

# UT journal

The Publication for The University of Tampa SPRING 2014

v. 29  
n. 3

## SMALL CHANGES BIG RESULTS

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in the landfill. See how  
we are working toward  
a greener future.



## Success in One Stop



WE SPEND A LOT OF RESOURCES — TIME, MONEY AND effort — admitting not only the best and brightest prospective students to The University of Tampa, but the students who we think will most benefit from our educational setting.

So when students get here, we want to see them explore, learn and thrive as students, and then graduate on time and become successful alumni. We don't want to see them trans-

fer, especially when we as an institution could have intervened.

That's why I'm excited by the opening of our Academic Success Center (ASC) last fall. It's not as glamorous as announcing a new building, or a new degree program, but it's perhaps one of the most important initiatives we have here at UT.

Basically, the ASC is a collaborative, one-stop, central location where students can get help with a variety of academic challenges, including choosing a major, finding a tutor, receiving academic advising and coaching, registering for classes, and navigating degree requirements — many of the tasks you and I might remember struggling with in our own college days, when we waited in long lines, waited in the wrong line or waited in the wrong long line in the wrong building for the wrong person.

The ASC offers the kind of service — and convenience — that can make the difference between a student enjoying a successful academic career at UT or transferring to a different school where they think they can be happier.

An ASC staff member recently relayed a story about a student, a sophomore double majoring in management and marketing, who felt stressed about scheduling his classes. He worried he was missing pre-requisites or other obligations to graduate. Fortunately, he found his way to the ASC, where he quickly and easily got the answers he needed through academic advising.

Another student, currently a senior, found herself overwhelmed by the dramatic change of setting between high school and college. She was falling behind academically and struggling to find her "niche" on campus. Fortunately, she received tutoring and academic coaching, and today is excelling as a double major in marine biology and biology, which requires challenging courses ranging from Biological Diversity to Calculus 2. This student now serves as a desk assistant at the ASC, a Gateways mentor and a marine botany lab assistant.

Without our academic support programs, either of these cases could have gone in a different direction. ASC's personalized, comprehensive services allow UT to excel where most other institutions cannot. We think this is not only a strategic advantage, but also critically important to our students' success. We care about our students, we want them to be successful and we want them to achieve their dreams.

Trying to weave together all the things we do here so they translate into student success is a huge task, and one we've been working on for many years. But the opening of the ASC and the centralization of these services is a milestone in our efforts. I welcome any alumni or friends to tour the ASC — located in North Walker Hall — the next time you are on campus, and to talk to some of the staff and learn about the programs making a difference in our students' lives.

RONALD L. VAUGHN, PH.D.  
*President*

# UTjournal

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Idelle (McMillan) Mathews '39, one of UT's oldest living alumni, shares her memories of UT.

