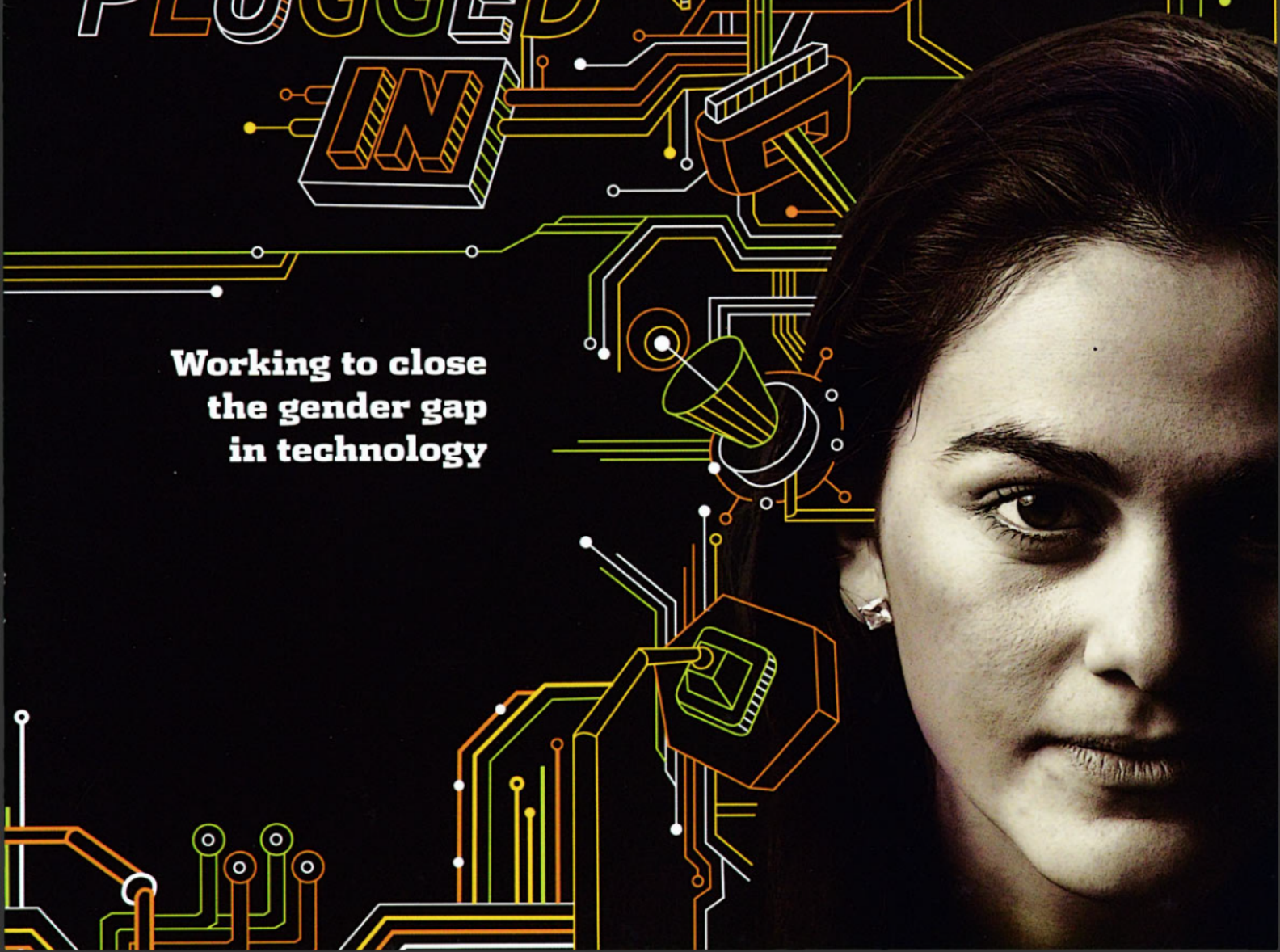


UT ^{v.30 n.3} journal

The Publication for The University of Tampa SPRING 2015

PLUGGED IN

**Working to close
the gender gap
in technology**



Securing Our Future



IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY WEEK WE READ NEW STORIES concerning individuals or organizations that have been victims of a data breach, hacking, cyber attack, cyber-vandalism or virus. No individual or organization is immune to these threats — not nonprofits, multinational corporations, universities or mom-and-pop businesses. I agree with the sentiment that as we increasingly rely on computer

networks and the Internet, threats to sabotage or manipulate those systems will ultimately replace many aspects of conventional crime and warfare.

UT itself has undergone a complete restructuring of information security in its administration. In 2012 we created an information security department that proactively addresses security risks, compliance challenges and threats to the integrity and confidentiality of institutional information.

This year, I'm excited to note that UT has announced a cybersecurity major and minor program (*see page 3*) to provide businesses and organizations with employees fully prepared to take on complex cybersecurity issues. There's a major gap in such talent today as businesses need thousands of workers to fortify technology systems and processes, and we plan to help fill it.

Of course, there are plenty of other universities that teach cybersecurity. But while many of those schools provide research and theoretical-based programs, our graduates will undergo a rigorous, hands-on experience — and they will do so in a new, state-of-the-art facility. Plus, we plan to prepare our graduates to take and pass the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) exam.

Like our existing information technology programs, the cybersecurity program will be part of the Sykes College of Business. The College of Business has an outstanding track record for developing innovative educational programs to answer real-world needs. And, we have found that merging a technology and business curriculum results in more well-rounded graduates who understand both processes and people — and can lead an organization's information technology strategy.

I believe our model has been successful thus far, especially looking at the recent accreditation of our bachelor's degree program in management information systems (MIS) by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). No other school in Florida has ABET accreditation in its business school.

On top of this, we are working hard to attract a greater diversity of students into technology programs, including women (*see page 11*). All of this will help UT become a leader in providing solutions for the information technology industry.

Many people believe our society is one step behind the hackers and Internet "bad guys." I fully believe that with programs such as ours, we can help to level the playing field. And at the same time, we can prepare students for exciting, challenging careers that can provide real solutions for local, national and worldwide businesses and organizations.

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Kevin Curtis '05 is many things — a biochemist, postdoctoral fellow, entrepreneur and triathlete. Yet despite a very full schedule, he takes it all in stride.

About the cover: The University is increasing efforts to plug more women into tech majors and careers. Photo by Alex McKnight and illustration by Caroline Murphy.

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(From left) Mindy Huynh, Aryk Bingham-Hill and Shani Bennett were active participants in the Helios Scholars program.

Resources for Success

Four years after grant, Helios Scholars helping students thrive

AFTER GRADUATING THIS SPRING, Shani Bennett '15 will serve a year with AmeriCorps before going to graduate school. Aryk Bingham-Hill '15 will be a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, FL. And Mindy Huynh '15 is set to begin pharmacy school at the University of South Florida.

These students are just three of several hundred who have taken part in the Helios Scholars program over the last four years, and their success is exactly what the program was designed to ensure.

"The program gave me the resources I needed to be successful at UT," said Bingham-Hill, an environmental science major from Tampa, who was

recently named by the Tampa Chamber of Commerce as the USF ROTC Cadet of the Year.

In June 2011, UT entered into a partnership with the Helios Education Foundation to develop a program focused on improving the academic success and persistence of students considered to be at higher risk of attrition. The foundation provided UT with a four-year, \$1.3 million grant to help get the program up and running.

Students are eligible for the program if they are Florida residents, members of minority groups and/or first-generation in college, and choose one of 65 different majors related to science, technology, education or mathematics.

The program is multifaceted, bring-

ing together academic, financial and peer support.

According to Lorie Kittendorf, director of student transition and persistence, perhaps the most successful aspect of the program has been peer mentors, called SPEARs (Spartan Peer Educating About Resources). Each SPEAR is assigned 40 to 50 mentees, divided by college and major. SPEARs send weekly emails about University resources and organize get-togethers with their mentees.

"The peer mentoring program gives students a small group within the larger student body to connect with," said Kittendorf. "If nothing else, they see the emails and know these resources are available to them."

Helios Scholars also have access to 89 work-study positions across campus. Through these positions, students not only get a paycheck to offset their academic and living expenses, but gain valuable knowledge and skills necessary to become qualified for future positions.

They also build important connections with faculty and staff. Huynh, a biology major from Tampa, worked in three computer labs on campus and said her supervisor, Jennifer Tanács, computer lab coordinator, was really great to work with.

"I tend to be shy, and she helped me to get out of my comfort zone," said Huynh.

Bennett, who worked in the Office of Career Services, also cites the work-study aspect of the program as pivotal for her.

"If I hadn't had the connection with Career Services, I wouldn't have found out about this opportunity with AmeriCorps," she said.

The Helios grant has also been used to provide financial support through book vouchers, merit and need-based scholarships, and grants to help keep

"We didn't want to just give the money to the students, we wanted to use it to build connections with them."

— LORIE KITTENDORF ON THE HELIOS SCHOLARS PROGRAM

students at UT their second year or for summer tuition to keep them on track.

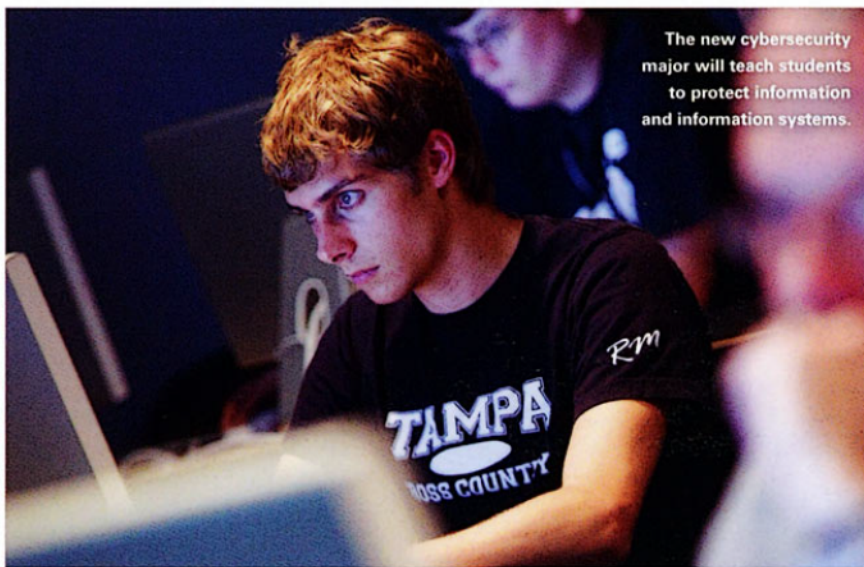
As of Fall 2014, the latest time for which the University has data, UT has retained or graduated 77 percent of the overall Helios population. Though the Helios grant expires this year, the University is committed to continuing the program.

"The basic structure will remain intact," said Kittendorf, explaining all the initiatives that have proven successful over the last four years will be an established component of the UT budget cycle. Kittendorf does plan to tweak the criteria for inclusion, however. The Florida residency requirement will be dropped, as well as the restriction on majors.

"Our first priority is supporting students currently in the program, and then we'll see how many additional students we can support with the new University-funded budget," she said.

Kittendorf explained that when the Helios Education Foundation made this grant, this was one of their first forays into higher education. During a visit with Helios CEO Paul Luna, he told her UT's philosophy in building this program changed how they give money to higher education institutions.

"We didn't want to just give the money to the students, we wanted to use it to build connections with them," said Kittendorf. "Yes, a financial handout helps to offset students' costs, but building connections is what keeps them here. Now the Helios Foundation looks to see if institutions applying for funding have that component. I felt like that was a stamp of approval on the program we built at UT."



The new cybersecurity major will teach students to protect information and information systems.

Cybersecurity Major to Begin in the Fall

CYBERSECURITY IS CONSIDERED ONE of the fastest growing fields worldwide. Starting in Fall 2015, UT will offer a major and minor undergraduate program in cybersecurity where students will learn to protect the confidentiality, availability and integrity of information and information systems.

"Demand for certified security professionals is expected to rise as global commerce and modern society becomes increasingly dependent on information systems and related technologies," said Kenneth Knapp, associate professor of information and technology management.

The curriculum will focus on both the fundamentals of information systems as well as advanced topics in areas such as network security, cryptography, risk management, security governance, business continuity, security architecture, physical security and critical infrastructures.

A key feature of UT's cybersecurity program is that it prepares students to take and pass the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) exam, which certifies an individual's knowledge in the information security profession.

The program also gives students extensive hands-on experience using industry standard tools in a modern cybersecurity lab.

"The UT cybersecurity major will develop students to be leaders in the growing cybersecurity field and employed by prominent organizations worldwide," said Knapp, cybersecurity program director.

The announcement of the new program garnered attention in local media outlets, was picked up by the Associated Press and then to outlets across the country, including the *Miami Herald*, *The Washington Times* and *The Kansas City Star*.



Scientists were able to document the evolution of green anoles in response to an invasive lizard species.

Rapid Evolution

Professor finds Florida lizards evolve within 20 generations

SCIENTISTS WORKING ON ISLANDS IN Florida have documented the rapid evolution of a native lizard species — in as little as 15 years — as a result of pressure from an invading lizard species, introduced from Cuba.

After contact with the invasive species, the native lizards began perching higher in trees, and, generation after generation, their feet evolved to become better at gripping the thinner, smoother branches found higher up.

The change occurred at an astonishing pace: within a few months, native lizards had begun shifting to higher perches, and over the course of 15 years and 20 generations, their toe pads had

become larger, with stickier scales on their feet.

“When I started this project in 1994, I was merely looking at ecological effects of the invasive lizard on the native lizard — the perch shift. I had no idea that only 20 years later we would demonstrate evolution in the native lizard, and I feel lucky to have been part of this awesome team,” said Todd Campbell, associate professor of biology and one of the lead authors of the study that appeared in the Oct. 24 edition of the journal *Science*.

According to the research team, to put this shift in perspective, if human height were evolving as fast as these

lizards’ toes, the height of an average American man would increase from about 5 foot, 9 inches today to about 6 foot, 4 inches within 20 generations.

