox at 1:10 p.m. Tickets come with a UT/Rays co-branded hat and can be purchased at <https://www.mlb.com/rays/tickets/specials/themes> using code UT2.



## SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

# Adam Jones '04

## Remaking the Marlins

Adam Jones used to witness memorable ballpark moments in the heart of Ohio.

"I regularly attended (Cincinnati) Reds games," Jones said. "Riverfront Stadium was the home ballpark of the Reds for my whole childhood. So I saw Game 3 of the 1990 World Series there. I had many opening days attending the first game of the season."

Opening Day is now more than 1,100 miles from Cincinnati. Jones is the chief revenue officer for Major League Baseball's Miami Marlins. For a franchise that has managed to hold two World Series trophies in a quarter of a century, the goal is to take another step. "Two World Series titles gives you a strength of brand," Jones said. "The first generation of fans that has grown up has experienced good results. But we have to build sustainable success instead of fleeting moments."

Jones and Marlins CEO Derek Jeter have embraced a handful of initiatives aimed at reshaping the fan experience. The cookie-cutter, all-purpose stadiums of the 1970s and 80s – such as Riverfront, Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh and the Astrodome in Houston – are long gone. Marlins Park's Clevelanders contains a swimming pool, bar and restaurant to supplement the on-field entertainment.

The Marlins began a listening campaign, Dimelo, which is Spanish for "talk to me." Two booths at the ballpark enabled fans to upload a 60-second clip. The goal: to allow them to provide a first-person account of what works well and what doesn't for fans at Marlins Park. "We heard not only their words, but also saw their faces and better understand their sentiments," Jones said.

The traditional and next generation fan feedback form part of the new franchise plan under Jeter, the iconic former New York Yankee shortstop. Utilizing plenty of tools is not a new game-plan for Jones. He received a Bachelor of Science in marketing, finance and sport management from UT. Before joining the Marlins in 2017, Jones worked 15 years at PwC, having most recently served as a director and sports practice leader.

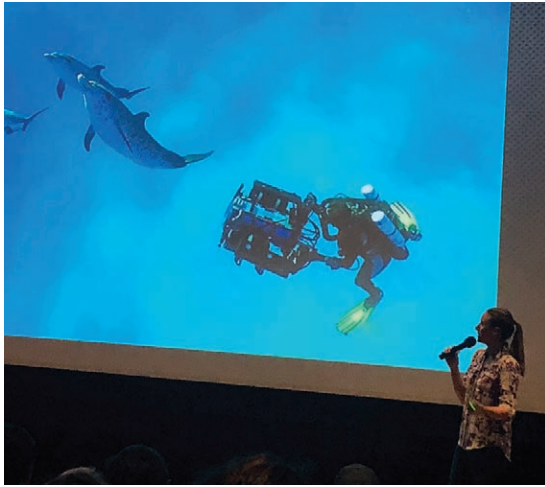
"UT is where I met my wife (April '04)," Jones said. "UT offered me a chance to study a wide variety of subjects. The structure of UT allowed me to take a broad set of skills to market and allowed for an easy transition into a pro career."

Being in the core of Tampa also gave Jones a chance to see how both the Tampa Bay Rays and the National Hockey League's Tampa Bay Lightning coordinated their operations.

"UT is a very important building block in my life and career," Jones said. "That is not only professionally and skills through coursework. There are many lifelong friendships."







In March UT students, alumni and the community heard from Becky Kagan Schott '04. She discussed her journey after UT and her success as an Emmy-award winning underwater photographer and videographer.



On April 10 alumni in Boston heard from Linda Devine, UT's vice president of operations and planning, and UT Board of Trustee member Benson Riseman '78 at an alumni reception held at the Harvard Club of Boston.



The UT Ladies of the '50s returned to campus for lunch in the Plant Hall Music Room on March 21.



Alumni who attended UT in the 1950's, including Mabel Galbreath '57 and Geraldine Law Hynes '59, gathered on May 16 for their annual lunch to reconnect.



Alumni in New York City enjoyed hearing about the progress of UT from Board of Trustee member Alan Randolph '90 and President Ron Vaughn. The reception was held at the Helen Mills Event Space in Manhattan on May 2.



UT's Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Stephanie Russell Krebs updated Chicago area alumni on the growth of UT at an alumni reception held on May 21 at the University Club.



**Casey Mclean '04** is the co-executive director and veterinary nurse of SR3 Sealife Response, Rehab and Research, a nonprofit focused on advancing the health and welfare of marine life in the Pacific Northwest.

**Robert McPherson '04** was a candidate for the Waunakee (WI) Board of Trustees. He is a compliance officer at QRL Financial Services.

**MemorieAnne Brown-Callender '05** has been named as the executive director of Dancing Classrooms Virgin Islands.

**Karl Duperval MBA '05** has been selected to serve as the director of network development and physician relations for AdventHealth Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach. He has 13 years of experience in the healthcare industry and most recently served as lead business development manager for TenetHealth.

**Judith DeStasio MBA '06** is the COO of McDonald Training Center. She received a Sykes College of Business Alumni Impact Award at the MBA 45th Anniversary Gala in April (see story, p. 10).

**Melissa S. Razdrih '05** is a Tampa correspondent for *Florida Politics*.

**Glenn Haegle '07** recently joined PTS Advance as a member of the Quality, Regulatory and Compliance Consulting group. After graduation, Haegle has lead business

development and customer success in the consulting and life sciences industries.

**Kristen Rathjen Johnson '07** earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Pennsylvania State University in May.

**Sara Chalkley McLearn MSN '07** has been named the director of clinical operations by Tampa-based Lung Health Institute, a leading provider of regenerative medicine for the treatment of chronic lung diseases. Sara brings nearly 21 years of experience to the position, and she will oversee clinical operations across all five of Lung Health Institute's clinics, streamlining processes and ensuring the highest level of patient care.

**Danielle Barnhart '08**, an events curator for Adelphi University's MFA program in Creative Writing, and co-founding editor of the programs' literary organization, spoke at UT's Writers at the University Series in April.

**Kimberly Fogelman Hall '08 MAT '09** was recognized as the Riverview High School Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019.



**Benny W. Rhodes Jr. '08** has opened CPR Cell Phone Repair Fredericksburg in Virginia. The store joins CPR Cell Phone Repair network, the largest and fastest growing mobile repair franchise in North America.

## 2010s

In February, **Paige Howard '10** was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times* as the defending champion of the Publix Gasparilla Distance Classic women's 15-kilometer race.

**Sarah Braithwood Kimble '10** and her husband welcomed a new addition to the family when Everett Kimble III was born on April 9, 2018. She has also started a new job as an admissions coordinator for the Physician Assistant Program at Nova Southeastern University.



**Kyle Palumbo '10** has been appointed by Gov. Gina Raimondo to the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

**Vivian Cubilla-Lindholm '11** is the owner of Maple Nut Kitchen in Swanzey, NH.

**Jason Kelly '11** is a staff writer at the website *Baseball Essential*.

**Brittany Chatman '12** serves as the statewide tobacco policy manager for Florida.

**Scott Fletcher MS '12** has been hired by Polsinelli PC law firm as its new COO and CFO. Scott has 13 years of experience in law firm management.

**Amanda MacDonald '12** and her husband, **Kevin MacDonald '12**, welcomed a new baby girl, Palmer Madison MacDonald, on Jan. 25.