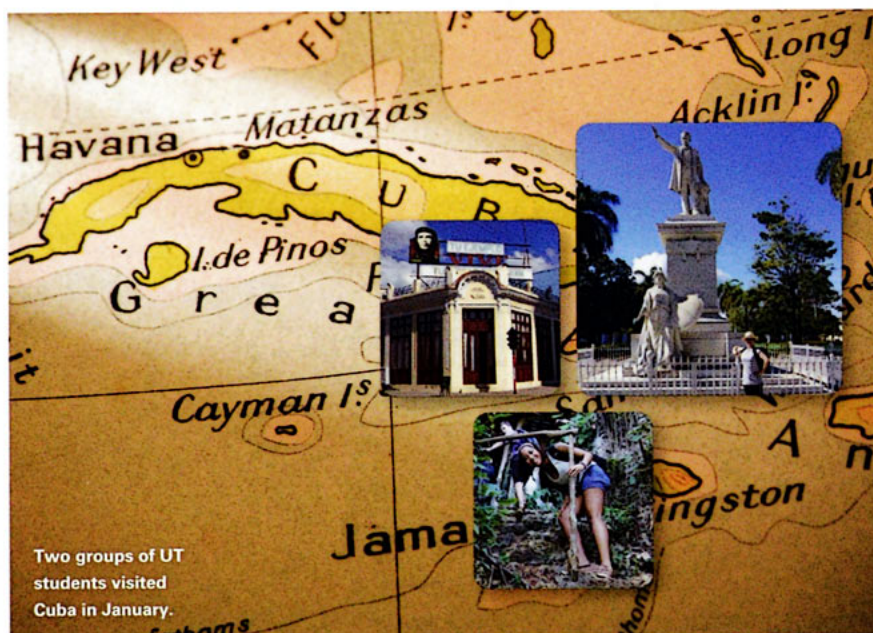


## 40 minaret moment

President Owens goes two-wheeling.



# news of note



Two groups of UT students visited Cuba in January.

## Students Learn about Cuba the Best Way – Firsthand

BLACK BEANS, BEACHES AND CIGARS aren't why Denis Rey plans trips to Cuba.

In preparing to take his second group of UT students to the Caribbean country in January, Rey, an assistant professor of government and world affairs, focused on teaching the students about Cuba's arts, literature, economics and history. By the time of the trip, "their knowledge of Cuba was vast," he said.

There is only so much anyone can

get from reading, however. The real learning in these courses about Cuba comes once the students are on the ground.

"We asked a friend of mine in Havana to take us where the Cubans eat," Rey said. "So he took the professors and some students to a place that served pizza. But it wasn't anything like what we're used to here. That's become this main staple of the Cuban diet is really cheap pizza. It's one of

the few things that many Cubans can afford to eat."

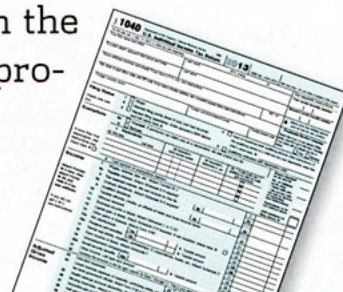
Rey and James Lopez, associate professor of Spanish, language and linguistics, taught a fall course that culminated in the January trip, which centered around the history of revolutions in Cuba. Revolutionary ideas have traditionally begun in the eastern part of the country and then spread northwest: dreams of change seeping toward Havana. "When we got to Cuba, we followed that same path," Rey said.

The class trip was one of two groups of UT students that were able to visit Cuba in January. The UT baseball team traveled to the island nation Jan. 12–19 for a cultural exchange program and to play exhibition games against some of the country's top teams (see story page 7).

Under the U.S. economic embargo, travel to Cuba is restricted. Even though these types of cultural exchanges have been allowed since 2011, Florida's 2006 Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act prevents funds at a state university to be used for travel to a nation on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, which includes Cuba. The act does not apply to UT, because it is a private university.

The trips triggered media coverage across the country and sparked debate on the merits of these visits to U.S. relations with Cuba. An Associated Press story that was distributed nationwide and noted the baseball team's trip focused on the policy's

**Many happy tax returns.** This tax season, UT accounting students will complete roughly 2,000 tax returns as volunteers with the United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, allowing students to apply concepts learned in the classroom as well as earn community service hours.





"Sometimes it seems like it would be easier to travel to China, even though Cuba is only an hour away."

— JAMES LOPEZ, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH, LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

impact on marine biology research especially.

When he was a professor at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg, Jim Gore, dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences, recalls being invited to give an address at an international symposium on ecohydrology in Havana.

"It was quite an honor," said Gore. "However, I had to refuse because of the travel embargo and received quite a bit of criticism from my international colleagues at the time."

Lopez and Rey will head to the country together soon for a two-week May course that will focus on Cuba's relationship with the United States. Bureaucratic obstacles can make planning such a course challenging.