The native lizards studied, known as Carolina anoles or green anoles, are common in the southeastern U.S. The invasive species, Cuban anoles or brown anoles, are native to Cuba and the Bahamas. Brown anoles first appeared in South Florida in the 1950s, possibly as stowaways in agricultural shipments from Cuba, and have since spread across the southeastern U.S.

Campbell began studying the effect of the brown anole on the green anole in 1994 for his doctoral dissertation research at the University of Tennessee, and continued studying them after joining the faculty at The University of Tampa in 2003.

This latest study is one of only a few well-documented examples of what evolutionary biologists call “character displacement,” in which similar species competing with each other evolve differences to take advantage of different ecological niches. A classic example comes from the finches studied by Charles Darwin. Two species of finch in the Galápagos Islands diverged in beak shape as they adapted to different food sources.

“We have long known that adaptation to novel environmental conditions can proceed at a fast pace, but only a few studies have revealed adaptive evolution in response to competition with other species, so this is a proud moment for all of us,” Campbell said.

Getting students “Home Safe.” This fall, UT introduced the Home Safe Card, a prepaid card that can only be used for transportation needs, such as taxi or mass-transit fare. The card was a winner in the Paybefore Awards.



Spartan Ready Prepares Students for Life After UT

AT MAY COMMENCEMENT, ANOTHER 1,100 students will become graduates and leave the proverbial nest of UT. They have certainly received an education in their chosen field of study, but an education is just one piece of the puzzle. What about the life skills they'll need to be successful in their career, home life and community?

Spartan Ready is a new initiative at the University to help ensure students are career ready and prepared for life after UT.

"When they walk across that stage, we want to know that each student is prepared to be successful in life," says Tim Harding, associate dean of career development and engagement. "Not just success in the workplace, but in the world — in their personal life and community."

A continuum of curricular and co-curricular activities prepare students to be successful professionals with an advanced understanding of their field of study, the interdisciplinary workplace, and how to be effective leaders and engaged citizens who contribute to society.

An obvious and vital part of that continuum is the training students receive in their discipline. Harding says

co-curricular activities complement this education by helping students develop the "soft skills" employers are seeking, such as conflict resolution, public speaking, goal setting, the art of customer service, celebrating diversity, personal branding and etiquette.

One of the goals of Spartan Ready is to define which skills are most sought by employers, and then help students develop them through experiential education opportunities like internships and student employment, programs like the President's Leadership Fellows and ELITE, student engagement activities like Student Government and PEACE, and workshops on a range of topics (life skills, diversity).

Harding said the next steps would be to assess and measure whether these activities are having the desired outcome and eventually recognize students as "Spartan Ready" for the 21st century workplace.

"UT was never intended to be a vocational training institution," said Harding. "We're about students being successful engaged citizens and professionals. This initiative fits perfectly with our foundation as a university. UT educates our students holistically and Spartan Ready for success."

A DECENNIAL CHECKUP

Every 10 years, UT gets to explain how well it is doing in preparing students to be productive citizens. This is one of those years.

On Feb. 9–11, UT administration and faculty hosted representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, a regional accrediting body, for the University's 10-year reaccreditation. Being regionally accredited allows students to qualify for federal financial aid, to transfer classes and credits between institutions, and certifies that UT is a competent and qualified institution of higher learning.

As part of the process, the University must select, create and implement a Quality Enhancement Plan, or QEP. UT's QEP, *Learning by Doing: Inquiry-based Experiential Education*, aims to increase hands-on, practical and real-world opportunities for UT students.

"Learning by doing is of course not new to UT, as it is rooted in our mission statement. But this new QEP, with its focus on undergraduate research and internships, anchors learning by doing at the very heart of the curriculum," said David Stern, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

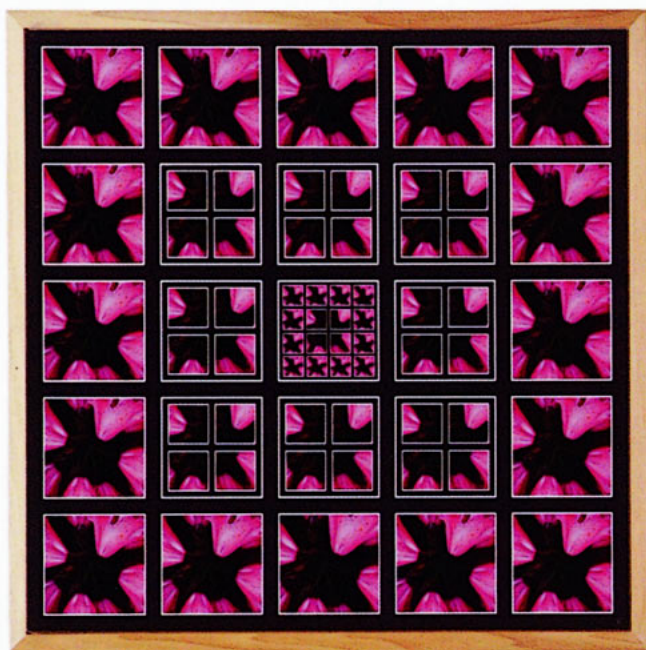
The QEP was submitted Fall 2014, and although UT won't have a final report until December, the committee's preliminary comments were very positive and constructive. The QEP, once approved, is a five-year plan that will be implemented beginning August 2016.

"Our plan is to transform campus so that everything we do will be about inquiry-based experiences," said Joe Sclafani, professor of psychology, who is leading the QEP effort.

GENERATION STUDY ABROAD



Less than 10 percent of U.S. students study abroad, according to the Open Doors Report on International and Educational Exchange. To help change that, the Institute of International Education launched Generation Study Abroad, a five-year initiative with the goal of doubling the number of U.S. students studying abroad by the end of the decade. UT joined the initiative in November, bringing the total Generation Study Abroad coalition to 450.



Art and Technology Collide

IN HER *SHATTERED* SERIES, ARTIST Joanne Steinhardt examines perception — the breakdown from a spontaneous moment experienced by the artist, through the creation of the piece of art and finally the re-perception

of that original moment by the viewer of the piece. The square form gives a nod to the digital tools used to create the piece.

The digital print shown here, “Flowering Here and There,” was one

of two works Steinhardt showed during Electronics Alive VIII, a biennial invitational exhibition at the Scarfone/Hartley Gallery that featured computer animations, digital video, interactive digital work and virtual spaces.



In the Dominican Republic, families encourage boys to drop out of school at 12 to focus on baseball.

Impact of Baseball on Dominican Republic Youth

THOUGH HE CONSIDERS HIMSELF A huge fan of baseball, Shane Smith was still blown away by the dedication to the sport he saw during his trip to the Dominican Republic in January 2014.

Unlike other Latin American countries, where soccer is king, "beisbol" is the No. 1 sport in the Dominican Republic. Baseball was first introduced to the country by Cubans who came to work on sugar cane plantations on the island.

"It is a passion," said Smith, an assistant professor of marketing, describing how when people go to watch a baseball game, they *watch* the game. There is no one in the bathroom or at the concessions stand during play. When people don't have the right equipment to play baseball, they use broomsticks and bottle caps to play a similar game, called *la vitella*.

But through his time in the country, Smith discovered that this passion for baseball in the Dominican Republic has a profound impact on its people.

Players from the Dominican

Republic make up 12 percent of Major League Baseball (MLB) players. That means one out of every eight players is from the country, the largest group next to players from the U.S. The next closest country is Venezuela.

Smith said every boy in the Dominican Republic grows up wanting to be on an MLB team. But where in the U.S., children play baseball because they *want* to, in the Dominican Republic they play because they *need* to.

Players who make it in the U.S. send home portions of their salary, called remittances, which are used to send other family members to school, repair homes or open businesses. Even if a Dominican player never makes it out of the minor league, they have "made" it as a salary of just \$20,000 is a lot of money in the island nation.

It is the difference between playing for "the pure joy of it" versus playing because your family is counting on it.

Because of this, families encourage boys at the age of 12 to drop out of school and focus solely on baseball.

Often, a *buscone*, which are part agent, part coach, will take a boy away from his family and raise him from 12–16. In return, if the boy is signed to a team, the *buscone* gets a huge portion of his signing bonus, around 40 percent.

There are baseball academies for every team in the MLB located in the Dominican Republic. At 16, a lucky few (one in 1,000) are brought to the academy to learn to play baseball, as the *buscone* typically only drills them on skills (hitting, pitching, etc.). From the academies, only one in 1,000 will make it to the minor leagues and, again, only one in 1,000 will be signed to an MLB team.

These steep odds breed competitiveness in the players, some to the extreme. Thirty-eight percent of MLB players busted for using performance-enhancing drugs are Dominican.

If a player doesn't make it, he is sent back to the Dominican Republic with virtually no education. (In the U.S., players are at least expected to finish high school.)

"Some players choose to stay in the U.S., as even busing tables in the U.S. is a better life than what's back home," said Smith.

Smith explained that the country lacks infrastructure and has the world's deadliest roads. He argued that this system is keeping the nation's future citizens from getting the education needed to help solve some of these issues.

He conjectured that the reason this system is allowed to go on is multifaceted. The MLB is afraid of losing this resource for great players. The individual teams don't want to be at a disadvantage to each other if some recruit players there and some don't. And the Dominican Republic doesn't want to lose its greatest export and the income from remittances.

"Our demand for product is what's driving this machine," said Smith. "Don't feel guilty, but be aware. This is not new, but it has gone on for too long."

spartan sports

Senior Giovanni Alfonzo's grand slam in the top of the seventh inning gave UT a four-run lead.



Spartans Blast the Big Leagues

Spartans defeat MLB's Philadelphia Phillies in exhibition game

IT WAS THE TOP OF THE SEVENTH INNING during the baseball team's March 1 exhibition game versus Major League Baseball's (MLB) Philadelphia Phillies. Junior Ty Cooler led off with a pinch-hit one-out single to centerfield, stealing second to give Tampa a runner in scoring position.

One out later, junior pinch hitter Joe Walsh took first base on a walk. Senior pinch hitter Brett Jones then responded with a two-out infield single to load the bases, and all runners advanced on the next walk to Andrew

Amaro, which tied the game at 2-2.

With the bases still loaded, senior Giovanni Alfonzo blasted a homerun over the leftfield fence to propel the Spartans to a four-run lead. It was the defining score of the game, and the Spartans took a 6-2 lead.

In the end, the UT baseball team defeated the Phillies. Tampa entered the game with a record of 13-1, and although the win does not affect their NCAA record, the Spartans made history. The victory stands as the first time an NCAA-sanctioned team has

defeated an MLB team since the Division I University of Miami Hurricanes defeated the Florida Marlins (now the Miami Marlins) in 2011.

The Sunday afternoon game marked the opening of 2015 Spring Training and was the first game played by an MLB team this spring.

Junior right-handed pitcher David Heintz started on the mound for the Spartans, tossing four complete innings and allowing just one earned run. The starter allowed four hits and two walks, striking out two.

Junior righty Dylan Barrow appeared on the mound first in relief, allowing two hits in two innings pitched. He earned the win in the exhibition.

Junior lefty Michael Calkins appeared for the seventh and eighth innings, allowing no hits and striking out one.

Righty Zac Favre and left-handed pitcher Kevin Martin tag-teamed to close out the bottom of the ninth for the Spartans, allowing no hits and no runs. Martin earned the save in the outing, his first of the year.

On the day, Tampa's pitching staff allowed just six Phillies hits, stranding 10 runners on base and striking out six.

Both teams were quiet offensively through the first inning, and it was the Phillies who jumped on the board in the bottom of the second to take the lead. Philadelphia strung together a double and two singles before closing out the at-bat with a two-run lead.

Neither team scored during the next three innings, but Tampa came out swinging offensively in the top of the sixth inning. Amaro, a senior, led off the inning with a one-out outfield single, and stole second to give the Spartans a runner in scoring position. Alfonso, a senior, then answered the call, sending a single to centerfield that scored Amaro to give Tampa its first run of the contest.

Collectively, No. 1 Tampa recorded eight hits in the victory. Amaro, Alfonso, Stephen Dezzi, Cooler, Nick Tindall and Jones each registered hits against the MLB team, while Alfonso racked up five of the six runs batted in.

The UT baseball program is no stranger to big games, having traveled to Cuba to play some of the top teams in the country in January 2014. The Spartans also defeated The Netherlands national team, 7-6, in a game prior to the 2006 World Baseball Classic.



WOMEN'S SOCCER HELPS OUT

The women's soccer team continued its community engagement with a pair of visits to local schools in the spring semester.

The Spartans began their outreach on Friday, Feb. 20, at The Primrose School. Members of the team were split among three different classrooms (ages 4-5). The team did a variety of activities with the kids, including reading aloud, creating arts and crafts, working with puzzles, playing cards (Go Fish!), as well as playing with them on the playground.

On Friday, March 6, members of the Spartan team went to Cleveland Elementary School to help out with their annual field day. The team was split up into different groups, with each group in charge of running a specific station. A few team members were involved in the jump rope station, others at the "Book Bus" where they helped kids pick out books. Another group was at the "writing wall" where the kids could sign their name on a banner to be hung in the school's entrance.



PLAYER OF THE YEAR Berkley Whaley '16 (center) became the second player in UT volleyball history to be named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Player of the Year, and the second in the last three years (middle hitter Danielle Selkridge '12 first received the honor in 2012). Whaley was honored at the AVCA All-America/Player of the Year Banquet with Head Volleyball Coach Chris Catanach '83 and three-time Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist Kerri Walsh.



The Spartan volleyball team captured the 2014 NCAA Division II national title in December.

Volleyball Championship One to Remember

FOUR MONTHS AFTER WINNING UT's 14th national championship, Berkley Whaley talks about the volleyball team's amazing season like it was yesterday.

"No one was going to give up until we won that game," said Whaley, a junior outside hitter for the team, who scored the final point to clinch the victory. "The last point was probably the most surreal moment I have experienced."

With 10 straight weeks ranked as the top team in the nation and never earning a rank below second throughout the season, the UT Spartan volleyball team wrapped a historic season by winning the NCAA Division

II National Championship on Dec. 6, 2014, with a sweep over Southwest Minnesota State.

The win marked the University's 14th national championship and the second for the volleyball team, the first coming in 2006.