**Cayla McCrory '12** was recently hired by Allure Medical, of Lakewood Ranch, FL, as physician liaison. In her role she focuses on establishing referral relationships with other providers in the community.

**Lucas Ogden-Davis MBA '12** has been named as the head cross country coach at the Brookwood School in Thomsville, GA.

**Rachel Yonkunas '12** recently took a job as a new anchor and reporter for the FOX43 news team in central Pennsylvania. She previously worked with WFSB in Connecticut, WTEN in New York and WTVY in Alabama.



SPARTAN SPOTLIGHT

# Melanie Posner '16

## Working on the Edge

As a little girl, Melanie Posner '16 said she would sit in her elementary classes counting down the time until art class would begin.

"Art has always been prevalent in my life, ever since I can remember," said Posner.

Now Posner is sharing her art at the most "magical place on Earth" – Disney. She was recently hired for Walt Disney World as a scenic artist for *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*, a new attraction that opened in late August. A friend who worked for Disney had suggested her for the project, and after sending her portfolio and artist CV, she was hired within a week.

"I painted the natural scene you see, so a lot of mountains and trees," said Posner, who took five months to complete the project, finishing in May.

While at UT, Posner said her professors had her make a couple large scaled paintings every year. Because she really enjoyed creating them, she kept pursuing large scale projects and began making murals.

"Although I've painted murals, working with Disney was a whole other ballgame," said Posner. "To know so many people will be experiencing my work is mind blowing. It's honestly one of the coolest things I've ever done."

When the Pennsylvania native began her career at UT, she was studying art therapy. After taking a few painting classes, Posner found her passion and changed her major to fine arts with a concentration in painting.

"I primarily paint women," said Posner. "I'm really into using different hue spectrums and vibrancy, so I make a lot of my portraits of women really vibrant. I feel that I can get more emotion out of them that way."

Posner also creates murals around the St. Petersburg, FL, area, where she lives. She said she works with a lot of different businesses and restaurant owners to create pieces for their buildings.

Posner's goal is to become a successful artist and continue to be a part of Florida's growing art community.

"Painting is my happy place," she said. "I learn a lot about myself when I do it, and it's really cool that I get to help other people learn about themselves as well with my work."





**Christine Acosta '13** published an article in *83 Degrees* last spring about bicycle commuting in Tampa. Christine is an active transportation advocate and is the founder of Pedal Power Promoters, a small business social enterprise that works in the public and private realms on bicycle-related initiatives. She is also the former executive director of WalkBikeTampa.

**Peter Drohan '13 MS '14** has joined the Siegfried Group as a senior associate in the South Florida market.

**Megin Eskew '13** is currently an assistant softball coach at Sickles High School.

**Kate Evans '13** married Colton Nichter on Sept. 8, 2018. The couple reside in San Diego.



Kate Evans '13  
and Colton  
Nichter

**Erin McGaughey '13** married Justin Bennardo on March 2 in St. Petersburg. They met at UT in 2009.

**Jake Perper '13** currently covers high school basketball for the website *Prep Hoops* as its Florida contributor.

**Yendy Cave '14** has started a nonprofit organization, For the Kids of Haiti.

**John Davis MFA '14** was recently promoted to associate dean of academic affairs for Keiser University's Clearwater campus. He previously served as English and literature instructor for the institution.

**Jacqueline French '14** earned a master's degree in government from Johns Hopkins University in December 2018. She also recently became engaged to Taylor Bates.

**Kaylee Koetter '14** was recently hired as an assistant coach for the University of Wyoming women's volleyball team. She had spent the last two years in a similar role at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Addison Franklin '15** started a master's degree program

in physician assistant studies at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

**Lauren Nielsen '15** met with Pres. Ron Vaughn and Renée Vaughn at a luncheon in May. Lauren was named Miss Tampa 2019 in March. She works as a voice and acting teacher at Sarasota Academy of the Arts, and is a professional performer.



Lauren Nielsen '15

**Jessica Simon '15** has recently become engaged to **David J. DiFiglio '15**. The couple met while students at UT, and David proposed to Jessica on the verandah of Plant Hall. He is an SAP senior systems analyst at Deloitte, and she is a UX designer at Raymond James.

**JC Coban '16** was interviewed by *Boca Newspapers* in April about his invention, SlingShirt. SlingShirt is a start-up company, based in

Boca Raton, that produces a one-piece shirt with magnets for people to wear while recovering from shoulder surgery.

**Alec McCrea '16** was recently hired by the Bernards Township Police Department in New Jersey.

**Bobby Ray '16**, of St. Louis, MO, was a contestant on Fox's *Paradise Hotel*.

**Ernie Reynolds MFA '16**, founder and president of the Franklin, TN-based company Outdoor Classic Structures, was recently profiled by the Franklin Home Page. Reynolds recently won a literary award sponsored by Vanderbilt University, began teaching at Florida State University and is working toward a Ph.D. in creative writing.

**Michael Weiss MFA '16** was named Able&Co.'s new copywriter and will provide online strategy as well as compelling content. Able&Co. is an award-winning marketing and communications firm in Raleigh, NC.

**Ronice Barlow MBA '17** is senior vice president and COO, U.S. Advisory Services at Franklin Templeton. She received a Sykes College

## AHOY MATEYS!

Join the UT Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter for its annual pirate themed brunch before the Gasparilla Day Parade on Saturday, Jan. 25. This festive event welcomes close to 500 alumni and friends back to campus each year to enjoy a full brunch prior to heading to the parade.





of Business Alumni Impact Award at the MBA 45th Anniversary Gala in April. (See photo, p. 10.)

**Daniela Delvescovo '17** is a seventh-grade science teacher at Frederick Law Olmsted Academy North, an all-boys public middle school in Louisville, KY. She was recently interviewed by WAVE 3 News-Louisville about the Teach Kentucky program – in which she is a participant – which recruits motivated college graduates to teach in Kentucky's public schools.

**Shelby Larson '17** has joined the University of Kansas soccer staff as the director of operations. In her role, Shelby will be responsible for the coordination and completion of video related duties, coordination of team travel and meals, and administering the planning and efficient operation of all aspects of camps and clinics for the soccer program. Shelby most recently served as a graduate assistant for the Florida State University women's soccer program since 2017.

A documentary written and directed by **Evan Lauri '17**, titled "Cat Man of Ocean Beach," was shown at the Ocean Bay Park (NY) firehouse in early July. The *Fire Island News* said the event was "well attended and a 'meow'bulous success!" The documentary is about John "Jay" McCollum, the president of the nonprofit Fire Island Animal Welfare Society.

**Vincent Mavaro '17** has been promoted to senior account assistant by FBMM (Flood, Bumstead, McCready & McCarthy Inc.), an entertainment business management firm that represents recording and touring artists. Mavaro came to FBMM in November 2017 after working as a teacher's aide for three years in Nassau.

**Caleb Sarvis MFA '17** is the author of *Dead Aquarium* (Mastodon, 2019), the managing editor for Bridge Eight Press and co-host of the Drunken Book Review podcast. He spoke at UT's Writers at the University Series in April.

**Brynn Scarborough MBA '17** has been appointed as managing director of JK Products and Services.

**Ashley Burns MBA '18, M.S. '18** is the vice president of brand experience at Noise Inc. She spoke recently at the Sanibel Captiva Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association.