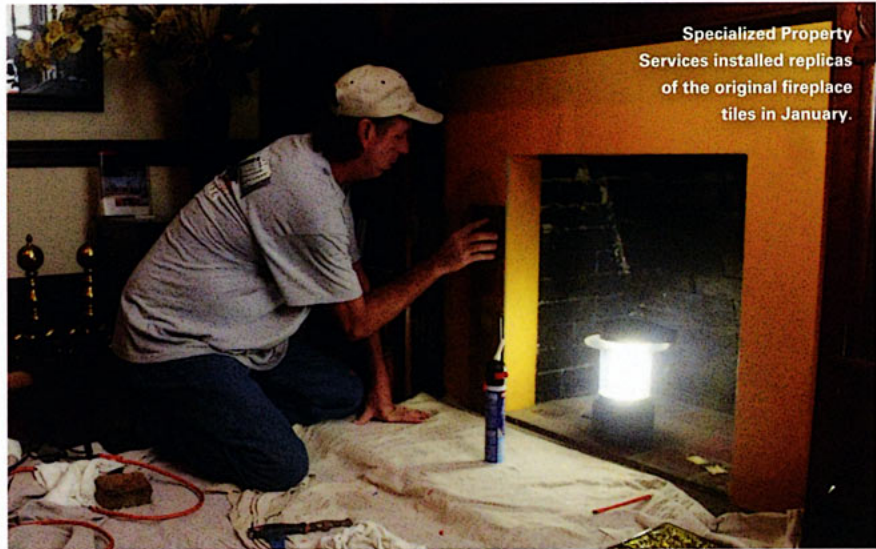
"Everyone is trying to figure out what the post-Castro Cuba is going to look like," Lopez said. "Sometimes it seems like it would be easier to travel to China, even though Cuba is only an hour away."

In this course, the 10 or so students who register will spend extensive time learning about the work of Jose Marti, Cuba's most prominent political writer. Marti, a poet, journalist and activist, visited Tampa a number of times in the late 1800s while in exile in the United States. He became Cuba's main symbol as the country fought for independence from Spain.

"He's sort of the George Washington of Cuba," Lopez said. "He's considered the national father of Cuban identity. Essentially when you go to Cuba, he is everywhere. He is still a living figure in Cuban history."

Going forward, the two professors hope the May class will be offered every year.

"It's just a very exciting time to be in Cuba," Lopez said.



Specialized Property Services installed replicas of the original fireplace tiles in January.

## Chiselers "Hearth" UT

THE PROJECT STARTED OUT SIMPLE enough. The class of 2008 made a gift to The Chiselers to restore the two fireplaces in the lobby of Plant Hall to their former appearance. Tracking down tiles that matched the original tiles, however, turned into a five-year treasure hunt.

The Chiselers are a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of the 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel (now known as Plant Hall). Through grants and funds raised from their annual Market Day and other projects, The Chiselers have raised more than \$5 million for the restoration and preservation of Plant Hall.

With only black-and-white photos to go by, The Chiselers struggled to figure out what tiles would be an appropriate match.

Then one day, Dave Ramsey, director of facilities at UT, was cleaning out an old office in Plant Hall and came across several amber glass tiles that appeared to be a match.

There weren't enough left to re-tile the fireplaces so The Chiselers worked with Phoenix Studios to have a mold made in order to produce replicas. The tiles were installed in September along with new marble hearths by Specialized Property Services.

But the story doesn't end there. The adhesive used to hold the tiles in place did not dry clear as it was supposed to and the tiles had to be removed again. The Chiselers worked with Specialized Property Services to resolve the problem, and the tiles were finally re-installed in January.

"We were delighted to have the gift for the fireplace renovation from the class of 2008 and are very pleased that the fireplaces have finally been restored," said Jean Amuso, president of The Chiselers. "Plant Hall is a significant part of the Tampa community, and we applaud the interest of the graduating class in making possible the preservation of a part of this historic building."





## Capturing the Warmth of the Sun

ATOP WEST KENNEDY HALL ARE 35 PANELS OF EVACUATED tube solar collectors that can generate up to 1.4 million British thermal units of energy a day. The energy collected by the panels heats water that is stored in hot water tanks and used in sinks and showers throughout the residence hall. Over seven months, the panels have saved 11 tons of carbon dioxide by not using natural gas to heat the water.