The atmosphere was electric as the Spartans synchronized as a team to earn that last point in the third set. The screams and cheers from the crowds overpowered the room as the final ball hit the floor. In unison, the players on the court turned towards each other for a circular celebration filled with tears and smiles. Holding

the national championship trophy over their heads, the teammates and their coaches commemorated an outstanding season.

"Our team had a combination of height and athleticism. The players focused on the end goal, and I believe we peaked [everyone was performing at their best] at the perfect time," said Chris Catanach '83, head volleyball coach.

"This win represents how much we wanted to win this game for each other," said Whaley, who was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Year. "It represents the hard work we put in at every workout and every practice. It represents how hard the coaches worked so that we could be the best. It really just represents a unique group of people that were after the same goal."

The national championship win was the culmination of an impressive season by the team. In addition to the championship title, the Spartans earned an NCAA South Region Championship and a Sunshine State Conference Championship.

Meagan Burke, senior middle blocker, was thrilled to finish her college career with a championship and is going to miss the opportunity to play under her coaching staff and with her teammates. She said she would relive that moment of winning every day for the rest of her life if she could.

"Being a part of this team is unforgettable and definitely the best four years of my life — a group of people that I will never forget," she said.

— EMILY STOOPS



ON THE HONOR ROLL

Sixty student-athletes made the Commissioner's Honor Roll for Fall 2014, including 11 with a perfect 4.0 GPA. The national championship volleyball team had 12 members on the list, including all six of its starters plus the libero. Among the four student-athletes to earn a 4.0, two were also starters.



CODING CAREERS

WITH TECH

FOCUS

Initiative aims to increase
women in tech majors

BY JAMIE PILARCZYK MBA '13, M.S. '13

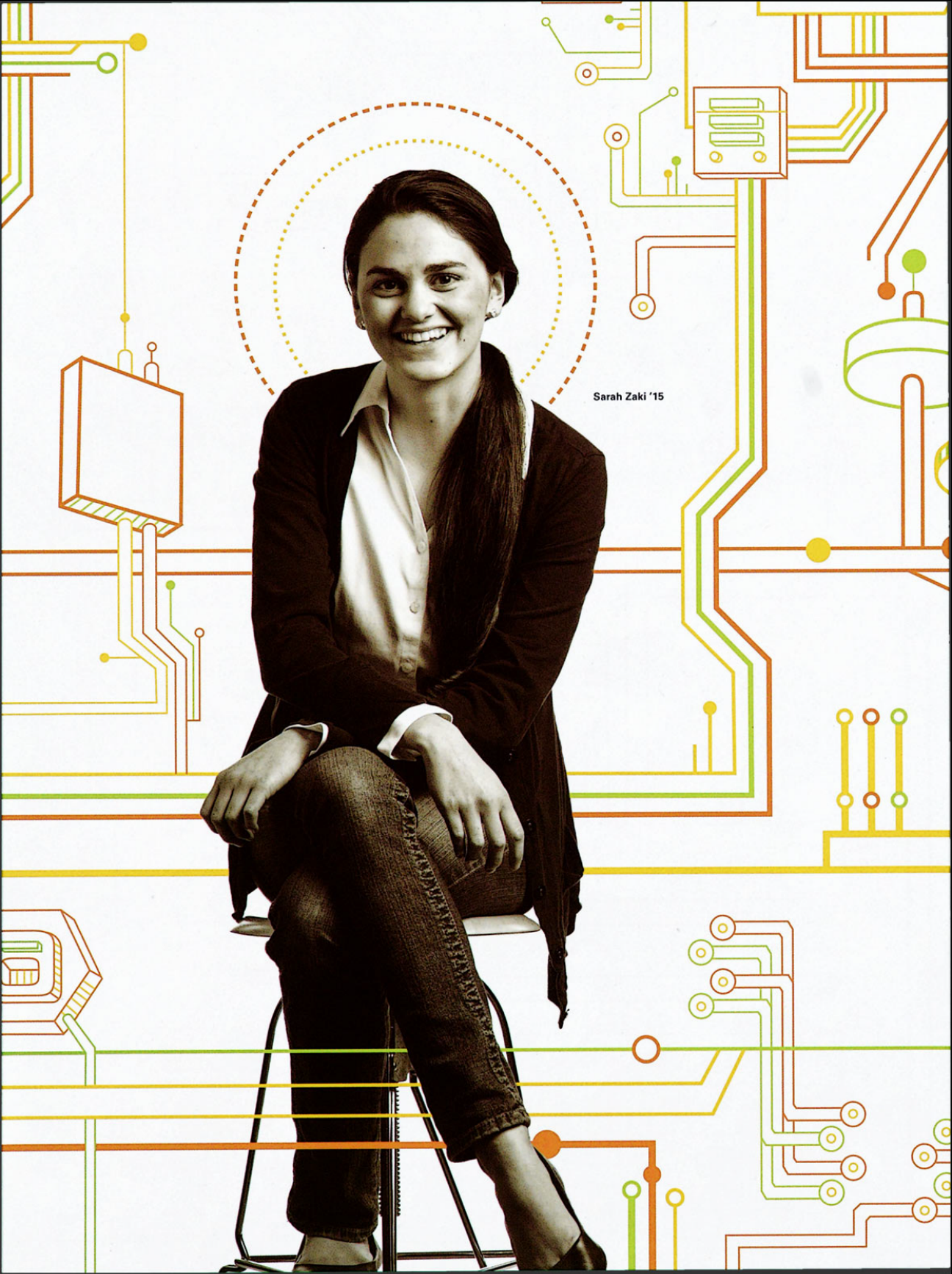
AND KILEY MALLARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAROLINE MURPHY

KAYLA HARRIS '15 NEVER considered a career in the tech field. "It was something I had never learned about before," she said. As a business management major, she took two elective technology-focused courses just to add a little edge to her resume. She soon decided, however, technology was the field she needed to be in. Harris switched her major to management information systems (MIS) and added a minor in cybersecurity, which she felt gave her more focus and direction.

"They were eye-opening classes on (tech) as a career, and the lack of people willing to work in the field," said Harris, of Medford, OR.



Sarah Zaki '15



Tech fields are among the fastest growing in the U.S. The number of applications software developers — who design everything from the Excel spreadsheet you do your budgets on, to the addictive (and frustrating) levels of Candy Crush Saga — is projected to grow 57 percent from 2010 to 2020, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In that same period, the number of systems software developers, responsible for creating and upgrading your computer's (and phone's) operating system, is projected to grow 72 percent.

But despite the high demand in these fields, there is a lack of qualified candidates to fill the need, most notably amongst women. Though there are a number of high-profile women in tech — Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer to name two — there is a marked disparity between the number of men and women in tech fields.

Women represent 34 percent of Web developers; 23 percent of programmers; 37 percent of database administrators; 20 percent of software developers and 15 percent of information security analysts according to

thought now. (Being in this major) was intimidating because of my lack of tech skills, but I soon realized it's the work ethic that makes you succeed. Not how good a programmer you are."

Brianna Cronin '17, a fellow MIS major, has also noted she is one of only a few females in her MIS classes.

Cronin, who is analytical and detail-orientated, noticed in high school that men and women learn in different ways. So she has come to rely on other females for support and encouragement in her classes.

"I think it's important to seek out each other," said Cronin of Bradenton, FL. "There's a place for women in this field."

Cronin has found a mentor in Natasha Veltri, an associate professor of information and technology management at UT. Veltri studies gender issues in relation to science, technology, engineering and math. While on sabbatical for the 2013-2014 academic year, she examined gender differences in the use of social media: social networks, gaming, blogging and microblogging.

"Our perceptions of gender are really evolving," Veltri said. "Today's girls

"You don't have to be a techy nerd to work in this field. We love technology, you can make good money and you're in demand." —SARAH ZAKI '15

the Department of Labor's Current Population Survey, 2012.

Women in tech majors at UT reflect this national trend in the disparity of women in tech fields with women representing less than a quarter of students majoring in MIS.

For Harris, who spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps, the lack of females in the major didn't give her a second thought.

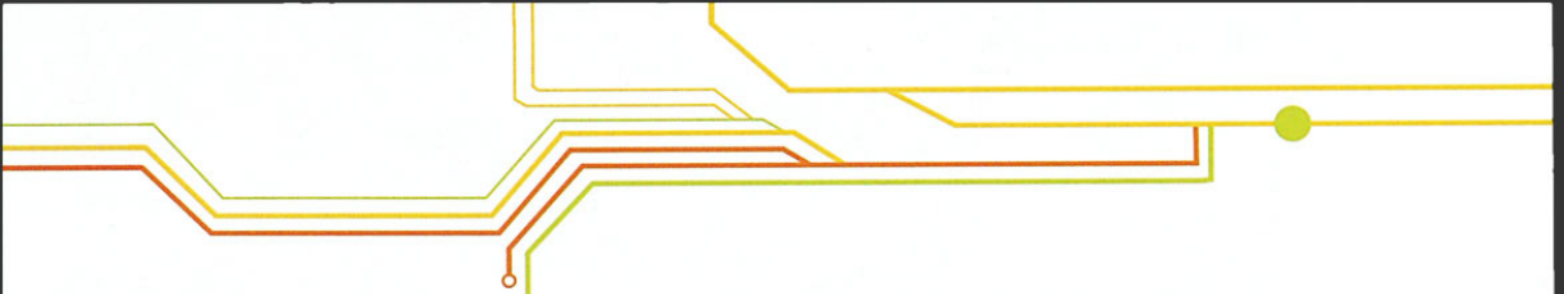
"I've been in the minority a long time. In the Marine Corps I'd walk into a room of 200, and I'd be one of 20 females," Harris said. "It's an after-

are very different, they are participating equally in many areas, but there is still an inherent stigma."

Veltri points out that women make 60 percent of technology purchases and tend to be more in control of the family budget.

"If women are making the majority of purchases of technology, they need to be more a part of developing that technology," she said.

There has been much conjecture over the reasons for the lack of women choosing tech careers, from there not being enough girls who choose com-



puter science courses in high school, to the field being unwelcoming to those who don't "fit in." Whatever the cause, it is an issue that merits attention, since it has been shown that diversity in the tech industry creates a stronger and more efficient workforce.

The National Center for Women and Information Technology (NC-WIT) has found that "companies with the highest representation of women in their management teams have a 34 percent higher return on investment than did those with few or no women."

To help close the gender gap in the technology field, UT joined efforts with NCWIT in 2013 for a two-year program as a NCWIT Pacesetter. Lead by the Department of Information and Technology Management in the Sykes College of Business, UT's goal is to increase enrollment of females in the management and information systems (MIS) program by 50 percent. In Spring 2013, 20 of the 81 MIS students were female. In Spring 2015, that number is now 21 of 104.

While this is far from 50 percent, Veltri said this number doesn't include the number of international business students with a concentration in MIS.

In 2013 there was just one female in that program and now there are six.

In addition, the data doesn't reflect the number of female students who may major in business or other academic programs but decide to pursue tech careers.

By exposing students to the opportunities available in the tech sector, and giving them hands-on opportunities to feel out what tech careers entail, Veltri said she is seeing more students show an interest in the field.

"I think what helped the most is that we all consciously focused on identifying motivated female students and encouraged them to be leaders of the Technology Club at UT," Veltri said. "By being leaders they become role models themselves and recruit other female students."

One such student is Sarah Zaki '15, now president of the Technology Club and unofficial champion of the MIS degree. She has made it her mission to educate her peers on the industry and its opportunities.

Zaki said she was the kid in her family who was good with computers; the one people went to for help. Though she's always been a fan of

technology, she never considered a career with it.

"I feel like nobody plans to start out in technology. I wanted to be a veterinarian for less than half a semester," said Zaki, who stumbled into MIS through a Career Services event and quickly changed majors. "Everything is structured. I'm a very organized and detail-oriented person. The core of MIS is business analyses. It's tedious, but it's logical to me."

Zaki describes MIS as a mixture of business principles and computer science where graduates have a business level knowledge of technology.

"You act as a bridge between techy folks and management," she explained.

Zaki spent this summer interning with Tribridge, a Tampa technology services firm, whose human resources director was in attendance at a Career Services event. Zaki introduced herself, and several interviews later, landed the internship working in the customer relationship management department.

She also turned an internship earned through one of Career Services' internship fairs last year into a part-time job. She works for Websults from home mostly, with weekly meetings across the street from campus at Oxford Exchange. She provides search engine optimization, website design and client customer service.

"Sarah is a mover and a shaker," said Harris. "I consider her a mentor even though she is way younger than me. I'm sure she's given me so many opportunities that I don't even know about."

Under Zaki's watch, the Technology Club has partnered with the Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTf) in providing a vast and robust list of networking opportunities, business tours and conference workshops for students to attend.

Last semester Zaki organized a group of students to attend the TBTf Tech Trends event on information security, hearing from speakers like the chief of cyber security at U.S. CENTCOM and information security leaders

Getting the Word Out

Last year Career Services and the MIS department hosted a panel discussion with technology leaders outlining the variety of opportunities available in the field. Organizers initially anticipated an audience of 40 students but instead hosted more than 220, many of them freshmen and sophomores still deciding on their majors or accompanying minors.

The goal of these events is first and foremost to make students aware of careers in technology, but they also help keep top talent in the Tampa Bay area. Tampa mirrors the national trend of having a gap between the tech jobs available and the talent to fill them.

"Organizations including the Tampa Bay Technology Forum are attempting to develop programs to assist with both the awareness of positions and training of potential applicants to meet the demand of the workforce today," said Mark Colvenbach, director of Career Services. "The partnership with Sarah and the student chapter is critical to raising awareness and further connecting students and the University to companies and the working world."

at The Home Depot, Bright House Networks and Raymond James Financial. Last year, the club attended the TBTF Tech Trek, visiting technology companies on a bus tour around town.

"People don't know about opportunities, and I don't blame them," said Zaki, of Temple Terrace, FL. "I didn't know about them, and I grew up here."

In addition to her work with the Technology Club, Zaki is a member of the UT Entrepreneurs. A true fan of Sandberg, Zaki, along with other female student leaders, started a women's group within UT Entrepreneurs called the Spartan Women's Lean In Circle, named in reference to Sandberg's book, *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead*. The UT group aims to mentor younger students, provide awareness and offer training, such as how to strengthen negotiating skills.