**Jason Cantrell M.Ed. '18** has started a new job as assistant principal at Monroe Institute of Technology in Tampa.

**Christian Poslock M.S. '18** is a trainer at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. He was recently interviewed about eating healthily on WWSB-Sarasota.

**Kristina Powell '18** joined Water Authority-Cayman as a full-time employee in January as an applications and

network support specialist (designate) with the information systems department.

**Mackenzie Straley '18** is the community coordinator for Lakewood Ranch, the second largest master planned community in the United States which spans both Manatee and Sarasota counties.

**Samuel Thomas '18** was featured recently in a *Tampa Bay Times* article about lethal bronzing, a disease that is killing Florida's palm trees.

A short documentary by **Kellie Etling '19** and **Caitlyn Johannes '19**, *Queerly Beloved*, was accepted for the Amazon Prime All Voices Film Festival. The video explores gender, sexuality and the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals.

**Andrew Kew '19** plays lacrosse in the Major League Lacrosse league for the Chesapeake Bayhawks. The *Capital Gazette* newspaper stated that his rookie season has been "outstanding."

## IN MEMORIAM

Catherine Louise "Katie" Keene '49  
Rosario C. Ciccarello '51  
Frances Stevens Barksdale '53  
Ernest C. Segundo Sr. '56 (See below)  
Edward C. Herranz '58  
Carroll W. Coleman '62  
Virginia G. "Gail" Bailey '64  
Richard R. Massey '65  
Dr. Janet R. Matthews '66  
George Wilder Williams Jr. '67  
Arnold M. Bush '68  
Herbert J. Williams III '69  
Donald Arthur Cyzewski '70  
Omar C. Mitchell '71  
William "Bill" Roberts Sr. '72  
Stephen W. Parratt '73  
James W. Castaño '78  
Mark F. Abramowicz '78  
Brian C. Reed '84  
Ralph Garcia III '87  
John A. F. Salgado '98  
Daniel Brockunier '16

## Faculty

Charles Hyde  
Russell "Jack" Munyan  
Robert J. Spahn

## Staff

Robert Edward "Bob" Forschner Jr.

Trustee emeritus Ernest C. Segundo '56, one of UT's most committed, philanthropic and prolific alumni, passed away on May 24, 2019.

Segundo was the first UT student to receive the Achievement Medal for Leadership and was named the outstanding male student of the graduating class.

Segundo received the 2002 Esse Quam Videri Outstanding Alumni Award.

Professionally, Segundo joined Continental Oil Company (Conoco) in 1956, and held a number of positions in international sales and marketing. In 1984, he joined Vista Chemical Company, and until his retirement in 1990, he held the position of president, Vista Chemical Latin America S.A.





# ALL in | **UT** 04.23.19 | for

On April 23, the University celebrated its annual Give Day, #allinforUT, in a big way. Alumni, students, faculty and staff celebrated the day with games and prizes and donations — raising more than \$187,000 for UT.

**Save the date for Give Day 2020 on April 21!**







# ALUMNI WEEKEND

The University of Tampa  
Oct. 17–19, 2019

## THURSDAY, OCT. 17

6 p.m.

***UT Alumni Association Young Alumni Awards and Reception***

## FRIDAY, OCT. 18

6–8 p.m.

***President's Reception***  
East Verandah, Plant Hall

8–10 p.m.

***A Night in the Rat***  
Rathskeller, Plant Hall

## SATURDAY, OCT. 19

8 a.m.

***Livefor24 5K/1-Mile Fun Run***  
Pepin Stadium  
Use promo code UTALUMNI for \$5 discount.  
[raceroster.com/events/2019/23943/livefor24-5kmile-relay](http://raceroster.com/events/2019/23943/livefor24-5kmile-relay)

11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

***Silver Spartans Brunch***  
Grand Salon, Plant Hall  
Silver Spartans,  
Class of 1994 Induction Year  
Exclusively for members of the classes of 1970–1994 and their guests

11 a.m.

***Class of 1969 Reception***  
President's Conference Room, Vaughn Center  
Exclusively for members of the class of 1969 and their guests

11 a.m.

***Golden Spartans Reception***  
Board Room, Vaughn Center  
Reception for current Golden Spartans (Class of 1968 and earlier) prior to the induction lunch

Noon

***Golden Spartans Induction Lunch***

Crescent Club, Vaughn Center  
This event is for our Spartan alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago from UT.

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

***Minaret Climb***  
Meet in Music Room to check-in for climb.  
*First Come First Served*

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

***Campus Tours***  
Music Room, Plant Hall  
Meet in Music Room to check-in for tours.

4–7 p.m.

***NPHC and MGC Reunion***  
Reunion for alumni members of the National Panhellenic Council and Multicultural Greek Council

6 p.m.

***UT Women's Soccer vs. Lynn***  
Pepin Stadium

For more information visit  
[alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu).



## REGISTER ONLINE

Go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) for more detailed information on Alumni Weekend events and activities. You can also register and pay online. Please contact the alumni office at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu) or (813) 253-6209 with any questions about Alumni Weekend 2019.

### Sheraton Riverwalk

\$149  
(813) 223-2222

### Hampton by Hilton Downtown Tampa

\$119  
(813) 525-9900

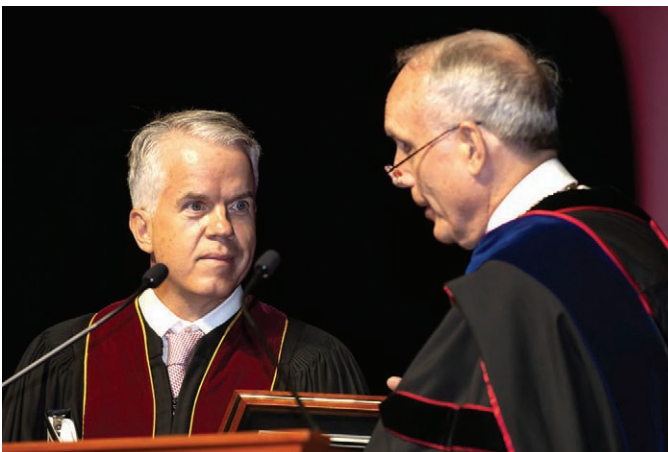
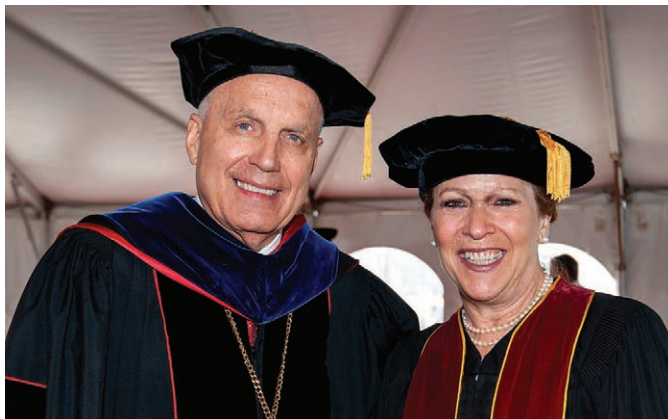
### Home2 Suites by Hilton Downtown Tampa

\$129  
(813) 525-9900

*Book by Oct. 1.  
Ask for UT Alumni Weekend rate.*

## SHARE YOUR ALUMNI WEEKEND EXPERIENCE!

We want to see Alumni Weekend through your eyes. Use **#utampa** for posting your Alumni Weekend pictures to **Twitter** and **Instagram**, and you might see your photos in an upcoming edition of the *UT Journal*.