Smith said people feel compelled to cooperate with law enforcement.

## Taking a Look at Consensual Encounters with Police

IMAGINE YOU ARE AT A PARK, THROWING a football around with your friends, when a police officer approaches you and asks to see your ID and questions why you're at the park. You know you've done nothing wrong, but would you comply?

According to a recent study done by Alisa Smith, associate professor of law and justice, chances are that you will.

Smith, along with two of her students at the time, Erik Dolgoff '12 and Dana Stewart Speer '11, conducted a study into "consensual" encounters

with law enforcement. Unlike when a police officer detains someone suspected of having committed a crime for questioning, an encounter is "consensual" if a reasonable person would feel free to decline the officer's requests or end the encounter.

"One of the things that bothers me about this idea is the term 'reasonable person,'" said Smith. "What's a 'reasonable person?'" Smith was also bothered by the fact that this determination was grounded on judges' untested assumptions and beliefs and not on research.

Since there was little research into this phenomenon, Smith, Dolgoff and Speer decided to get the ball rolling by conducting an experiment at UT.

They recruited Campus Safety officers, who would approach students, both individually and in groups, inside or just outside the Vaughn Center. The officer would ask a series of questions, escalating from "May I speak with you?" to asking for the student's name and to see their ID to questioning what they were doing on campus.

In all 83 encounters, students complied with all of the officers' requests. Not one even questioned the officer as to why they were being approached.

Interviews with the subjects just after their interactions with Campus Safety officers revealed that for the vast majority, they complied because the officers were authority figures or the subject had nothing to hide.

"This suggests that 'consensual encounters' really aren't consensual," said Smith. "People feel compelled to cooperate."

Smith published her findings, "Testing Judicial Assumptions of the 'Consensual' Encounter: An Experimental Study," in the Winter 2013 issue of *Florida Coastal Law Review*.

"This study was a first step," said Smith, explaining that the study would need to be recreated in a "real world" environment to prove anything definitively. "Our goal was to start, to get something out there."

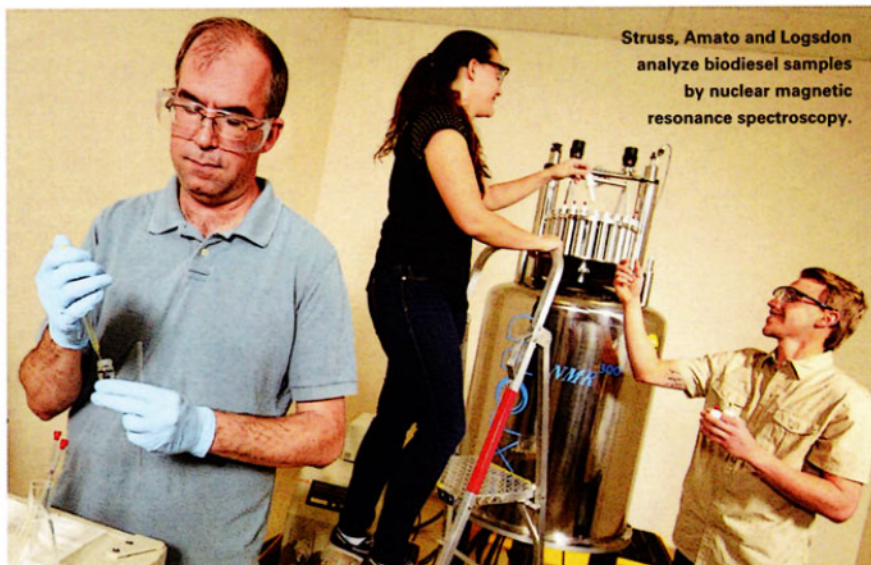
## ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER "OUTSTANDING"

The Entrepreneurship Center in the Sykes College of Business was recently awarded the Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Program Award from the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) at its annual conference in Fort Worth, TX.