When Zaki came to college, she was followed by the haze of warnings about there being no jobs for new graduates. But the gap of MIS jobs and those with technology skills is wide, and she wants to let students know about it.

"You don't have to be a techy nerd to work in this field," said Zaki, who will start full time as a staff member in the Risk Advisory Consultant Program with Ernst & Young when she graduates in May. "I just want to show students what is out there. We love technology, you can make good money and you're in demand. I'm lucky because I fell into MIS. I want to expose that to others."

To Veltri, Zaki has been a wonderful role model for other female students on campus by taking a leadership role and sharing her passion for technology with others.

"Female role models are very important and can help encourage other females to pursue IT-related degrees," Veltri said. "Only working together can industry, academia, government and public media change the existing socially constructed stereotype and ensure gender parity in technology for the future." **UT**

Associate Professor of
Information and
Technology Management
Natasha Veltri



How the gift of a wheelchair helped
one UT freshman complete a dream

A Whole New Level

BY KILEY MALLARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

BACK IN NOVEMBER, TYLER HERNANDEZ '18 was riding in his parents' car, surrounded by his family, when he got the call he'd been hoping for. It was his birthday, and they had just finished a celebratory dinner at his favorite restaurant.

His phone rang and he saw that it was Mike Hayes, head coach of the U.S. Power Soccer Association's Team USA, which will compete in the FIPFA World Cup later this year.

"I figured a Facebook post wouldn't be enough to wish you a happy birthday," Hayes said, and they talked about how Hernandez was faring with his home team, the Tampa Thunder.

Hernandez appreciated the call and was pleased that Hayes remembered his birthday, but as their conversation came to a close, Hayes asked a question that would change the trajectory of his life and, as he puts it, complete a dream.

"Before I let you go, I wanted to ask you how would you like to play for Team USA?" said Hayes.





Hernandez shows off
his Strike Force power
soccer wheelchair.

"With power soccer you do everything on your own. And that's what I like. I want to be independent. I want to make my own decisions when I'm playing sports." —TYLER HERNANDEZ '18

"I was like, 'What? Of course! I was just so thrown off. It was crazy,'" said Hernandez, describing how his mother, Megan, started screaming with excitement in the front seat, how his father, Chuck, tried to shush her so he could hear, and how his younger sister, Haley, was sitting next to him smiling.

Hernandez's journey to Team USA began 11 years ago, when he was just 8 years old. Diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy at 13 months, he has been in a wheelchair since he was 3 years old. At a Muscular Dystrophy Association camp one summer, they asked him if he'd like to try out power soccer.

"I said, 'Sure, why not? I've loved it ever since,'" he said. Hernandez played first with the Tampa Thunder club team, then for the Tampa Bay Crossfire for a few years. He recently rejoined the Tampa Thunder, who are currently the No. 2 team in the U.S.

"I tried other disabled sports, but there's no independence to it. Somebody has to help you," said Hernandez. "With power soccer you do everything on your own. You control the chair. You control what you do. You don't have somebody else do it for you. And that's what I like. I want to be independent. I want to make my own decisions when I'm playing sports."

Hernandez also enjoys the level of competitiveness and that it's an international sport.

He got his first taste of international play five years ago, when he was able to go to France and train with the French international team. Watching the best players in France play, Hernandez started to realize if he put in the effort, he might one day reach that level.

"I saw what it took to be a world-class player," he said. "I decided to stick with this and continue to work hard to be the best I could be."

The last two FIPFA World Cups were held in 2007 in Tokyo and 2011 in Paris. Since players are required to be at least 16 to play at that level, Hernan-

dez was too young to try out for either of those teams. The 2015 team was his first opportunity to apply, but the timing of the tryout came at a critical transition for him.

Hernandez began his freshman year at UT in August 2014, and tryouts for Team USA were slated for October.

"I didn't really know if I wanted to continue playing," said Hernandez. "I love power soccer. It's taken me places that I could have never imagined, but I didn't know if I'd be able to handle playing soccer for the Tampa Thunder, possibly playing soccer on the national team and also balancing college. It was a really tough decision."

Ultimately, he decided to apply and was chosen to be one of 20 to try out for one of 12 spots on Team USA.

"I couldn't give it up," he said. "Soccer is just one of those things I can't let go right now. I just have too much fun. And having the opportunity to be able to represent my country is something I couldn't give up."

Though he was excited about the invitation, there was one major element still holding him back. In order to be able to hold his own against the best power soccer players in the nation, he would need a Strike Force Wheelchair.

"Everybody has one now," said Hernandez. "If you don't you get pushed around. You can't compete."

The cost of these specially designed power soccer wheelchairs runs from \$8,000 to \$10,000, depending on the configuration. Hernandez didn't want his parents, who were already paying for college, to take on this added expense.

That's when Hank Malouf stepped in.

Last March, Malouf was reading the *Tampa Tribune*, when an article about Hernandez captured his attention. He was struck first by all the things they had in common. Here was a kid who went to Jesuit High School, where he spent three years in high school. He planned to attend UT, where Malouf also attended. And he played soccer, which Malouf also played both in high school and at UT.

When he realized that all Hernandez needed to move up to the next level was this special wheelchair, Malouf was moved to action.

"It was instant," said Malouf. "We had so much in common, and I had the means to help out." Malouf contacted the author of the original piece, Jeff Berlinicke, who put him in touch with Pete Young, the director of communications at Jesuit, who finally connected the two.

Malouf owns Hank's Place Catfish and BBQ, located at 8546 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa, and he invited Hernandez to come by the restaurant. Once they met, Malouf's

WHAT IS POWER SOCCER?

Power soccer is the first competitive team sport designed and developed for power wheelchair users. It combines the skill of the player with the speed and power of the wheelchair. The game is played indoors, on a gymnasium basketball court and uses a 13-inch soccer ball. During play, two teams with four players each face off in a game similar to able-bodied soccer.

The sport was developed in France in the early 1970s and introduced in the U.S. in the early 1980s. The U.S. Power Soccer Association was formed in 2006 and today is made up of more than 60 registered teams in five conferences. That same year, several countries came together to form the Federation Internationale de Powerchair Football Association (FIPFA) and standardize the rules for play. The first FIPFA World Cup was played in 2007.



hunch that they had a lot in common was confirmed, and the two began a friendship that continues today.

When the Hernandez family finally found a Strike Force wheelchair that would work for Tyler, Malouf told them to send him the invoice, and he'd take care of it.

"So many people have helped me get to where I am," said Malouf, who opened Hank's Place just over three years ago and has been overwhelmed by the support from the community. "It's beyond what I anticipated, and I feel very fortunate. I look for any chance to give back, and this was just the perfect opportunity."

For Hernandez, the difference between the Strike Force and his everyday wheelchair is "night and day."

"Its speed. Its power. Its acceleration. It took me a good solid few months to get accustomed to it," said Hernandez. "It's definitely upped my game to a whole new level."

Hernandez had just three weeks between receiving the chair and the tryout for Team USA. Everyone else, he said, had had their Strike Force wheelchair for a year. Though he practiced, often just going to the gym to drive it around without a ball, he said he still didn't have the same mastery and ease the other players had.

"I knew going to camp that it was going to be tough for me to make the team," he said, explaining not only was he new to using his Strike Force, but a lot of the people from the previous Team USA were trying out as well.

The tryout was a three-day camp,

8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, filled with drills and scrimmages — a grueling schedule, but Hernandez simply said, "It was awesome."

"It was a great experience. I got better, and that's what I really wanted to do," he said. "I also wanted to complete a dream. I've always wanted to play for Team USA and going to tryouts was the first step in a long process."

The process was a little longer for Hernandez than his Team USA teammates, as he didn't make the initial 12-member team. That disappointment was short-lived, however, when he got the call from Hayes on his birthday.

So far, his worries about juggling soccer and studies seem unfounded.

An honors student and accounting major, Hernandez received one of only seven As in his Honors financial accounting class taught by Robert Marley, assistant professor of accounting. The class, he said, was his favorite by far.

"Since accounting is such a difficult subject, I am amazed that he indicated it was one of his favorite classes. Most people do everything they can to avoid it," said Marley.

"Tyler is an amazing student who intuitively grasps that financial accounting is not an abstract subject requiring mindless memorization," he continued. "Tyler is also an inspiration to me, personally, because he demonstrates the possibility of the human spirit. I wish all my students possessed his drive."

Hernandez still plays with the Tampa Thunder and is gearing up to

(Left) Malouf said he and Hernandez connected from the start and will always be friends. (Right) In January, Hernandez completed the first Team USA training camp in Arizona.

play in the national championship, which is being held in Tampa this June. He said it was a tough transition joining both the Tampa Thunder and Team USA in the same year.

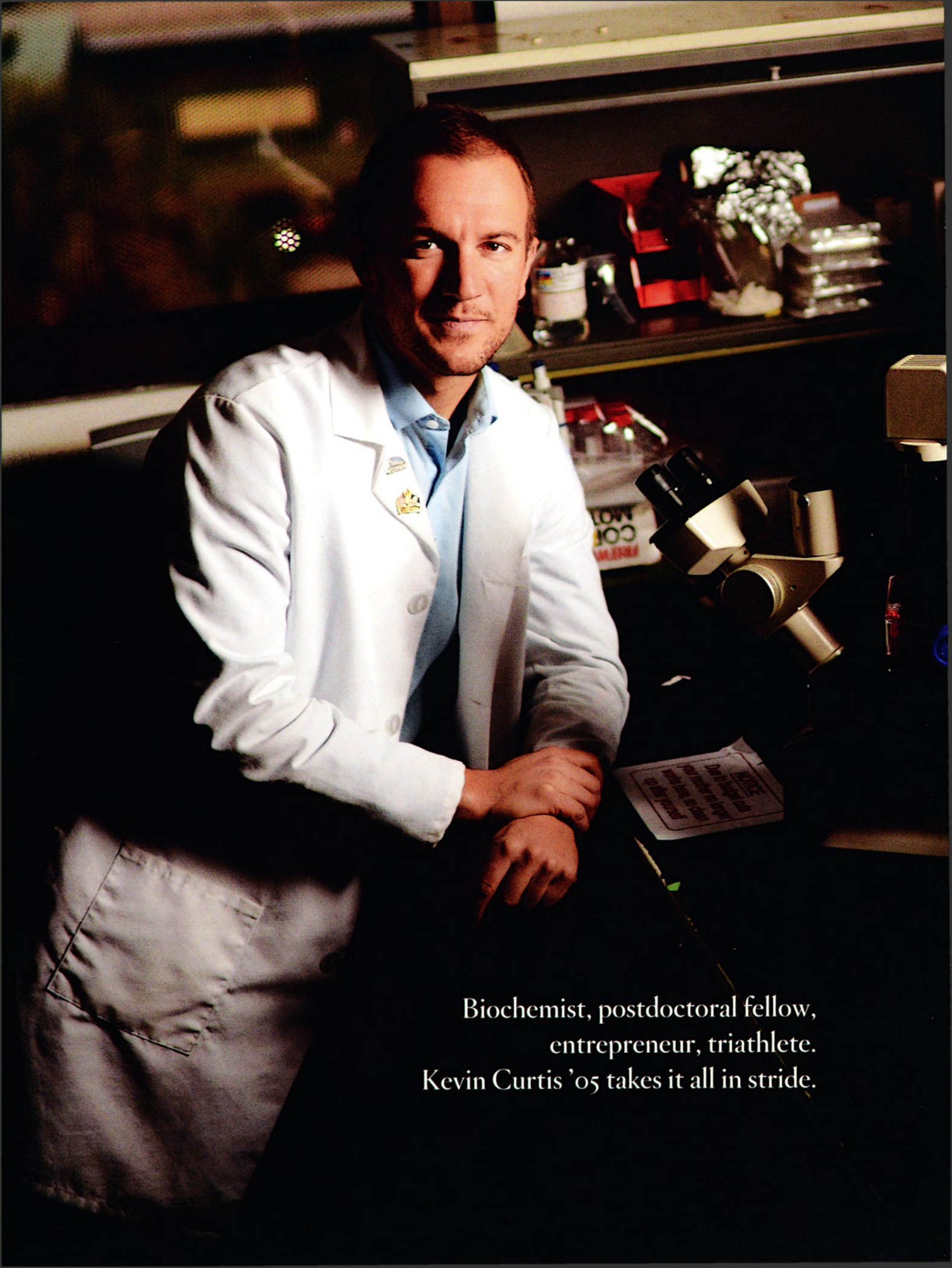
"I got both play books at the same time, and they both use a number system. I was trying to keep both of them straight in my head and thought, 'Well, this is going to be confusing,'" he said with a laugh. "I'm finally getting them both down. I'll be alright."

In January, Hernandez completed the first Team USA training camp in Arizona. In between camps, he is required to complete weekly drills, which his sister, who plays soccer for Steinbrenner High School, helps him with.


Playing with Team USA comes with some high costs — air travel, hotel, wheelchair van rentals, to name a few. To help offset these expenses, Hernandez created a Go Fund Me site at www.gofundme.com/ju31nc.

Hernandez clearly feels the experience is worth the cost. He lights up talking about his fellow Team USA teammates.

"These are the 12 best players in the United States, and the level of soccer is crazy. Insane. Awesome," he said. "Everything you do is top level. I love it. I love the pressure. I love that I'm playing with the best." **UT**



Biochemist, postdoctoral fellow,
entrepreneur, triathlete.
Kevin Curtis '05 takes it all in stride.



Curtis in his research
laboratory at the
Miami Veterans Affairs
Healthcare System.

NEVER A DULL — OR SLOW — MOMENT

BY JEN A. MILLER '02 PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY GILSTAD

"KEVIN WAS ONE OF THOSE STUDENTS WHO WAS GOING TO JUST GO AND DO GREAT THINGS." — HEATHER MASONJONES, UT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

KEVIN CURTIS '05 WAS A BUSY GUY WHILE A STUDENT AT UT. WHILE working on a major in marine science and minor in biochemistry, he rowed on the crew team. He also worked in two different labs, even helping to set up one lab from scratch and serving as a teacher's assistant — all as an undergraduate.