The University celebrated commencement on May 11 with two ceremonies. In the morning ceremony Erica Shames '78, president and founder of *Susquehanna Life Magazine*, gave the address. In the afternoon ceremony Paul Heth '90, principal and chief executive officer at Patton Media, gave the address. The 2019 Alumni Achievement Award was presented to Adam Jones, chief revenue officer for the Miami Marlins, by UT Alumni Association president Monica Cook '05, M.Ed. '12.







# What matters most at UT? People. Opportunity. Impact.

UT is about people who create opportunities and make a positive impact on our world. It's about preparing students and making them Spartan Ready — UT's commitment to developing the whole student.

Spartan Ready Philanthropy promotes the power of generosity and the collective impact of partnerships with UT's alumni, parents, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, donors and the more than 800 community leaders who volunteer at UT.

## **Opportunity provides transformation.**

In philanthropy, 1+1 is more than two. Giving — time, talent or treasure — creates energy that compounds achievements and elevates the University.

Spartan Ready Philanthropy makes an infinite difference in the lives of generations of students and faculty and those whom they will influence and inspire.

## **Impact makes a positive difference.**

What matters most at UT? YOU.

Give to what you are passionate about at UT — get students SPARTAN READY.







My father passed away when I was six. My mother was a single mom with learning disabilities who couldn't read or write. I did everything I could to fund my college education, because my family didn't have money. I became a resident advisor and got a baseball scholarship. And that made me think — what if I didn't have this help? I can't be the only one.

When I had the resources to become philanthropic, I created a family foundation, and even my grandson, who is five, is involved. It will be in his DNA, and he'll grow up knowing that whatever you have, you are fortunate to be able to help others.

The call I offer is to think deep. Don't forget about your pen and check. That moves the world, but think beyond that. You are powerful in your own way. You have gifts and skills you can give and be proud to say you're making a difference. Find what you're passionate about at UT, and help make students Spartan Ready.

**Benson Riseman '78, Entrepreneur, Trustee,  
Lowth Entrepreneurship Center Advisor, Donor**



# The Power

I have a summer internship program that has resulted in hiring five students from UT. There is a difference between students from UT and other schools. They have a desire to learn and improve. By being in smaller class sizes, they have more one-on-one time and meaningful, actionable engagement — that develops better-prepared professionals.

UT students are also more well-rounded by the core curriculum they take. So, film and animation students will also take history and business classes. When you assign artists a character animation from the Roman Empire, they have more knowledge and experience to pull from.

**David Andrade '07, Co-Founder and Director of  
Theory Studios, UT Alumni Achievement Award '18**





I see how UT is evolving. Being on the board for the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter, I get the opportunity to interact with alumni from all generations. I hear the stories of UT's past and can see how far we have come. Spending time with my fellow board members is gratifying. And by working together, I see the potential of how much further we can go.

**Kristina Justen '05, MS '09,  
Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter, Donor**



# of Partnerships

We met our first day on campus. We've been married for 16 years and have four kids. We're grateful for the opportunities we had on the swim team. They inspire us to give back — experiences like being able to take road trips and compete. We want students to have the same opportunities. The life lessons we learned from Coach Ed Brennan, from pushing ourselves as athletes to serving our community, are with us today. We're grateful to be able to give, and we hope to set a path that others follow.

**Chad '98 and Sara '98 Sundermeyer, Donors**





# Going the Distance. Defining Purpose.

From giving a compliment to volunteering at the Dream Center, where he is a positive role model for kids in a struggling neighborhood, Brett Saunders, who graduates in December 2019, exercises his philanthropic muscles purposefully. With over 700 community service hours, his dedication to making a difference in the lives of others is at a dead heat with his commitment to making a difference in the pool. "I'm not yet in a position to give back financially, but I can still help others. It's on my bucket list to make a difference in someone's life every day," said Saunders.

The generosity of donors allows him to receive a scholarship and inspires him. A finance major with a 3.95 GPA and member of UT's swim team, Saunders believes access to scholarships helps UT attract talented student athletes, making the swim program competitive. Saunders is an individual medley (IM) and breaststroke

swimmer — and a record breaker. In December 2018, he broke his own 400 IM school record, leading Division II. He also broke the school's longest-standing record set in 2002 in the 200 breaststroke and became an All-American with his relay team's performance in the 800 Free Relay at Nationals.

After touring UT, the only non-Division I school that Saunders considered, Saunders said it was hard to imagine being anywhere else. "With the University in the city, it opens up opportunities for networking and internships," he said. "And I receive incredible support from my professors and swim coaches — whether it's with calculus or motivation at practice."

In fact, Jimi Kiner '01, head swim coach and 2019 Sunshine State Conference coach of the year, was one of the first people Saunders

and his mom met at UT. "As an alumnus, my success can largely be attributed to Ed Brennan, UT's former head coach for 38 years. Now, I have the opportunity to coach students like Brett to always keep improving — making them ready for competition and whatever life brings," said Kiner.

After graduating this December, Saunders will pursue his Master of Science in finance at UT. His experience on the swim team has honed his ability to thrive under pressure, be driven and be purposeful. "When you keep a structured schedule to perform your best academically and athletically, it leads to habits and successes that translate into the workplace and life," Saunders said. And, into accomplishing his bucket list.

Head Swim Coach Jimi Kiner '01  
and Brett Saunders '19





# The Spartan Community Doesn't Miss a Beat



Jeanne Gregory '00, UT bursar, was on a scavenger hunt. Little did she know what she would find.

It was 1994, and the scavenger hunt was part of her pledging to Delta Sigma Pi. In the business fraternity, she met her future husband, Shawn Gregory '93, MBA '95, CFO of St. Petersburg General Hospital. Shawn majored in accounting, and his UT network helped him secure his first internship and job with HCA Healthcare, the hospital's parent company.

Bryan Sarmiento '19 is also an accounting major whose UT network helped him land his first internship. Like both of the Gregorys, a scholarship made it possible for Sarmiento to attend UT. This December, he will graduate with his bachelor's degree and begin UT's MBA program.

Sarmiento is grateful for the privilege. A significant factor he believes makes UT unique is the Spartan community. "Small class sizes and co-curricular activities foster a sense of home, close-knit family and being well-supported. You're encouraged to push beyond your comfort zone and discover new opportunities."

Also a music minor, Sarmiento's co-curricular activities include playing in UT's jazz band and mentoring students in the music department's recording classes. He credits years of band, music practices and an obsession with perfection for tuning skills that help him to excel — teamwork, creativity, analytics, focus and discipline.