According to Tony Mendes, president of the USASBE, the excellence in entrepreneurship education awards recognize outstanding initiatives in both undergraduate and graduate programs and also serve to inspire and inform other colleges and universities.

Rebecca White, director of the Entrepreneurship Center and professor of entrepreneurship, said this award highlights the success of UT's students, faculty and alumni in pursuing entrepreneurial activity.





Struss, Amato and Logsdon analyze biodiesel samples by nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

## Turning French Fries into Fuel

JOHN STRUSS IS EXCITED ABOUT USED cooking oil, though he's not a deep-fried foodie.

The assistant professor of chemistry is enthusiastic about turning oil into usable fuel, a process that is relatively simple to recreate, which he learned about while on sabbatical. The professor toured universities in the southeast with biodiesel programs. Appalachian State and Vanderbilt "blew my hat off," he said.

Struss described watching Mike Rowe's *Dirty Jobs* on the Discovery Channel. Rowe was profiling a man who collected spent deep fryer oil and

turned it into biodiesel. "The light bulb went off right then and there," said Struss, who envisions taking UT food services' used cooking oil and employing it to run campus vehicles like the biology department's research vessel, lawn equipment and catering trucks.

Biodiesel is biodegradable, nontoxic and a clean burning alternative fuel and averages about \$1.10 per gallon to produce. Any diesel engine vehicle can run on biodiesel fuel with only minor modifications needed, making it a cheaper and greener alternative to traditional fuel.

But until a larger-scale biodiesel conversion program is implemented, Struss is experimenting with new conversion methods in the lab. Most recently, Struss has been working on an alternative method of converting oil to biodiesel that uses an acid as the catalyst instead of lye. This new method creates less waste because the glycerin byproduct, which is typically discarded, is also turned into a usable fuel. In addition, rather than using water to remove the catalyst, creating waste water, the acid can be attached to beads that can then be filtered out.

So far, Struss has only tested this new method in the lab, but with much success.

The coolest thing about biodiesel in a campus setting, he said, is that it takes chemistry out of the lab.

"There is a disconnect in chemistry where we do reactions in the classroom which students feel just proves the textbook right, and don't see the real-world uses," said Struss. "Biodiesel production is a real application of chemistry."

Several undergraduate students have been working with him on the project, including chemistry majors Jenna Logsdon '14 and Dylan Amato '14.

"You can have students involved from collecting the oil to adding the chemicals to it, to testing it to even pumping it into our trucks," said Struss. "You could do independent studies with students in economics, sociology and engineering. It's got so much potential."



## AN MFA FIRST

The first cohort of UT's low-residency MFA in Creative Writing program — 19 students — celebrated completion of the program during a hooding ceremony in January. This first cohort started in the spring of 2012, spending 10 days on campus per semester filled with readings, seminars and small, intimate workshops all meant to inspire and help refine the student writers. Back home, the students sent packets of their writing to mentors monthly and received significant feedback on their work.



# spartan sports



Senior Preston Packrall pitches against Las Habanas at Changas Mederos Stadium in Havana.

## Tampa Baseball Sweeps, Studies in the "Hot Corner"

JACOB TILLOTSON, A THIRD BASEMAN for the UT baseball team, is used to playing in the hot corner. But this January he and his teammates visited the hot corner in Cuba, a pocket of Havana's Central Park, where Cubans of all ages tell and re-tell stories of baseball glory.

"It was a fantastic experience to go to Cuba, have an opportunity to see its culture, meet and interact with its citizens and also play baseball," said Tillotson, a senior.

The experience was part of a once-in-a-lifetime cultural exchange trip, where the team toured Havana and did

community service with local children. The team also played three baseball games and engaged in dialogue with players, trainers and coaches, as well as students and faculty from the University of Havana.