If that were all he'd done while on campus, no one would have called him lazy.

Then he decided to train for a marathon.

"One day I just started running," he said. He kept going until he was running the length of Bayshore Boulevard and back, which is about five miles each way. He figured that "if I could do that, I could probably do a marathon." He ran the Gasparilla Marathon in 2004 with a time of 3 hours, 37 minutes, 13 seconds — an exemplary debut.

Not much has changed for Curtis, except that he's moved his operations to Miami. Curtis earned his doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Miami in 2010 and now works for the University of Miami and the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System.

In his spare time, he and a friend founded a company that is focusing on using algae to create alternative fossil fuels. In 2015, he will compete in the USA National Triathlon Olympic-Distance National Championships and in his first Iron Man.

How does he manage to fit it all into his schedule? "I just really enjoy all of it," he said.

As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and a research biochemist at the Miami Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, he's conducting research, funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, on vitamin D and its effect on bone health and bone development. Specifically, he's studying how it affects bone marrow derived adult stem cells.

"We all have adult stem cells throughout our adult life. They're involved in the maintenance and repair

of our bones," he said. "I'm looking at how vitamin D regulates adult stem cell bone health and repair as we're aging."

The research has shown that forms of vitamin D previously thought to be inactive are vital for the maturation of stem cells into bone cells. He hopes the long term outcome of his research will provide new treatments for bone disease and bone damage by combining the use of bone marrow derived adult stem cells with specific, patient-tailored vitamin D treatment.

Curtis grew up in Downingtown, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia. He chose UT because of its reputation in marine science. He also knew that because of the size of the school and the size of his future classes, that he'd have a better opportunity to do hands-on research right away, which for him proved to be the case.

He worked in two labs while a student, including that of Heather Masonjones, professor of biology. Masonjones started at the University the same fall that Curtis began his freshman year, so he helped her set up and run her research lab, then worked as a teaching assistant in her marine ecology course — yes, as a freshman, before he even took the class himself.

"It's odd, but it really fits with Kevin's personality in that he's such a helpful person, and he's knowledgeable about so many things," she said. "It was a great opportunity for him to get in on the ground floor of a faculty member's research lab."

They also wrote a grant together, and in 2003 and 2004, did work that what would become the backbone of Masonjones' research program. That program focuses on syngnathid fishes, which includes dwarf seahorses and

pipefish in Tampa Bay, the Florida Keys and the Bahamas.

"Kevin was one of those students who was going to just go and do great things," she said. "He's incredibly motivated, and he's incredibly determined. He absolutely understands that to get to your goals, you have to invest lots and lots of hard work. He never said no to an opportunity while he was here."

Masonjones thought Curtis would continue to pursue his academic career in marine science — and Curtis did, too.

But Curtis also had a minor in biochemistry and the biochemistry program at the University of Miami presented a better opportunity for him than what was being offered in marine science. He took it, packing up his things and driving to Miami to start his graduate studies right after graduation.

Soon after finishing his doctorate, though, he began seeking a place to bring the marine sciences back into his work, and so in 2013, he and friend Daniel Pelaez founded Algaergy LLC.

"We were feeling very frustrated about the outlet of academic science," he said. There, the course of research is determined by funding and grants, which while providing support for his vitamin D work, could stymie research on ideas that aren't quite fully cooked yet.

"We spent a lot of nights talking about how we could come up with an environment where we could follow up with our own ideas on our own time," he said. After two and a half years of talking, Algaergy was born. "We incorporated ourselves and slowly started collecting used or broken lab equipment and repairing everything," he said.

Algaergy focuses on using microalgae for biofuel production. "It's already being used all through the U.S.," he said.

The process begins with algae grown in big vats of water, which is then used to make oil as an alternative to fossil fuel. But that process hasn't been perfected. "The biggest problem with algae is that they either grow too



A running instructor convinced Curtis, who enjoys running, biking and swimming, to try triathlons. He qualified for the 2015 USA Triathlon Olympic-Distance National Championships. Here he is out for a run at Tri Beach on Key Biscayne in Miami.

slow or grow too fast," he said. "They don't produce enough lipids or fats to produce oil."

At Algaergy, he and Pelaez are working on using, studying and genetically modifying micro-algae, cyanobacteria and any photosynthetic organism for use in bio-fuel production and natural product discovery. They want to make the process better. "We're genetically engineering microalgae to grow more efficiently and also produce oil," he said.

They work on the project in their free time. That work is also far enough away from the research of their day jobs that there will never be a conflict of interest. For now, they're self-funded and also exploring crowdfunding through sources like Kickstarter.com and Experiment.com.

Despite being a busy researcher, and working nights and weekends on his fledgling company, Curtis has not dropped one very important part of his life: athletics. That Gasparilla Marathon he ran in college was just the start.

"After I moved to Miami, I kept running," he said. He had also been a swimmer as a child, and continued to swim while at UT. "Every single time I'd go down [to meet up] for a long distance training session, I'd ride my bike. I bike everywhere," he said, even commuting round trip to work about 10 miles every day.

One of the instructors in the running group noticed the bike and asked Curtis if he swam, too. The answer was yes, so that instructor convinced Curtis to try triathlons.

In 2014, he finished three triathlons: one at the international distance, one at the Olympic distance and one at the Half Iron Man distance. Curtis didn't just do them to complete them — he did them well.

Based on his time in the Olympic distance triathlon, he qualified for the 2015 USA Triathlon Olympic-Distance National Championships, which will be held in Milwaukee in August. He also competed in his first open water swim race: the Swim for the Alligator Lighthouse, which is an eight nautical mile swim in the Florida Keys. He did that with a four-person team.

He was named a Team FDC Running Ambassador for 2014-2015. Team FDC is a Miami-based group that grew out of people training for the Miami

Marathon and Miami Half Marathon. Ambassadors are those who embody the ideas of the group and help other athletes with things like running form, technique and "just provide moral support," he said.

"Some people haven't run a mile or two before in their lives," he said. "Those first times you do really long runs, especially when you get to 15 or 16 miles, it takes a lot — not just physically but mentally."

In 2015, aside from the triathlon championships, he is also hoping to run two ultra-marathons (at 50K and 50 mile distances), do the same open water swim but on a team of two (and then do it solo in 2016), and complete his first full Iron Man, which is a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bicycle ride, then a 26.2-mile run. In January, he ran the Miami Half Marathon, finishing with a personal best record of 1 hour 30 minutes, and in February he completed the Ragnar Relay Florida Keys, a 196-mile relay race from Miami to Key West.

When asked how he balances his work, his company and his workouts, Curtis says he doesn't quite know. Fitting them all into his life doesn't faze him.

Since he does enjoy it, it doesn't feel like he's giving up his free time, he said. "I enjoy doing all of it, so I just keep going." **UT**



alumni report

class acts

WHAT'S NEW? Stay in touch by sending us your Class Acts. Go to alumni.ut.edu today!

56 **Al Berry** received the Boy Scouts' Dean Snyder Soaring Eagle Community Service Award in February, and the Plant City Photo Archives and History Center's Heritage Award in March, according to the *Plant City Observer* (Plant City, FL). Al also served as the Grand Parade Marshal at the Florida Strawberry Festival in March. He served as the director for the festival for 43 years, and is now director emeritus.

64 **Lisbeth Calandrino** has been a business coach and trainer in Albany, NY, for 25 years. She recently wrote an article for the *Times Union* (Albany, NY), "Who Said High School Grades Indicate Success? It's Baloney," arguing that the grades

a child receives in school do not necessarily indicate their level of success later in life.

Email: Lcalandrino@nycap.rr.com

Zane and Sherry Corson '67 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They met while students at UT and were married just a few months later. Sherry is an enrolled agent for the IRS and a manager for H&R Block in Tampa. Zane is a retired school teacher but still keeps busy working on old homes in Tampa's Hyde Park neighborhood. They enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren, vacationing every summer with them in Captiva Island, FL.

65 **Odis Gene Richardson** has been appointed to the Gary Public Library board of trustees in Gary, IN.

70 **Frank Permuy** was honored in February when Tampa's Gaither High School renamed its baseball field as Frank Permuy Park. Permuy began his coaching career in 1971 at Leto High School, also in Tampa. He also coached at UT before winning a state title at Tampa Catholic in 1982. He's been credited with 1,368 wins and is a member of three Hall of Fames.

72 **Sandra C. Delzotti** married Julia L. Bruno in December 2014 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.

75 **Audri Scott Williams** spoke at Lycoming College's Unity Day about unity, community and globalization, according to NorthcentralPA.com. Audri is a trustee of the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative and the coordinator for the Global Indigenous Initiative.

76 **Louis "Lou" Diaz** has retired after serving 28 years with the Hillsborough County School District, most recently as principal of Alonso High School in Tampa, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Bob Ford, the head golf professional at Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh and Seminole Golf Club in Juno Beach, FL, was recognized as a Pro's Pro by globalgolfpost.com. Bob has played in 10 PGA Championships, three U.S. Opens, five Senior PGA Championships and two U.S. Senior Opens. In 1988, he was awarded the PGA of America's Professional Player of the Year, and, in 2005, he was inducted into the PGA Hall of Fame.

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Every October, the University invites alumni back to campus for a weekend of events and activities during homecoming (this year scheduled for Oct. 23–24). Leading up to this exciting weekend, the University looks to volunteers to help us plan the activities and encourage alumni attendance.

This year we'll celebrate reunions for the classes of '90, '95, '05 and '10, and we're in need of alumni leaders to help with their respective 25th, 20th, 10th and fifth reunions. In addition, we'll induct the class of 1965 into our Golden Spartan Society as part of their 50th reunion.

To get involved with any of these reunion teams or for more information on homecoming involvement, contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at alumni@ut.edu.



Sherry '67 and Zane '64 Corson

alumni report

Rande Ridenour joined the Mote Marine Laboratory board of trustees, according to the *Herald Tribune* (Sarasota, FL). Rande is a resident of Siesta Key, FL, and served on Mote's advisory council since 2008, including a term as chairman. He has worked as a financial planner for 35 years and is senior vice president and financial advisor at Morgan Stanley in Sarasota.

77 Charlie Miranda was re-elected to the Tampa City Council District 2 seat. Charlie is a six-term councilman, first elected in 1974, and has served 21 years in office in three different stints, according to *Tampa Bay Online*.

81 David Ross was promoted to the chief operating officer/chief financial officer of the Western Region of Tenet Health, a publicly traded health care system. Email: cdavidross123@aol.com

82 Trish Messina relocated back to Tampa for a new job as director of client services at Resources Global Professionals. Email: messina.trish@gmail.com

83 Andy Ferrigno MBA '87 was appointed vice president of global sales at Parnell Pharmaceuticals Holdings Ltd., a fully integrated pharmaceutical company focused on developing, manufacturing and commercializing innovative animal health solutions, according to biospace.com.

Gary Pickett MBA is the new chief financial officer, secretary



Dana Crosby-Collier '88

and treasurer for First Choice Healthcare Solutions Inc., according to BioMedReports. Prior to this appointment, Gary served as a senior financial executive at Bovie Medical Corporation.

Tara (Richards) Swartzbaugh is the new director of music and organist at First Presbyterian Church of Brandon, FL. She continues as an adjunct faculty member of the music and theatre departments at UT and pianist for Plant High School's choral program.

84 Joe DiBari has been Fordham University's sports information director for 18 years, according to the *Providence Journal* (RI). Joe joined the Rams in 1997 and is among the longest tenured men's basketball staff members in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

85 John Stimus was named the regatta director for the Eighth Annual Tampa Mayor's Cup Regatta, according to *USRowing*. Administered through the United States Rowing Association, the regatta was held on March 21 and was the main event surrounding the Roosevelt Regatta Festival.

“

I remember...

American Marketing Association. AMA provided me the opportunity to hold a leadership role. I learned valuable organizational skills. I also gained the confidence to speak in front of a large group of people.

—ALUMNUS '10, FROM ALUMNI ATTITUDE SURVEY”

88 Dana Crosby-Collier joined the real estate section of the Shuffield Lowman law firm, based in the firm's Orlando office. She is an active member of the Florida Bar, serving as the 2014-2015 chair of the city, county and local government law section.

89 Steven Simon was promoted to sergeant in the Lawrence Township (NJ) Police Department, according to centraljersey.com. He began his law enforcement career at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He also worked for the Helmetta Borough Police Department, and was hired by the Lawrence Township Police Department in 2005. He has received two Commendable Service awards and a Life Saving Award.

92 Richard Gaspar was added to the Wall of Legends at East Bay High School (Gibsonston, FL) for his contributions to the school, according to *Tampa Bay Online*. Richard attended East Bay, returned as a teacher and later served as the principal of the adult school. He said he was inspired to become a teacher due

to the influence of his high school instructors. In 2011, the College Media Association honored him as the 10th recipient of the Distinguished Advisor award. Richard is a professor of mass communications at Hillsborough Community College.

94 Kenneth Lewis was appointed to the city of Lauderhill, FL, planning and zoning board and the Lauderhill Regional Chamber of Commerce's board of directors in November.

98 Tommy Inzina MBA is chief operating officer at BayCare Health System, the largest community-based health system in the Tampa Bay area. He recently assumed the additional role of BayCare president and will transition into the role of CEO in mid-2016.

Cathy Kaufmann has joined Families USA as the national consumer group's enrollment program director, according to *The Oregonian*. Cathy will oversee all of Families USA's health insurance coverage enrollment work.

Jessica Spencer was a panelist at a town hall meeting in Ft. Myers, FL, on whether medical marijuana

Make your plans now! Save the date for 2015 Homecoming and Reunions. This year's festivities will be held Oct. 23-24. Go to alumni.ut.edu for more details.



should be legalized in Florida. The issue was voted down during the November 2014 election. Jessica took a leave of absence from her position as the project director at the Manatee County Substance Abuse Coalition to serve as the statewide coalition director for the Vote No On 2 campaign.

Aimee Francoeur Tesoro joined Transamerica Financial Advisors Inc. in St. Petersburg, FL, as vice president of technology and operations. Aimee is a certified financial planner and holds FINRA Series 6, 7, 24 and 66 licenses.