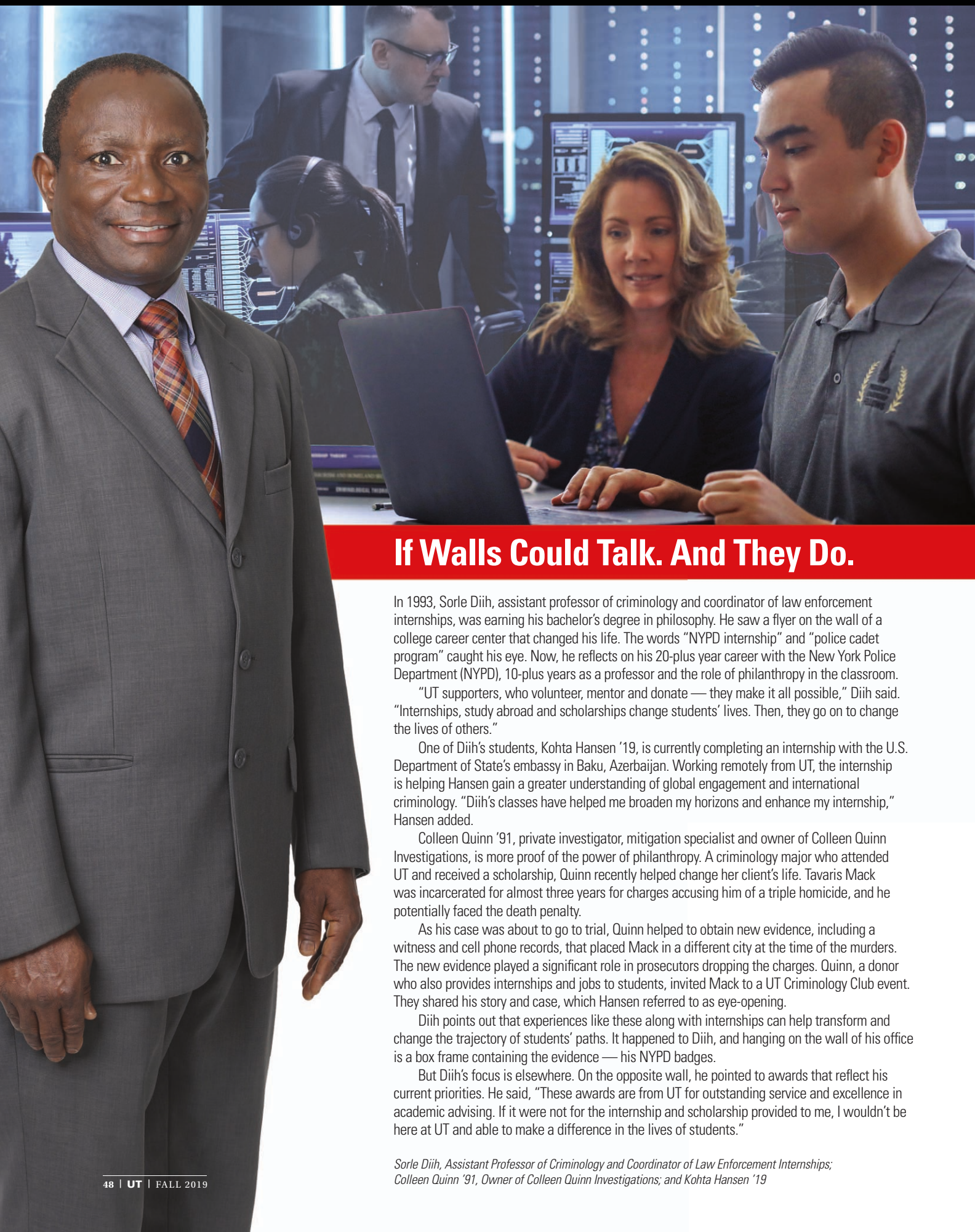
Describing himself as introverted, Sarmiento appreciates how UT's environment has helped him grow. Now, he feels comfortable and confident about thriving in the business world. When it comes to opportunities and co-curricular activities, his advice to students is to say, "Yes."

For the Gregorys, saying "yes" gave them the opportunity to meet and get involved with Delta Sigma Pi — and 25 years later, they are still involved with the UT chapter and are donors. Jeanne is the chapter advisor. Shawn served as a district and regional director, and Jeanne served as district director, being named the national district director of the year in 2010.

As UT's bursar, Jeanne is especially tuned in to how Spartan community support impacts students. "Students are inspired and become donors, volunteers and mentors themselves. By helping students, you make UT stronger and a UT degree more valuable. We need students to be prepared to help our UT community and the community at large — from bursars' offices to band rooms and hospitals," she said.

*Shawn Gregory '93, MBA '95, CFO of  
St. Petersburg General Hospital;  
Jeanne Gregory '00, UT Bursar;  
and Bryan Sarmiento '19*





## If Walls Could Talk. And They Do.

In 1993, Sorle Diih, assistant professor of criminology and coordinator of law enforcement internships, was earning his bachelor's degree in philosophy. He saw a flyer on the wall of a college career center that changed his life. The words "NYPD internship" and "police cadet program" caught his eye. Now, he reflects on his 20-plus year career with the New York Police Department (NYPD), 10-plus years as a professor and the role of philanthropy in the classroom.

"UT supporters, who volunteer, mentor and donate — they make it all possible," Diih said. "Internships, study abroad and scholarships change students' lives. Then, they go on to change the lives of others."

One of Diih's students, Kohta Hansen '19, is currently completing an internship with the U.S. Department of State's embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan. Working remotely from UT, the internship is helping Hansen gain a greater understanding of global engagement and international criminology. "Diih's classes have helped me broaden my horizons and enhance my internship," Hansen added.

Colleen Quinn '91, private investigator, mitigation specialist and owner of Colleen Quinn Investigations, is more proof of the power of philanthropy. A criminology major who attended UT and received a scholarship, Quinn recently helped change her client's life. Tavaris Mack was incarcerated for almost three years for charges accusing him of a triple homicide, and he potentially faced the death penalty.

As his case was about to go to trial, Quinn helped to obtain new evidence, including a witness and cell phone records, that placed Mack in a different city at the time of the murders. The new evidence played a significant role in prosecutors dropping the charges. Quinn, a donor who also provides internships and jobs to students, invited Mack to a UT Criminology Club event. They shared his story and case, which Hansen referred to as eye-opening.

Diih points out that experiences like these along with internships can help transform and change the trajectory of students' paths. It happened to Diih, and hanging on the wall of his office is a box frame containing the evidence — his NYPD badges.

But Diih's focus is elsewhere. On the opposite wall, he pointed to awards that reflect his current priorities. He said, "These awards are from UT for outstanding service and excellence in academic advising. If it were not for the internship and scholarship provided to me, I wouldn't be here at UT and able to make a difference in the lives of students."

*Sorle Diih, Assistant Professor of Criminology and Coordinator of Law Enforcement Internships; Colleen Quinn '91, Owner of Colleen Quinn Investigations; and Kohta Hansen '19*



# Throwing off the Bowlines to Explore, Dream, Discover



Kayaking with dolphins. Free-diving with harbor seals. This is the stuff dreams are made of. For Emma Stange '21, it was how she grew up.

Stange is a marine science biology and environmental science major. She appreciates that UT students have the opportunity to be involved in research as undergraduates. And at the Marine Science Field Station, she dives into her research — literally.

Stange believes that hands-on learning in the natural environment, namely the ocean, can be pivotal in an undergraduate's career. These experiences are helping her decide what aspects of marine science she is most passionate about. She has seen fellow students interested in an area only to try it out and realize it was not what they imagined.

One area that interests Stange is noise pollution from sources such as oil drilling, ship traffic and naval sonar. She explains the effects and damage to the marine ecosystem are hard to quantify. For this reason, she is discussing a related research project with John Ambrosio '03, Marine Science Field Station coordinator.