"This was an amazing cultural opportunity for our guys to go see a country with such a rich history, and to promote dialogue between young people in different countries," said head coach Joe Urso. "With the many Cuban ties in the city of Tampa and the UT baseball program, it was great for our team to see where this culture comes from. And, it was truly an experience for our

team to play against some of the best baseball players in the world."

The team traveled on a cultural literacy and international education license through the organization People to People. In order to make the trip, the team followed rigorous protocols required by UT's Office of International Programs in terms of safety, risk management and educational curriculum.

Coincidentally, the team welcomed some hometown fans to one of its games. A group of UT students, who were studying in Cuba for 10 days as part of a Department of Government

*(Continued on page 8)*





The baseball team visited Fusterlandia in Havana.

(Continued from page 7)

and World Affairs honors class focusing on Cuban culture, attended one of the games. UT regularly offers study abroad trips to Cuba (see story page 2).

"We had many great experiences on this trip, especially with the Cuban culture and the non-baseball part of the trip," senior Zach Gawrych said. "We saw many similarities between us and the Cubans, and realized that we really aren't that different."

The trip was sponsored through the World Trade Center of Tampa, the UT athletic department and the UT International Programs Office.

The team finished play in Cuba with a perfect 3-0 record, while playing against a number of high-level players. UT was also invited to attend a playoff game between Matanzas and Artemisa. The Cuban teams then invited the Spartans on the field after the game with the participating teams and head coaches.

"We took a lot of pictures and had a lot of fun," said Urso. "One of them wanted to hit batting practice, and Connor Obrochta '14 was in the outfield running down fly balls having a good time."

The team stayed busy on the trip through community engagement projects, among them a trip to a children's school in a tough neighborhood. The children sang songs to the team as the

Spartans talked and played with the children.

Following a practice, the Spartans made a trip to Central Park. There they conversed with former Cuban major leaguers and others in the hot corner. The team was greeted by the group, and local news crews were also on hand for the exchange.

"It is amazing how friendly and welcoming everyone has been," said Urso. "This was definitely my favorite day of the trip. It was great meeting the former players, and I was able to speak with them for an hour."

The team was also met by a large group of school kids in the courtyard, as the locals mobbed the NCAA Division II national champions for autographs and pictures. They were able to meet Cuba's Commissioner of Baseball as well.

The team also met with University of Havana students and faculty for educational and cultural exchange social time. Dinner was served at a local paladares, a uniquely Cuban phenomenon. These privately owned restaurants are found in the houses of ordinary Cubans trying to earn a dollar or two on the side.

"It has been so much fun," said Gawrych. "All of the people have welcomed us with open arms."

— MARC JORDAN '12



Leslie Kanter



## KANTER CLAIMS 500TH WIN

Head softball coach Leslie Kanter won her 500th career game with a 3-0 victory over Adelphi University on March 11 at the Naimoli Family Softball Field.

Already the winningest coach in program history, Kanter has led the Spartans for 20 years. Her teams have advanced to eight NCAA tournaments and also won two Sunshine State Conference championships. UT has also posted seven straight winning seasons, ranking as one of the nation's top teams over the past four years.

The Spartans have been nationally ranked for the entire 2014 season and boast one of the nation's top pitching duos in Kayla Cox '14 and Julia Morrow '14. The Spartans look to contend for their fourth straight NCAA tournament bid and second SSC title in the last three years.



# Tennis Team Eats to Compete

STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE Vaughn Center's Ultimate Dining buffet, the UT women's tennis team is peppering dietician Loran Lane with questions.

The tennis team's tour of campus dining options was part of the four-week Eat to Compete program meant to give the team a better perspective when it comes to fueling their bodies.

"Whether it's athletics or everyday life, you'll perform better mentally and physically if you eat the right food," said Al DuFaux, head tennis coach. "You have to fuel your body the right way to compete in the classroom and on the tennis court."

The program was sparked by a connection with Mary Martinasek, assistant professor of public health, who put DuFaux in touch with Lane, a

sports nutritionist based in Bradenton, FL, who has worked with professional athletes, such as the Dallas Cowboys.