99 **Sunny Ko Mitchell** was promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army in January. She competed to secure a spot on the All-Army women's golf team and defend her title at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation All Armed Services golf tournament, according to the *The Fort Campbell Courier* (KY). Sunny has appeared in the All-Services tournament for 12 years, and won six times since 2005.

00 **Luke Rosa** is a high school social studies teacher and founder of the highly rated Teachers Pay Teachers store, Students of History, which sells social studies lesson plans on the Web.

Email: lukerosa@gmail.com

William Schaudt married Amy Willis on Aug. 16, 2014.

Email: utcruw1997@hotmail.com

01 **Heidi Escalona** is a registered mental health counselor intern working to become a licensed therapist. She is living in South Florida and is engaged to be married this spring.

James "Jimi" Kiner, UT's assistant swimming coach, is chair of the College Swimming Coaches



spartan spotlight

Cork Friedman '87

The Real Deal

The first time Cork Friedman '87 set out to film the guardsmen of Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment in action, he broke his ribs.

"This is day one," said Friedman. "I'm the guy who's supposed to give the good impression, and I thought I was going to die."

Friedman has worked in the film and video production industry for more than 25 years. After working as series producer on *Coast Guard Florida* in 2012, The Weather Channel sent him to film a similar show in the Pacific Northwest, *Coast Guard Cape Disappointment Pacific Northwest*.

Cape Disappointment is located near the mouth of the Columbia River in southern Washington and is one of the most hazardous areas for boaters in the U.S. Water temperature hovers around 55 degrees. If a mariner goes overboard, they have about 30 minutes to an hour before they die of hypothermia.

"The rescues we got there were the real deal," said Friedman.

The hostile conditions made it tough to shoot a TV show. For one, he said the camera equipment

doesn't like salt water. They constructed lightweight houses and bags for some of the cameras and left the more expensive cameras on shore.

Another challenge was finding cameramen — two cameramen quit right off the bat. While hanging out with commercial fishermen, listening to their stories, Friedman had an epiphany. He advertised for any unemployed or not-in-season fishermen that were interested in working on the show and said a couple worked out great.

"You can teach people how to use a camera in those conditions, but you cannot teach people not to be scared and not to be sea sick," he said.

Friedman said the crew lived with the guardsmen during filming and would work six days a week, 24 hours a day.

"The thing with this show is you cannot miss that helicopter, you cannot miss that boat when the call comes in or you've missed the episode," he said.

The show went on to become the highest rated in The Weather Channel's history of original programming and is available to stream on Hulu.



James "Jimi" Kiner '01

Association of America Division II Team Ranking Committee.

Wesley Kogelman is CEO of BuyaTimeshare.com, which recently celebrated its 15th year in business. The website provides a place where owners can conduct transactions directly with buyers and renters.

William "Josh" Podolsky was elected partner at Phelps Dunbar LLP. He practices law in the firm's Tampa office, where he concentrates in the areas of real estate, commercial transactions, banking, finance, general business, and corporate and partnership matters.

03 Roy Fink MBA '06 was named the head coach of the Franklin Pierce University's men's soccer program, according to the *Monadnock Ledger Transcript* (NH). Roy previously spent seven years coaching college soccer in New England, including the previous three as head coach at the University of New Haven.

Cindy Firestein is the student success specialist and program coordinator for the College of



William "Josh" Podolsky '01

Professional Studies at Northeastern University. Last spring, she received the Super Star Recognition Award from JVS (Jewish Vocational Services) in Boston. Email: miss508@yahoo.com

Andrew Saltman founded Carbon Capital Mortgage, located in Jacksonville, FL.

04 Jessica Burns Fugate M.S. '08, MBA '11

started as the director of alumni engagement at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL, in January. Previously, Jessica served as the assistant director of alumni and parent relations/development associate at UT for more than seven years. She also serves on the board of Success 4 Kids and Families, a nonprofit, in-home treatment program for families operating out of Hillsborough County, FL.

Logan King is engaged to Aleah Dianne Holyoak, according to *The Metro West Daily News* (Framingham, MA). Logan is an associate director of finance at DigitasLBi.



Jessica Burns Fugate '04, M.S. '08, MBA '11

05 Kate Bradshaw joined *Creative Loafing* Tampa's team as its news and politics editor. Kate has experience in both daily and weekly journalism, having worked for the *St. Petersburg Tribune* and written for alternative newsweeklies in Maui and Miami. In 2012, she was part of the *Creative Loafing* team that covered the Republican National Convention.

Joseph Laurino MBA is founder and chief executive of Periodic Products, a pool cleaning product, according to *Bloomberg Businessweek*. The filtration technology in his products cleans water by recovering metals such as mercury, lead and cadmium. The filtered metals can then be recycled and re-used.

06 Christian Collier has been selected for the Loft Spoken Word Immersion Fellowship. He also recently launched his website, christianjcollier.com, performed with Grammy-nominated artist Minton Sparks and will be featured on a new Atlanta-based television show called *House of Rhyme*.

Email: thespeakeasypoetry@gmail.com

07 Timothy Compton and former UT faculty member Sean Malone completed a five-part Web series recreating H.G. Wells' classic novel, *The Invisible Man*, according to



Christian Collier '06

83degreesmedia.com. The series is set in present-day America and was filmed in Tampa, North Carolina and Colorado. It is available on YouTube and DVD.

Valerie French MBA '12 married Jeffrey Collignon on Dec. 5.

Orlando Gonzalez is working as the senior catastrophe analyst, property at the Southwest regional office of a large insurance firm. Email: ogonzalez1986@gmail.com

Kristen Ostow founder of Southerndoe, an outdoor apparel company, was the winner of the Junior League of Tampa's Young Entrepreneur Program. Southerndoe promotes "strength is beauty" and reflects Kristen's love of the outdoors.

Amanda (Gabel) Richter has been blessed with a baby girl. Anna May Richter was born on June 14. Email: Amanda.may.richter@gmail.com



Amanda (Gabel) Richter '07 and her baby girl, Anna May



John Davis Jr. MFA '14 published two books of poetry: *The Boys of Men* and *Middle Class American Proverb*.



Matthew Yates '07

Matthew Yates has been working for the Cayman Islands Ministry of Finance as a strategic information officer since January 2015. He was chosen by the Cayman Islands Committee to cover the Cayman Islands at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Scotland.
Email: mdyates@live.com

08 Allyson Hovance is the program manager of residential experience at Brown University in Providence, RI. She recently earned an M.S. in higher education administration from Florida International University.

James Tyler McMackin is an account executive with Lutgert Insurance in Naples, FL, according to the *Naples Daily News*. He recently joined the board of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation of Southwest Florida.

Josh Murphy was selected by Facebook to travel to its headquarters in Menlo Park, CA, for a live



Peggy (Chambers) Hedlund '09

Q-and-A with CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The event was streamed live on the Facebook page "Q&A with Mark," and Josh was chosen to ask a question.

Nicholas Williams MBA '10, associate of Foley and Lardner LLC, was named to the 2014 *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Up & Comers list. These awards seek to recognize up-and-coming business professionals in all facets of business in Tampa Bay.

09 Nicholas Catania M.Ed. '12 and **Allison Vetter '10**, authors of the blog *Never Have I Ever Tampa Edition*, were featured on 83degreesmedia.com. The blog chronicles their adventures in the Tampa Bay area ranging from dining, camping, shopping at local markets and small boutique stores, and attending networking events.

Cristobal Gomez is a real estate agent for Island Living Real Estate specializing in commercial



Ewan Graham Mather

leasing and property management, according to *Bahama Islands Info*. Cristobal worked 10 months on a 15-unit plaza, increasing occupancy by nearly 40 percent and increasing rental revenue by 100 percent.

Peggy (Chambers) Hedlund, a fifth-grade teacher, received the Dale Mabry Elementary Teacher of the Year award. The award recognizes outstanding teachers who have been nominated by their school for their dedication to the academic achievement of their students.

Andrew Learned, franchise owner of GradePower Learning, was named to the 2014 *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Up & Comers list. These awards seek to recognize up-and-coming business professionals in all facets of business in Tampa Bay.

Erika (Ginzl) Mather and her husband, John Mather Jr., welcomed their second child, Ewan Graham Mather, on Oct. 27, 2014. Ewan was born a month early and weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces at birth, but is now thriving.

Brandon Teague married Angela Hall on June 7 at the Kapok Tree, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. The couple is expecting their first child, a boy, in March.

Michelle (Magner) Tiani and her husband, William Tiani, welcomed a baby girl, Scarlett Jo, on Aug. 13, 2014. The baby weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces.
Email: michelletiani@gmail.com



Scarlett Jo Tiani

10 James Lewis III is the owner/operator of Dickey's Barbecue Pit in St. Petersburg, which opened just over a year ago in March 2014.
Email: jlauthentic@aol.com

Roberto Mena opened a second location of Over the Top Athletes, a sports performance training facility that he owns and operates. Both locations are in Connecticut, where he lives with his wife, **Kate Mena '10**. Kate is working as marketing coordinator for Bob's Stores/Eastern Mountain Sports.

Pascal Millien signed with Ar-mada FC, Jacksonville's new North American Soccer League team, according to oursportscentral.com. Pascal spent the 2014 season with Sheikh Russel KC in Bangladesh.

Julia Moore opened her own business, J. Moore Insurance Agency, in Mount Kisco, NY, in January 2015.
Email: julia@jmooreinsurance.com

Carolyn Murtha married Andy Jones on Nov. 1. Carolyn also started working as an account executive for iHeart Media.
Email: Carolyn.murtha@gmail.com

Randall Radziszewski graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law on May 18. He recently passed the Florida Bar Exam and is now employed as an assistant state attorney for the Tenth Judicial Circuit.
Email: randiradziszewski@gmail.com

Patrick Wheeler proposed to

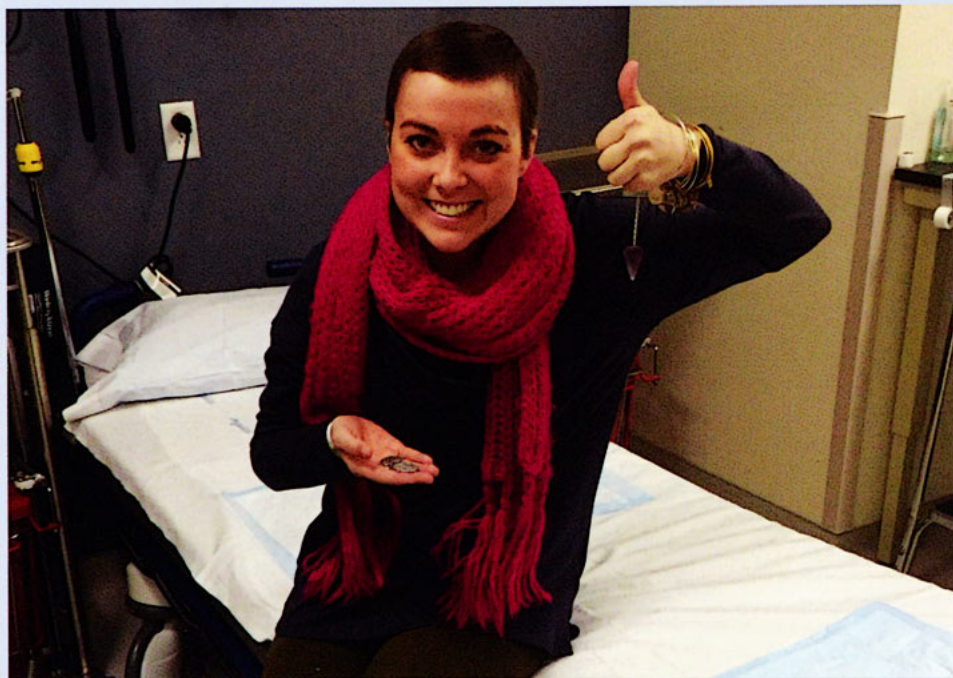


Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Josh Murphy '08

spartan spotlight

Jessica Moran '11

Staying Inspired



On Jan. 13, Jessica Moran '11 got up, got dressed and drove to her job at TJX Companies near Boston. Though this may sound like an average morning, for Moran it was a milestone since it was the first day she was able to go to work in nearly 11 months.

"It's good to be back to work. It's good to have a purpose to get up each day and people to talk to," said Moran, who almost a year earlier, on Feb. 21, 2014, had been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. "Feeling normal is a privilege and an important part of life."

Moran started treatment — her first chemo cocktail as she calls it — on her 25th birthday. Altogether her treatment plan will take two and a half years to complete, including several phases of chemotherapy.

"I'm technically in remission now, but leukemia can come back really easily. That's why the treatment is so long," she said.

One outlet that Moran has relied on to stay positive through her treatment is her blog, inspirationinitiative.com, which she has

used to document her experience.

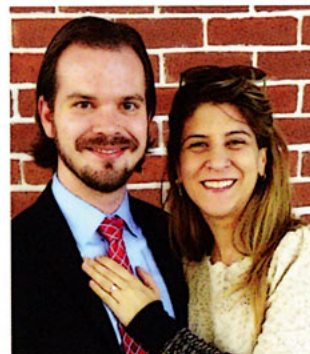
"Whether I'm nervous about a test or not feeling well, writing out how I'm feeling, I end up feeling better by the end of my blog post," she said.

Moran also gives a lot of credit to her family and friends for helping her stay upbeat, particularly her boyfriend, who has stayed with her every single night she's spent in the hospital.

"There are days that have been really hard, but having such a good support system has made all the difference," she said.

Part of that support system are her brothers and sisters in the UT chapter of Delta Sigma Pi, which Moran was active in while at UT. The group has raised more than \$3,000 to help pay for her treatment, including donations through a Go Fund Me site, *Jessy's Story*. The group is also bringing Moran down to speak at the University's annual Relay for Life on April 18.

"Having these students going above and beyond for somebody they don't know speaks volumes to the type of people in that organization. It's been really touching," she said.



Patrick Wheeler '10 and Shannon Taddei

Shannon Taddei on UT's campus on Nov. 4, 2014.