Ambrosio says his favorite part of the job is collaborating with students to advance their research. He also says that students often learn the most when dealing with the unexpected. "Science and field work frequently present unplanned circumstances. These can range from weather events to broken equipment. Developing problem-solving skills and the attitude to manage these events are valuable

teaching moments that can't be acquired in the classroom."

And out of the classroom Stange went this summer. She was awarded a scholarship for the "Tropical Biology and Conservation" honors travel course in Borneo. She also received the Timothy E. Smith Award that provided her the opportunity for an internship at the Namibian Dolphin Project in Africa. "The trips were life-changing and have given me the confidence to know I can become whatever I want and be good at it," Stange said. "There's nothing limiting me."

Ambrosio added that the importance of philanthropy can't be overstated. "Donors and volunteers are an integral part of making the UT Marine Science program successful," he said. "Their generosity helps with everything from the acquisition of resources like our new research vessel, the BIOS II (*See story, p. 14*), to tuition support by funding scholarships."

*Top: Emma Stange '21, Bottom: John Ambrosio '03, Marine Science Field Station Coordinator, and students*







**People. Opportunity. Impact.**



# What matters most at UT? YOU.

Give to what you are passionate about at UT —  
get students SPARTAN READY.





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

## A Sharp Focus on Success

UT sets records in enrollment, retention and national championships while also focusing on strengthening academics and co-curricular improvements.

The 2018-2019 year was rich with many excellent achievements, large and small, that propelled our vision of a model 21st century independent university. These achievements prepared students to be Spartan Ready and contribute to their communities around the globe.

We have kept focused on our institutional mission. UT staff and faculty work hard to help students become

successful and thoughtful citizens, and every year we tackle new initiatives, implement new programs and create new curricula to uphold these values and secure UT's future.

UT began Fall 2018 with a new all-time enrollment record of 9,304 students. This is the 23rd successive all-time record, and our current admissions effort indicates this fall will be another

record class of about 9,600 students. Achieving this growth while so many institutions are struggling and shrinking is something of which we should be proud even though we cannot be complacent about achieving such success.

I am pleased to report that UT had another purposeful, memorable, record-setting year with many positive outcomes.

PHOTOGRAPH: MARC VAUGHN





## ONBOARDING NEW SPARTANS

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The enrollment year was characterized by increased competition from many universities, with more aggressive marketing and other new tactics, including increased financial aid discounts. Our own improvements and tactical adjustments have resulted in another record-setting year for student applications, which helped the University to weather the fierce competition. Over this past year, we received an increase of more than 13,000 inquiries, had a record number of campus visits and received 2,000 more applications. UT has been fortunate to continue growing as well as having a substantial wait list of students wanting to attend.

While international student recruitment remains challenging, UT continues to be the destination of choice for well over a thousand international students hailing from 132 countries. UT maintained its goal of being recognized by the Institute of International Education Open Doors as a top 40 university in the master's level category as a host for international student enrollment.

Interestingly, our telecounseling center — which handled almost 60,000 contacts this past year with prospective students and families — offers services in Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic, Teluga, Kannada, Polish, Hindi and Portuguese.

We are also fortunate to receive recruiting help from some of the people who believe most strongly in our mission and are most familiar with the UT experience — parents and alumni. The Spartan Parent Alumni Volunteer Program included nearly 30 new individuals who volunteered to represent UT in 26 college admissions fairs across 20 states.

Of course, once we recruit students, it is to their benefit for continuity in learning to remain at UT through to graduation. UT's student retention rate for Fall 2018 was the second highest in UT's history. We continue to pursue retention improvement initiatives such as strengthening advising and student interventions using predictive analytics and drawing on experiences with these learners. We also developed a proposal funded by TD Bank to focus on certain disadvantaged students to provide additional support and engagement in order to improve retention of these students.





Digital and film production remains popular at UT.

## EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

UT's commitment to educational excellence has a variety of dimensions including a focus on constant efforts to improve existing programs, develop new academic programs, improve educational facilities, recruit talented faculty members, pursuit of the highest program accreditations, support faculty innovation and make enhancements to the academic environment.

We had another large infusion of faculty talent with 20 new full-time faculty positions for this fall and a total of 65 new faculty hires counting retirements and other replacements. This surge of intellectual talent bodes well for UT's future.

UT's faculty were very active as scholars and artists, publishing 14 books or manuals and 218 journal articles;

presenting 173 peer-reviewed sessions at conferences, 36 exhibitions and 35 juried creative works. Faculty grant activity was also high with 18 proposals submitted for a total of \$4.8 million, and 17 new grants were awarded, totaling \$1.3 million.

One of these grants was a \$190,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for an institute that was held on campus this summer focusing on the rise of the U.S. as a global power in the early 20th century as a consequence of its intervention in Cuba's War of Independence.

UT received a number of accreditations and reaffirmations of accreditation (the full list can be found at [www.ut.edu/accreditation](http://www.ut.edu/accreditation)):

- UT received reaffirmation of our AACSB College of Business accreditation for another five years.

- Music and Musical Theater degree programs received continuing accreditation from the National Association of Music.

- We also submitted for new accreditation of our Physician Assistant Medicine program, and we received provisional accreditation (final accreditation comes after reviewing the entire program upon graduating the first class).

### UT REPUTATION SOARS IN RANKINGS

Overall, UT's educational brand and overall market position continues to strengthen, and despite numerous challenges the University continues to do well while many institutions have faltered. UT's reputation continued to soar with a variety of national rankings and recognitions occurring throughout the year. Below are a few of them. The full list can be found at [www.ut.edu/recognitions](http://www.ut.edu/recognitions).

- *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine included UT in its list of the 400 Best College Values for 2019.

- UT was once again named to the 2019 Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll as one of the top 60 universities in the U.S. for transfer students.

- The Princeton Review and *U.S. News and World Report*

both rated the Sykes College of Business as a Best Business School.

- UT's nursing program was named the best in Florida by the website [RegisteredNursing.org](http://RegisteredNursing.org). UT's nursing students once again had a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN national licensing exam, ranking UT's program #1 in Florida, #1 in the South Region and #1 in the U.S.

- The new Institute for Sales Excellence was listed as a "Notable Sales Program" in *Sales Education Annual 2018*.

- In its annual guidebook, *U.S. News & World Report* named UT in five lists, including: 1) Best Value Schools; 2) Most Innovative Colleges; 3) A+ Schools for B Students; 4) Schools with the Most International Students; and 5) Best Colleges for Veterans.



■ The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) also granted approval of our first doctoral-level program, which is an online program. The doctoral degree in nursing practice (DNP) program will launch this Fall 2019.

As part of an accreditation requirement UT launched a Quality Enhancement Project (QEP) focusing on undergraduate research and inquiry. During the 2018-2019 year, 1,816 students took inquiry-based courses in a total of 57 specially designed courses. Forty-eight students also worked with 40 faculty mentors on year-long research projects with 23 of these students presenting their work at professional conferences.

The International Programs Office sponsored or co-sponsored more than 70 globally-focused events on campus and hosted five Fulbright students. We also had 480 students participate in education abroad programs.

The Honors Program developed a living and learning community in McKay Hall that included coffee conversations and social events led by faculty. The Honors Program also developed the first pieces of an interdisciplinary honors curriculum and will pilot the first course this fall, focused on “The Politics of Water” taught by faculty from biology, sociology and communication.