Martinasek, who is interested in nutrition, served as a faculty liaison and is helping with quantitative analysis now that the program is finished. DuFaux said they'd eventually like to open the program up to all student athletes.

The program met from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday afternoons, not typically a time when students are highly focused on studying.

"I didn't want this to be another class," DuFaux said. "It's two-way communication with the girls. There is no 19 year old that wants to take another course on a Friday afternoon."

During the program, the students took a tour of campus dining venues,

getting recommendations for healthy options. They competed in a myth buster challenge and heard from two registered dietitians at a local Publix on how to eat healthy on a budget, how to read a nutrition label and how to strategically shop at a grocery store.

"Without the proper nutrition and hydration, they are not able to get the energy they need to perform," said Lane, noting the importance of getting fats, carbohydrates and protein in at every meal.

"The program has taught me that my food intake doesn't have to be perfect," said Katherine Pyne '14, a communication major, who has learned that fats don't have to be the enemy.

Several of the students have emailed Lane to get further information and continue the discussion, which Lane said is a great sign of their motivation and thirst for this information.

"I know most of us on the team do not know how to fuel our body properly before and after a match, and this is crucial for our performance on court," said Meg Wladimirski '15, a finance major. "By eating right I know I will be able to sleep, relax and focus more, which will also impact my academic performance here at UT."

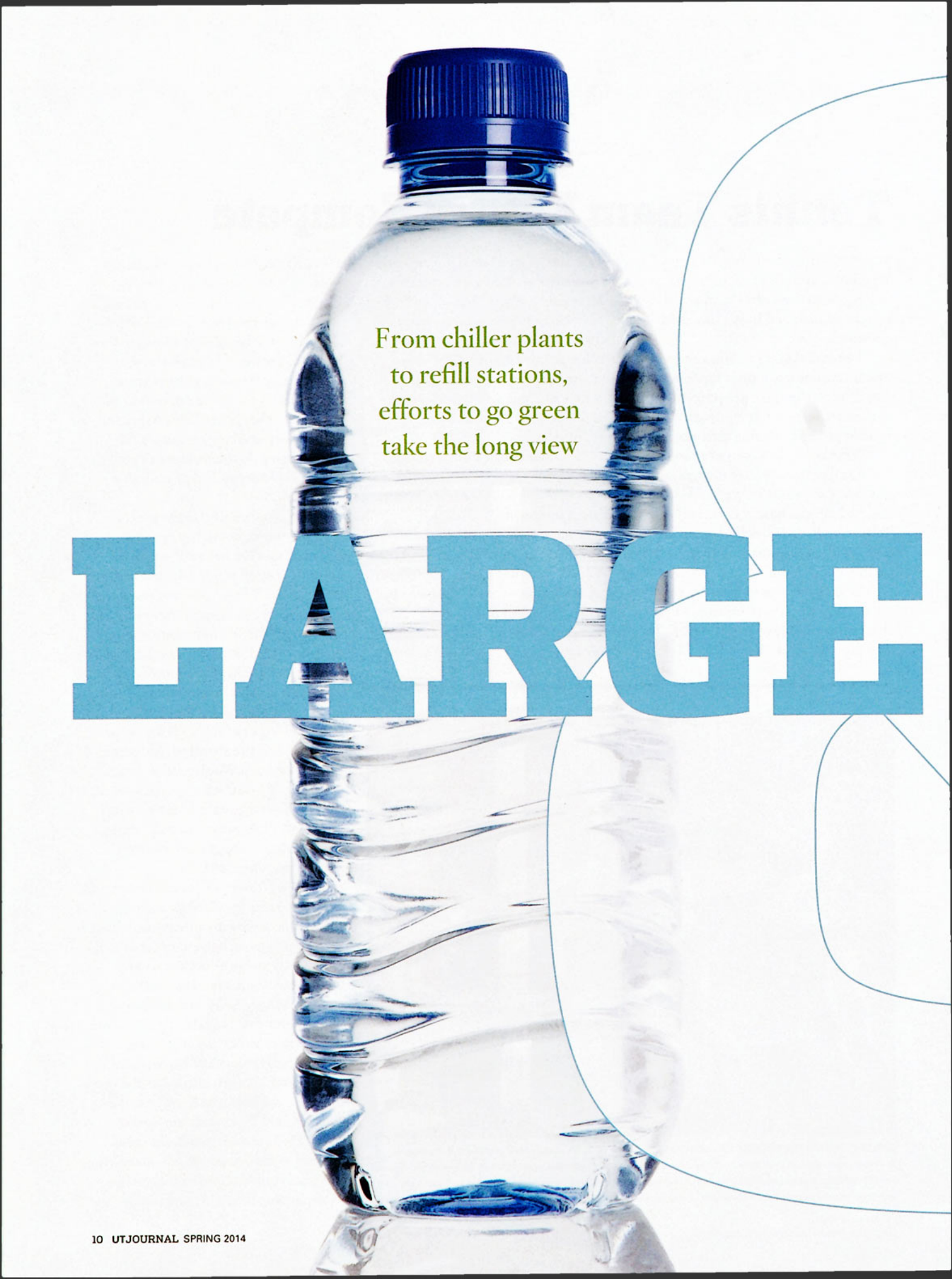
Lauren Hewett '14, an environmental science major, said she was pleasantly surprised by the program, picking up suggestions on what to order at restaurants and learning the science behind nutrition. She also has found comfort in Lane's insistence to indulge on occasion. For Hewett, it's paying off in her performance already.