11 Samuel Gerb is an account executive at the *Tampa Tribune*.

Email: sgerb@tampatrib.com

Casey Kampf works in the customer service department at Obōz Footwear, where she serves both retailers and consumers. Obōz specializes in shoes for hiking and backpacking. For every pair of shoes sold, Obōz plants a tree in partnership with Trees for the Future.

Ryan Littler is founder of Advlucence, a Tampa-based advertising agency he started as a student. The company was featured recently on 83degreesmedia.com. Dylan Sellberg '13 serves as the company's marketing director.

12 Selwyn Birchwood MBA was featured in a *Detroit Free Press* article about how his business degree helps him in his music career. Selwyn is currently touring to promote his Alligator Records debut album *Don't Call No Ambulance*.

Herman Osby Kelly III graduated from the Metropolitan District of Columbia Police Academy in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 12 and served as the class guidon (flag bearer) at the graduation ceremony.

Chelsea McDonald and Kyle Bennett got engaged on Nov. 9. Email: chelsea116m@yahoo.com

Brittany McNaughton has been promoted to tobacco grant policy manager at the Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance. She also earned her master's degree in health administration from the University of Phoenix.

Email: bdmcnaughton@gmail.com

Billy Ward M.S. '14 recently got engaged to Maggie Donohoe.

13 Morgan Biggs graduated salutatorian from the Master of Arts program at Full Sail University, where he majored in new media journalism.

Alfredo Ernst is pursuing a master's degree in accounting while he begins his career in assurance services with Thomas Howell Ferguson P.A., a professional accounting, assurance and tax services firm located in Tampa.

Brian Fekete signed with the Austin Aztex, a member of the USL PRO league. USL PRO is the strongest North American men's professional soccer league below and in support of Major League Soccer.

Matt LaRue graduated from undergraduate pilot training at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma and is relocating to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He is a recipient of the Risner Wingman Award and earned wings as a rated pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Email: mrlarue12@yahoo.com

Gracie Stemmer was the am-

bassador for Tech Cocktail's Tampa Bay Mixer and Startup Showcase that took place on Feb. 4 in Tampa. In addition, Gracie is the marketing manager for Tampa Bay WaVE, organizer of Startup Weekend Tampa Bay and a member of Girls in Tech. Tech Cocktail is a media company that covers the latest tech innovations across the globe.

14 Michael and Danielle (Morlock) Barone became homeowners through Operation Homefront, a national nonprofit that provides assistance to U.S. veterans and families of service members, according to *Tampa Bay Online*. Both Michael and Danielle had served in the U.S. Air Force. Michael works at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa, and Danielle works as a case manager at Youth and Family Alternatives in Tampa.

Alexis Bourdeau has been promoted to administrative secretary at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Research Institute. Email: alexisbourdeau@outlook.com

John Davis Jr. MFA published two books of poetry. *The Boys of Men*, a chapbook of poems, is about fatherhood and mentorship. Davis's larger collection of Florida poetry, *Middle Class American Proverb*, represents much of the work done by Davis while completing UT's MFA program. (See page 28.)

Ashley Erickson is an

administrative assistant with Landing Travel, a Sarasota, FL, travel agency where she interned as a student, according to the *Bradenton Herald*.

Katherine Malat was named an exercise technician in the Stratham, NH, location of ProEx, a physical therapist-owned private practice specializing in orthopedics, spine and sports medicine. Malat, under the supervision of staff physical therapists, instructs, motivates, safeguards and assists patients with their therapeutic exercise programs.

Brian Petkash MFA took first place in the 2014 Lake Prize for fiction with "Our Lady of Cleveland." The story is featured in *Midwestern Gothic* Issue 16 (Winter 2015). The Lake Prize is awarded for fiction and poetry that best represents the Midwest.

Edward Williams is an intake worker at Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS), Tampa. ACTS specializes in providing individualized behavioral health care services in substance abuse and mental health treatment. Email: Williams_j38@msn.com

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

John Franklin "Johnny"

Clements '48

Fred H. Kenfield '50

John N. Shadgett '50

James "Jim" Sproull '50

Frank V. Selph Sr. '51

"I remember..."

Studying abroad had the biggest impact on me as a person in my entire four years at UT.

—ALUMNUS '11,
FROM ALUMNI
ATTITUDE SURVEY

Robert B. Bruns '53
Stefano Arcuri '55
Marjorie Simmons Fogle '57
Frank J. Pucciarelli '58
Joseph Anthony Cacciatore Sr. '59
Arlie Jack Hoover '59
Shirley Hickey Foster Strum '60
Andria Medrith Price Troutman '60
Plano Valdez '60
Edwin L. Radice '61
Kate Nunez Johnson '63
Armand Corraera '65
Eugene H. Brandt '69
William Ainsworth III '71
Everett Richards MBA '76
Yolanda Gomez Adams '78
Lisa Ann Tollinger-Rorrer '83
William Charles Cropsey '88
Eleanor Lehman '88
Benjamin Pullen '88
Alan Blake Logue II '91
Karen Elizabeth (Josephson) Baker '93
Shannon Denise King '94
Faculty and Staff
Krystal Schofield
Cynthia Barrett Worrall-Timmons
Students
Anthony J. Quattrochi '16

Stuffed with school spirit. Spartans young and old can now have Spartacus by their side all the time. These plush mascots are available for \$18.98 and can be purchased at the campus bookstore or online. Just go to utampa.bncollege.com and search for "school mascot plush."





The **TAMPA BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER** saw record attendance at its annual Gasparilla Brunch on Jan. 31 where more than 400 alumni and friends enjoyed breakfast and beverages on the Plant Hall verandah.



The **TAMPA BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER** hosted a networking reception at World of Beer in Brandon on Feb. 12. The chapter plans to continue to expand the reach of its events in the Tampa Bay area to meet the needs of our growing alumni population.



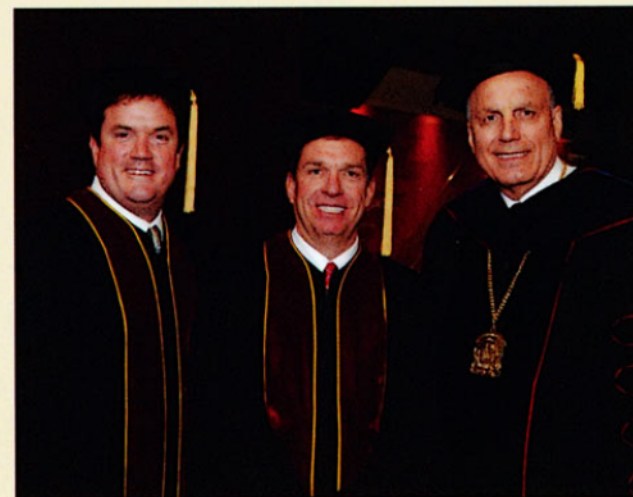
The **SYKES ORGANIZATION OF GRADUATE ALUMNI (SOGA)** held a canned food drive and fundraiser for a veteran's organization at Irish 31 in Tampa on Veteran's Day (Nov. 11).



Alumni in the **WASHINGTON, D.C.** area, including Racquel Codling '00 and Marlon Hanley '06, got together for brunch on Nov. 8 at the Madhatter in Dupont Circle.



UT returned to **BOSTON** for a great alumni networking reception on Nov. 6. The group gathered in Faneuil Hall at Mija Cantina, which is owned by UT alumnus Charlie Larner '02. Pictured here are Albert Manley '10, Tim Gazard '12 and Nick Devonis '12.

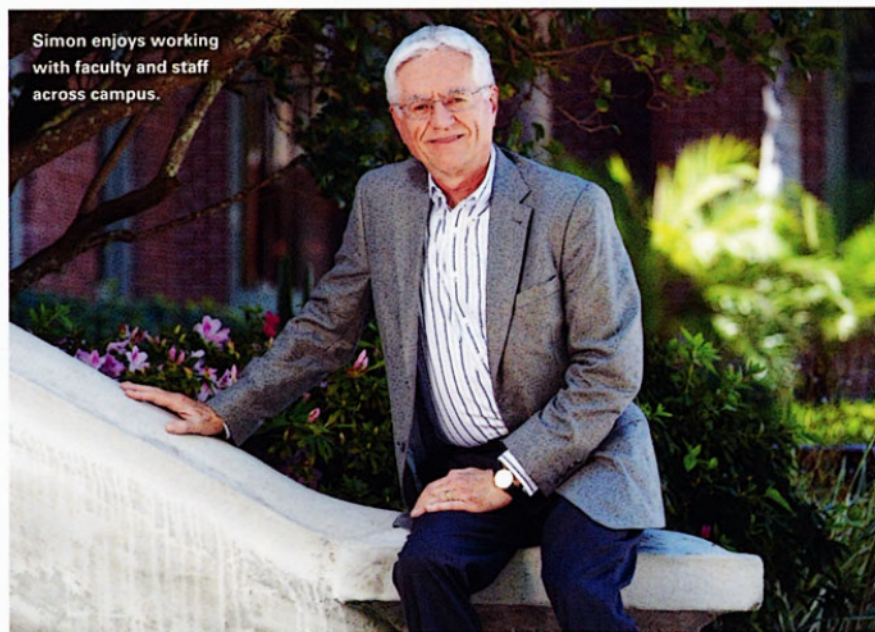


The UT Alumni Association was proud to recognize Bob Clifford '86 (center) with the Alumni Achievement Award at **DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT**. Bob is vice president and Tampa Bay region manager at Parsons Brinckerhoff.

brick by brick

common good

WHY I GIVE: Gary Simon



Simon enjoys working with faculty and staff across campus.

Current Profession: Director of Adult and Summer Academic Programs, and Lecturer in Marketing at UT

Q: How long have you been at UT? Where did you work before?

A: I came to UT in August 2002, starting as an adjunct marketing instructor. I later moved into a full-time assistant professor position and took my current position in summer 2009. Before UT, I owned or had part ownership in several companies, and I worked in marketing and general management at area professional services firms.

Q: Why did you choose to teach at UT?

A: Opportunity knocked. I had been teaching a couple courses at another institution in the area when I met Hemant Rustogi, chair of the marketing department. Over lunch one day,

he asked me to teach some marketing classes, and I agreed. UT's reputation made it a very appealing place at which to teach.

Q: How did you get involved in adult and summer academic programs?

A: A decision had been made to form the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies (OGCS), and the provost asked if I would be interested in working in this new office. After discussions with Donald Morrill, associate dean of graduate and continuing studies, I decided it would be very interesting, and I could use my business skills and still teach part time in the College of Business.

Q: What do you like about the students?

A: The diversity of our student body leads to fascinating conversations

and insights from them, and I generally find our students to be polite and respectful. I only teach graduate students now, and they are almost always very eager to learn and dedicated to improving themselves. I'm always excited to see the wonderful and often creative projects my students develop for their major class project.

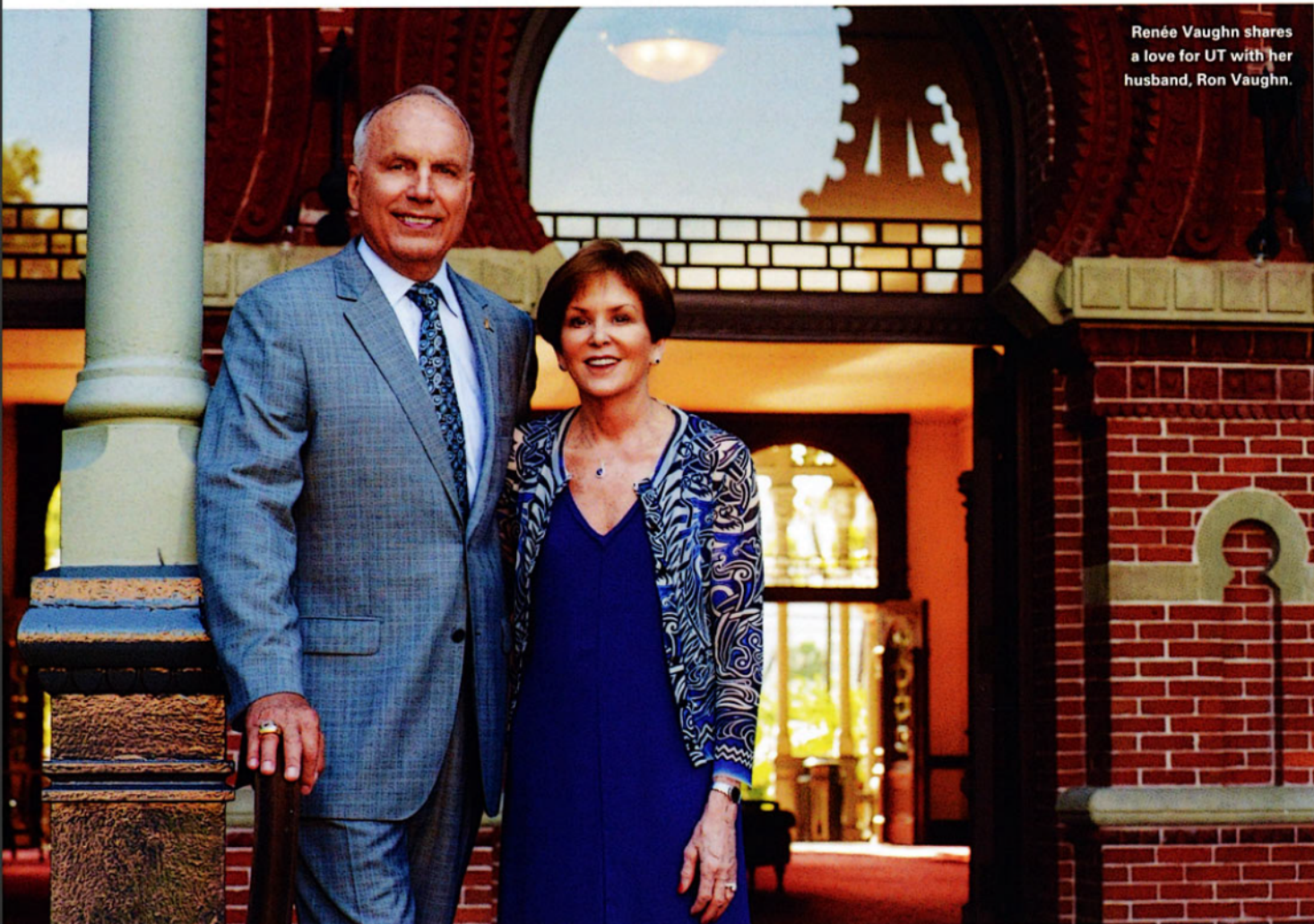
Q: What do you enjoy most about your job?