This year’s honorary degree process culminated in the Board of Trustees approving two recipients. One, Zev Buffman, Broadway producer and president and former CEO of Ruth Eckerd Hall, as our newest recipient. He will receive his honorary degree and serve as commencement speaker in May 2020. Confirmation of the second selection is now underway for May 2021.

Lastly, and perhaps most excitedly, we worked this past year to develop a new, high profile Distinguished Speaker Program. We expect to launch the series this year with Jane Goodall tentatively as the inaugural speaker. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor has agreed to come to UT in 2021.

## ATHLETICS, CAMPUS INTRAMURALS AND RECREATION

History was made this year as UT volleyball became the first program in NCAA history to win a title both indoors and outdoors with beach volleyball in the same season. In December, indoor volleyball won its third NCAA Division II national championship. Four months later, UT’s beach volleyball team was named the 2019 Division II national champion. The latter was especially satisfying as UT’s beach volleyball team is only in its second season. Plus, along the way to the championship, the team posted a perfect 12-0 record against Division I universities.

Two months later, UT notched another national championship when the baseball team, which won the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) championship for the 19th time, went undefeated in the NCAA national tournament to secure its eighth national championship.

Spartan athletes posted achievements in nearly every area:

- A total of 11 teams made NCAA postseason appearances. UT was ranked 12th out of 305 Division II schools in the Director’s Cup final standing.
- Men and women’s basketball teams were nationally ranked.
- Men’s and women’s cross-country teams competed at the NCAA South Regionals. The women took fifth, advancing to the NCAA championships.
- A golfer was the first to compete in her second NCAA tournament.
- Men’s lacrosse ranked sixth in the nation, and women’s lacrosse had its best season ever, with Kelly Gallagher named SSC Coach of the Year.
- Men’s soccer ended the year ranked eighth nationally.
- Men and women’s swimming excelled at the NCAA championships.
- The tennis team defeated nationally-ranked opponents.

All athletic teams participated in substantive community service and achieved laudable grade point averages. Team academic awards were won by men’s and women’s cross country, women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s swimming, tennis and volleyball. And, a total of 125 athletes won academic achievement awards.

During this past year UT’s club sports program was a major point of pride, with the number of club sports expanded from 12 to 19. UT’s club

sports did well in tournaments, regional competitions with other schools and even in national competitions. Men’s ice hockey qualified for and competed at the American Collegiate Hockey Association national championships, and women’s ice hockey club finished 4-0 in the first ever Florida Women’s Hockey League tournament. The wrestling club placed 6th in the Division II National Collegiate Wrestling Association national championships, and an equestrian club member placed 4th in the 32 team zone finals.







UT students performed the classical play *Yerma* this spring.



Students meet residents of the Zaksbee Bird Sanctuary during the annual Into the Streets service day.

## STUDENTS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

Enrichment activities that complement the curriculum are our forte in working with students, and several high points were visible during this academic year.

The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement welcomed 24 new registered student organizations. The total number of student organizations of all kinds including clubs, NCAA athletic and intramural teams, as well as academic and leadership groups, is about 300. Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) grew to 1,611 members in 13 sororities and 13 fraternities—about 21 percent of the total campus undergraduate population.

The PEACE Volunteer Center worked with 30 nonprofit agencies in the Tampa Bay area throughout the year for local service projects in addition to the Into the Streets and MLK Day of Service programs. The PEACE Volunteer Center also sponsored 10 alternative break opportunities to sites as close as Immokalee to

study immigration and as far as Lima, Peru, to study community development. Through Leadership Exchange, UT continued its partnership with Kennesaw State University in a year-long immersion program focused on hunger and homelessness.

Student Productions hosted 55 events throughout the academic year, a 28 percent increase over last year. For example, Sam Comroe, a finalist on the “America’s Got Talent,” performed on campus, and his event was sold out.

We advanced diversity and inclusion initiatives by institutionalizing bias education efforts. This year staff created a Bias Education Resource Team and protocol that provides support and resources to those individuals who have been targeted or impacted by an act or perception of bias.

We implemented the new Veterans and Military Programs and Services Advisory Group and several initiatives were completed, including the

founding of a UT chapter of Salute, a veterans’ honor society.

UT continued to play a pivotal role in the downtown Tampa area by offering hundreds of free and open-to-the-public theater productions, music recitals, concerts, screenings, art exhibits, dance performances and lectures. These events enrich the community and introduce the next generation of talent.

Once again, the majority of all campus students, faculty and staff were involved in some community service. Each year we provide service to over 300 organizations and total well over 300,000 hours of service annually. One particularly interesting service activity is our accounting department partnering with Suncoast United Way and the Internal Revenue Service to deliver tax assistance. One-hundred and twenty-six UT accounting students completed 3,060 service hours by preparing 1,295 tax returns at sites throughout the Bay area for low- and moderate-income taxpayers in the 2018 season. This community tax assistance by UT accounting students has been provided for more than 30 years.



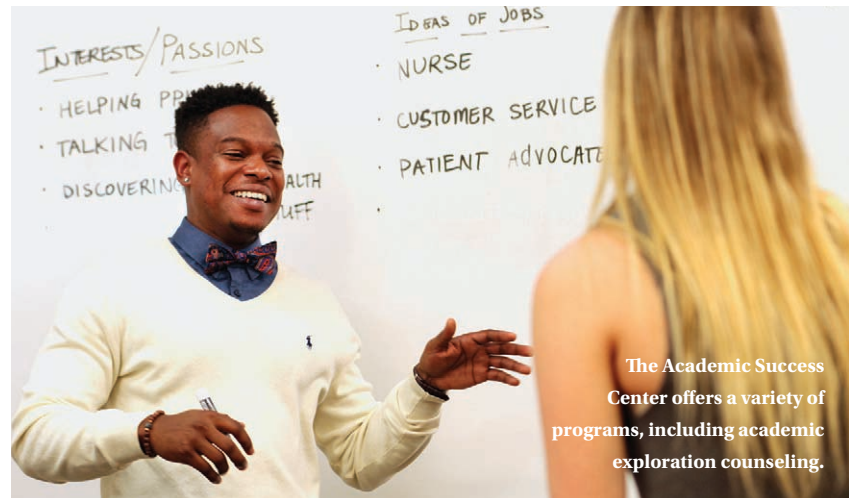
# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT

We strongly believe—and research suggests—that healthy students make better, happier and more productive students.

As such, Wellness Services and Live Well UT coordinated or participated in 1,911 programs, presentations and meetings focused on educating our students in all areas of wellness, resulting in 53,500 student interactions. Our Faith, Values and Spirituality Program and student spirituality groups hosted 636 events with about 6,000 student interactions. And, 21 Spartan Ready Skillshops were held for students with a special focus on student workers. Topics included the Psychology of Self-Control, Maintaining Healthy Relationships and Reducing Your Carbon Footprint.

The Dickey Health and Wellness Center, in partnership with Tampa General Hospital (TGH), introduced a new medical model that improves student access to services and increases preventative wellness education to the campus community. College Health TV has been added to the Dickey Health and Wellness Center lobby to stream health and wellness related educational videos on such topics as e-cigarettes, preventative health, mental health and stress management. In addition, telehealth services are being offered for lower level health issues as an additional format for students to receive timely services.

Of particular note is that this year, UT formed a partnership with the Jed Foundation, a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting emotional health and preventing suicide among young adults. This is a national issue, and UT has resolved to be one of the best in providing proactive programs and services to assist our students.