A: For one, I get to collaborate with faculty and staff in almost every corner of the University. They are hardworking and really care about this institution and helping every student become a better person. Also, Dr. Morrill and I work extremely well together; it's probably the best working relationship I've had in my entire professional career. I think I have a unique opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of people and in the future of UT, because in OGCS, we can try new things, explore, innovate and help prepare UT for the changes coming to higher education. Plus, I get to be around students who keep me feeling younger and who make me laugh.

Q: Why do you support UT?

A: Education is very important. I've always believed that, and that belief makes it worth supporting. I give a little from each of my paychecks, and my wife, Sandi, and I have designated a percentage of our estate to UT. It also makes it easier for me to ask others to support education when I'm doing it. I have a close affiliation with four universities, and since UT has been so good to me, it gets my priority.

Renée Vaughn shares a love for UT with her husband, Ron Vaughn.



A Love of Campus and Community

RENÉE VAUGHN DIDN'T HAVE TO THINK long about where to donate the \$1,000 check that came with winning the prestigious Parke Wright III Leadership Award from the Leadership Tampa Alumni in January.

"Dress for Success," she says of the nonprofit that helps low-income women with clothes and confidence as they enter the job market. "It's an organization I really believe in. In fact, I could see myself being more involved with them in the future."

Dress for Success, take note. With her impressive track record in busi-

ness, government work and volunteerism over more than three decades, having Vaughn as an ally could be a real game-changer.

MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

On campus, Vaughn is First Lady, married to UT president Ron Vaughn. But she doesn't rest her laurels on that title. Her involvement at the University and in the Tampa area is what got the attention of her fellow alumni of Leadership Tampa, which she led as president in 2014. About 50

to 60 people are selected each year to take part in the highly competitive nine-month program that immerses business and community leaders in all facets of Tampa's inner workings.

The Parke Wright award is given annually to an alumnus who has demonstrated leadership "above and beyond" their job and made a significant difference in the community, says Bob Rohrlack, president and CEO of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, which founded Leadership Tampa.

Vaughn's selection is no surprise to Rohrlack, who is impressed by her at-

tention to detail and her understanding of what makes a city tick, from health care to government to tourism. When it comes to sharing her knowledge, she says Vaughn is a “natural-born teacher and counselor.”

“There’s no greater mentor than Renée,” Rohrlack says. “She’s taken what she’s learned, and she willingly mentors those coming up behind her. She is a great believer in paying it forward and does it on a consistent basis.”

Last year, she was honored with the *Tampa Bay Business Journal’s* Angie’s Award, given to a businesswoman who best exemplified leadership in mentoring others. And the recognitions keep coming. In March, Vaughn was named by the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida as one of its Women of Distinction.

A CRUCIAL ELEMENT

Vaughn’s biggest supporter — and the one who knows her best — says it was easy to fall for her.

“From the beginning of getting to know Renée, I was impressed by her values and by what a wonderful person she is,” says Ron Vaughn. “We also had similar interests, including a love for The University of Tampa, and of course, I was charmed by how she tossed her pretty little head when she laughed. Renée is a very special person, and I adore her.”

Vaughn, president of Williams Consulting Group, has more than three decades of experience in public and private sector management. Before launching her own firm, she was a senior administrator for the city of Tampa, representing the mayor or the city on more than 50 boards and committees across all spectrums.

And then there’s her work with the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Tampa (Class of ’93), Leadership Tampa Alumni (past chair), Red Cross Angels, the Chiselers, Tampa General Hospital Women’s

Leadership Council, Athena Society, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Mary Lee’s House and the Emerge Advisory Council. She’s past president of the Henry Plant Museum and volunteers each year with the Victorian Christmas Stroll.

Her involvement with UT began long before she had any inkling that she would one day be married to its president. She joined UT’s Board of Fellows in 1994 shortly after completing the Leadership Tampa class. With her background in city planning, she knew just how crucial of an element a downtown university can be to the urban core. Her relationship with the Fellows — considered business ambassadors for the school — continues to this day. Her company currently is a sponsor of the UT Fellows Forum, held in the spring each year at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts.

And she put her philosophy of giving back in a very personal way at the University as well. After her father passed away, she and Ron Vaughn named a scholarship in his honor for a student in the UT nursing program — all because UT nursing students took care of him at Tampa General Hospital.

PHILOSOPHY OF GIVING BACK

The question that must be asked: When does she — and her equally busy husband — ever sleep?

“Well, some weeks are long, for both of us,” she concedes. “But we love what we are doing and keep making a difference. And we’re committed to each other, the University and the community. It all balances out.”

Vaughn credits her work ethic to her parents and Midwestern roots. She was the middle child of five kids. Her mom managed a busy household while her dad worked three jobs to support the family. His main job with Allied Supermarkets meant moving all over the country.



“Not everyone likes that, but I considered it a great adventure. I had to learn to make friends wherever I went,” she recalls. “I think that definitely has helped me later in life.”

One of the pivotal moments in her life was walking on campus in her last semester of graduate school at the University of Oklahoma, and feeling the excitement of starting her new adventure as an adult in the professional world. But she wasn’t thinking of the money she would make. It was about settling in a community and volunteering for a cause or program that would make a real difference in people’s lives.

Vaughn never forgot that vow she made to herself decades ago. She and her husband make sure they find time for travel, bicycling, fishing, reading and long walks on the beach. But she will always honor that commitment to make time to serve others.

“I’ve been given so much in life — education, food on the table, incredible jobs,” she says. “And with that, comes the responsibility to give back. I’m so lucky to be in that position.”

— MICHELLE BEARDEN



the annual fund

Alumnus Finds his Home at UT

SEAN HOOVER '99 ALWAYS WANTED TO go to college. After high school, however, life lead him straight into the real estate profession. Though he was young, he became one of the top agents in Bay County, FL.

"After a few years though, that is all it was: sell, sell, sell, sell. So I said, 'Hey, it's time to take a break,'" said Hoover.

While taking real estate classes all over Florida, Hoover was able to visit different colleges, but it wasn't until he set foot on UT's campus that he felt he was home.

"I had never lived anywhere but Panama City Beach, FL," Hoover said. "It's a small town, and I was comfortable there. UT had a similar feel from the beginning."

On his campus tour, Hoover met Susan Brinkley, chair/associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, and enjoyed their interaction so much, he wanted to take her class.

"Add that to the small feel, the scholarship support I was offered and the personalization of the admissions process, and UT felt like home right away," he said.

Hoover's journey was deeply impacted by his professors. He majored in criminology and minored in speech, theatre and took every class offered by Brinkley and the late Phillip Quinn.

This bond with his professors became a lifeline when, like many college students, he struggled to keep up with his studies.

"At one point, I almost unenrolled in my classes," Hoover shared. "But my professors and mom convinced me that things can turn around, and they did. UT — the employees, the students — they were all there for me. I can't imagine my life if I had left."

Hoover was an active member of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity, the Diplomats and an employee with the facilities

department on campus. He was the resident facility manager of the McNeel Boathouse before it was a residence hall.

"UT taught me how to adapt to all types of people," said Hoover. "None of the students were treated like just another number. We all became in tune with one another; we were family. I was taught to believe in myself and take leaps of faith. This helped me have the confidence to open my own company."

Since graduating, Hoover has opened several successful management and janitorial companies in New Orleans, Panama City Beach and, most recently, Tampa.

"Right after college I got busy and sort of forgot about UT for a bit. I visited several times a year, but I wasn't involved. There was a void in my life — a separation from my family, so to speak," said Hoover. "I needed to reconnect."

Hoover serves on the board of UT's Alumni Association, volunteers around campus and can be found at many campus events during the year. He is also a longtime donor to the Annual Fund.

"As I get older, I am becoming more and more dedicated," he said.

In 2011, when Hoover learned of his favorite professor Quinn's passing, it inspired him to become even more involved. He is one of the many alumni that helped create the Phillip Quinn Endowed Education Abroad Award in memory of Quinn.

"I wish everyone would give back to UT," Hoover said. "I know its hard right after graduation, but even \$1 to keep in touch with each other and be connected with our family. Give to see the University grow, to honor those that came before us and to help those that will come after us."



Need more information about the Annual Fund? Contact Taylor Pinke, Annual Fund Director annualfund@ut.edu (813) 258-7401

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FORMER TRUSTEE DIES

SHIRLEY MCKAY SAVAGE KNIGHT, who served on the UT board of trustees from 1988–1992, died Sept. 18, 2014. She was 85. During her term as a trustee, Knight served on the student affairs committee.

A fourth generation Tampa native, Knight served as the president of A.R. Savage & Son Inc., a Tampa-based steamship agency and freight forwarder, from 1982 until her retirement in 1999. During her time at Savage, Knight served as Honorary Consul for Denmark and Norway and was knighted by both countries for outstanding service.

In addition to her service to UT, Knight served on the boards of the Propeller Club, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Tampa Convention Center, the Tampa General Hospital Foundation and the University of South Florida Foundation.

LEGAZ JOINS UT BOARD

MARIANO LEGAZ, PRESIDENT OF THE Florida region for Verizon Wireless, has joined the University's board of

trustees. Verizon Wireless is the largest wireless company in the U.S. Legaz oversees nearly 2,400 employees and is responsible for sales, operations, marketing, distribution, customer service and financial performance for the Florida region.

Prior to his current role, Legaz served as Verizon's senior vice president of supply chain services, vice president of strategic sourcing and executive director of network planning and engineering. Before joining Verizon, Legaz managed network planning and project management for CTI Movil (now Claro), Argentina's leading wireless company.

Active in numerous charity and civic organizations, Legaz serves on the board of directors for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the University of Miami Health Sector Management and Policy Advisory Board and the University of Florida Miller Center for Retail Executive Advisory Board.

Diversity MBA Magazine recently selected Legaz as one of the Top 100 Under 50 Executive Leaders.

Legaz earned an Executive MBA from Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University and degrees in electrical engineering and telecommunications from the Catholic University of Cordoba in Argentina.

ROYAL KREWE OF SPARTA GIVES BACK

FOR MANY ALUMNI, TAMPA'S ANNUAL Gasparilla Pirate Festival is a day to revisit great memories of their time as a student. For some, that means a ride on the Royal Krewe of Sparta float.

"As an undergraduate, I distinctly remember attending each Gasparilla and thinking the best way to do the parade was on a float," said John Kaufman '88. "I never imagined that 30 years later that I would own one."

Originally supported by the University, the float made its debut in the parade in the mid-1990s. The University soon handed over responsibility for the float to the local chapter of the Alumni Association in 2001.

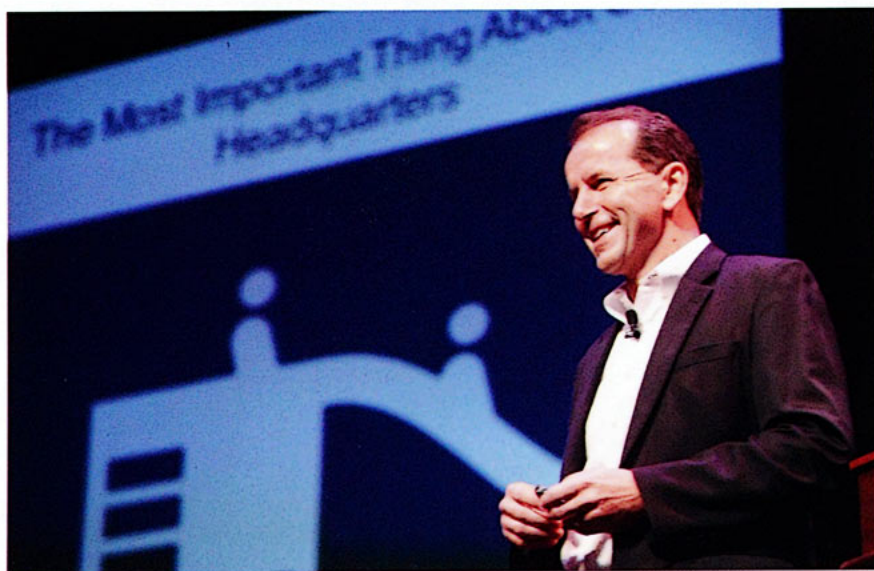
In late 2014, the Royal Krewe of Sparta float changed hands to a new group of alumni looking to keep the tradition and spirit of the Krewe alive while providing alumni an opportunity to participate in the annual parade.

Kaufman, who is one of the new owners, said he'd been looking for a way to give back to the University when the opportunity to take over the float presented itself. He jumped at the opportunity with three of his Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity brothers, Brad Schwartz '86, Joel Cirello '90 and Paul Dolan '89.

But it's not all about tossing out beads. The Krewe also raises funds to support the Royal Krewe of Sparta Endowed Scholarship fund at UT, which has received \$33,500 to date.

"It's a fun way to support UT, and it's become the highlight of Gasparilla for alumni. It feels great to give back like this," said Kaufmann.

To learn more about the Krewe go to www.royalkreweofsparta.com.



LET'S DISCUSS Hartmut Liebel, president and CEO of iQor, was one of three speakers at UT's annual Fellows Forum in March. Close to 1,000 attendees came to this year's event, which benefits the Board of Fellows Endowed Scholarship.

LET'S BACK UP

The devices pictured here (circa 1986), which look vaguely like washing machines, were the hard disk drives that the University's mainframe computer system used for data storage. This student is loading a reel of magnetic tape into the tape drive to back up data. At the time, each of the removable disk units (sitting on top of the machines) cost thousands of dollars and held around 200 MB of data. In contrast, today a \$5 flash drive can hold 8 GB of data — 40 times more data on a device that fits into your pocket.



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In the weeks leading up to Valentine's Day, students shared their love for UT by visiting the campus bookstore and writing their reasons why on pink and red hearts. Mercedes Merrill-Pequeño '17 shared that she loves "the welcoming atmosphere" at UT.