The Academic Success Center offers a variety of programs, including academic exploration counseling.

UT inaugurated a number of new programs for students. One of them is an online student orientation program for incoming students and family members. Grounded in national standards, the online orientation program highlights resources for new students including academics, safety, student life, support services and University policies.

We also inaugurated a campus-wide working group called RAIVEN (Reducing Assault and Interpersonal Violence Educational Network) that is charged with helping the University community better understand why sexual assault and interpersonal violence occur.

Finally, Spartan Living, UT's learning-centered, sequenced, residential curriculum fully engaged residential students this year. Specifically, resident assistants facilitated 22,292 intentional conversations with residential students on Spartan Ready competencies.

Career Services and job-related activities continue to be a major focus of student support. The offices in the Southard Family Building feature expanded interviewing space, new telerecruiting conference capabilities, corporate recruiter concierge space, formal and informal interviewing spaces and an adjacent multi-purpose room for recruiting receptions and nu-

merous career/job seminars have been exceptionally well received.

As a result of the new facility, as well as additional staff, expanded new services and unprecedented interest of employers, Career Services activities have jumped dramatically. A total of 25,398 jobs were made available via Handshake (a 70 percent increase), 593 companies visited campus (a 48 percent increase) and 101 companies were involved in special employer engagement programs to elevate their reputation on campus. Other professional staff, career ambassadors or local recruiters were engaged in UT After Hours as part of boutique industry programming to provide 2,800 individual sessions or one-on-one appointments with students.

Available internships for UT students rose by 66 percent to an amazing 5,359 internship options for UT students in 2018-2019. We're happy to have so many impactful learning opportunities for our students.

Overall, Career Services programming and individual services touched over 9,400 students and alumni, which was a significant increase over the previous year. This included 269 repeat programs and an additional 123 brand new programs reaching over 2,500 students to further integrate career readiness within the academic curriculum.



Nursing students practice medical procedures in the labs in the Graduate and Health Studies Building.



UT's new Fab Lab is where ideas and dreams can be turned into prototypes and products.

## CREATING AND SUSTAINING LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The educational mission of the University is dependent not only on the work of the faculty but on designing and building state-of-the-art spaces for the campus community. This past year was an extraordinary one for making so many facility improvements.

The Graduate and Health Studies Building officially opened in August and has received rave reviews. The building has the latest technology and houses the nursing and physician assistant medicine programs and the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies. Original art by Barbara Krupp added to the excellence of this amazing building.

During Summer 2018 the full renovation of Smiley Hall was completed. It has now been totally rebuilt to new functional and comfort standards. It also includes 25 pieces of art by Ummarid "Tony" Eitharong to accent aesthetics and enhance the student

living environment.

The Southard Family Building (formerly the Riverside Center) underwent a total rebuild, and today greatly enhances student academic and co-curricular needs, especially with the new language labs, classrooms, Mail Services space, admissions presentation room and Career Services. The huge patio provides another gathering and study space enhanced by the new 8,000-pound stainless steel UT sculpture (and a great spot for pictures). Original art by Audrey Phillips provides beautiful enhancements throughout the Southard Family Building.

The new Mail Services facility is not only totally redesigned for the future, but is a complete paradigm shift as mail provisioning was flipped: first class mail, which is a rarity for today's students, is now a counter service, while package delivery that is a frequent event

(picture a huge number, e.g., 150,000 packages a year) is delivered through intelligent package lockers.

Almost 15,000 square feet of the Bailey Arts Studios was rebuilt to host one of the most forward-thinking visual arts programs in the country, offering spaces for innovation and creativity among student and faculty inventors, designers, entrepreneurs and artists. The project includes a digital fabrication lab, or "Fab Lab," that is an entrepreneurially focused, collaborative makerspace for students and faculty with eight 3-D printers, laser cutters and other high-tech gear.

Groundbreaking of the new Ferman Center for the Arts, a four-story, 90,000-square-foot building, happened in late spring, but we were busy all year researching and designing this facility. The facility will provide spaces for fine and performing arts and will include a recital hall, black box theater, classrooms, practice rooms, art and dance studios, faculty and administrative offices, student study spaces and much more. This new facility will be complete Fall 2020.



# SUPPORTING THE UNIVERSITY AT LARGE

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UT continued to excel financially with a 24th year of operating in the black. Charity Navigator, for seven years, has awarded UT the highest a charity can receive for financial stewardship, although it no longer rates higher education.

UT remained an employer of choice in Tampa Bay for the 295 University positions posted this past year (including part-time positions) as 9,824 applications were received. The University also added to employee benefits by implementing short-term disability, six weeks paid maternity/adoption/surrogacy leave and five days paid parental leave.

The University received gifts this past year totaling over \$14 million. This represents a significant increase over last year, and we were also particularly pleased to see 339 new donors who made their first UT gift this past year. Throughout the year there were exciting new giving opportunities and relationship building initiatives, including UT Give Day, senior class programs, swimming and baseball alumni events, revitalized alumni receptions and the Silver Spartans Brunch.

Handsome and effective publications, videos and presence across me-

diums have continued to reinforce the UT brand. Positive UT stories and news items had about 6,000 media exposures throughout the year.

UT continues to make significant enhancements to the information technology and security infrastructure. The implementation of Workday's HCM, Financials and Planning modules is a multi-year project that has already streamlined finance, planning, payroll and human resource business processes. Substantial progress has also been made to replace the legacy student information system by mid-2020 with Workday Student offering students a more mobile/user friendly experience.

The implementation of a new identity management solution, MyUTampa, has afforded students the ability to access all their core academic applications through a single set of secure account credentials. Faculty and staff also use this portal, which allows them to simply and securely access key applications they need.

In today's wireless world, students have high expectations of conducting business wherever they are. All campus buildings are wired and connected via fiber optic cable, and the campus now features 1,550 wireless access zones.



The University's business continuity management system now meets all requirements associated with international standard ISO/IEC 22301. We believe UT is the first university in the U.S. to be awarded certifications for both information security management systems and business continuity.

All these efforts ensure that UT continues to expand and provide high levels of performance and service to UT students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.



## IN SUMMARY

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This past year was a remarkable year, made even more so by the difficult competitive environment. We continue to work harder and smarter, and we appreciate the counsel and support of the Trustees who are an aspirational board in this community. It is through our collective care for UT that we continue to transform lives of students for generations to come.

Our sincere thanks to our faculty, staff, Trustees, alumni, Fellows, Counselors, Chiselers, donors and friends. We appreciate everyone's advice, service and financial support! With your help The University of Tampa has a bright future.



## Tile-Cleaning Gatherings

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On Oct. 25, 1959 — the year of the Chiselers' founding — the *Tampa Tribune* ran this photo of Chiselers members cleaning mortar and plaster from tiles that had been removed from fireplaces in the Plant Hall ball-rooms. This year the Chiselers are celebrating their 60th anniversary, and their work helping to maintain and restore Plant Hall continues.





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(813) 253-6209 or email [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu).



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## DOG DAZE

Finals week at UT means students' favorite stress-relieving activity – Dog-A-Palooza. Twice a year the Success Scholars and Crescent Scholars programs partner with pet therapy organizations to bring 10-15 dogs to campus. Up to 500 students have shown up for the event, all for a few minutes of canine cuddling.