"On court, I feel like I have more energy, and I am not as tired at the end of practice. I have also found it easier to study, and I feel more engaged in class," Hewett said. "Small changes in diet can make a huge impact on court, and I am really excited to see the long-term benefits from this program."



**ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS** Morgan Cheripko is one of 26 freshmen on the inaugural women's lacrosse team, who played their first regular-season game in February against No. 4 Rollins at the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex. Freshman Mallory Mays scored the first goal in Tampa women's lacrosse history within the first minute of the game.





From chiller plants  
to refill stations,  
efforts to go green  
take the long view

# LARGE





# SMALL

BY GREG BREINING PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX MCKNIGHT



"GOING GREEN" MEANS MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE. TO SOME, IT might be riding heaving ocean swells aboard an inflatable Zodiac to stop a whale hunt or getting arrested in a protest against a pipeline. To others, it might mean growing their own food or erecting solar panels on the roof. To UT, going green means finding balance. Sustainability is not a one-time effort, but a long-term, dynamic process that requires change on the part of the entire University community. For the past decade, the University has taken a practical and multi-faceted approach to conserve resources, achieve cost savings and lessen environmental impacts.

"UT seeks balance in sustainability efforts in a manner that improves the quality of life and academic experience at the University," says Rick Ogorek, UT's vice president for administration and finance. "Yet our efforts are responsive to the global nature of environmental issues facing all of society."

#### ONE BOTTLE AT A TIME

Recycling is often considered the foundation of environmental sustainability efforts. Administratively, UT recycles many of the materials required to run a large institution — from batteries to old appliances to printer toner cartridges. It sells used cooking oil for filtering and reuse. It shreds and recycles office paper. More recently, the University installed two single-stream recycling bins on campus to recycle consumer metal cans, plastics and newsprint without sorting.

Faculty also play a part. The Faculty Sustainability Committee works to implement sustainable solutions in the classroom and on campus. Recent projects included creating a pamphlet on Classroom Sustainability Strategies and a map outlining where campus recycling resources are located.

But with a population topping 7,200 students — larger than the average small U.S. city — UT must depend on the buy-in of students to achieve a successful recycling program. And for students, convenience is huge.

Lizzy Gallagher '15, an environmental science major and president

of the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), believed greater accessibility would give recycling amongst students a boost.

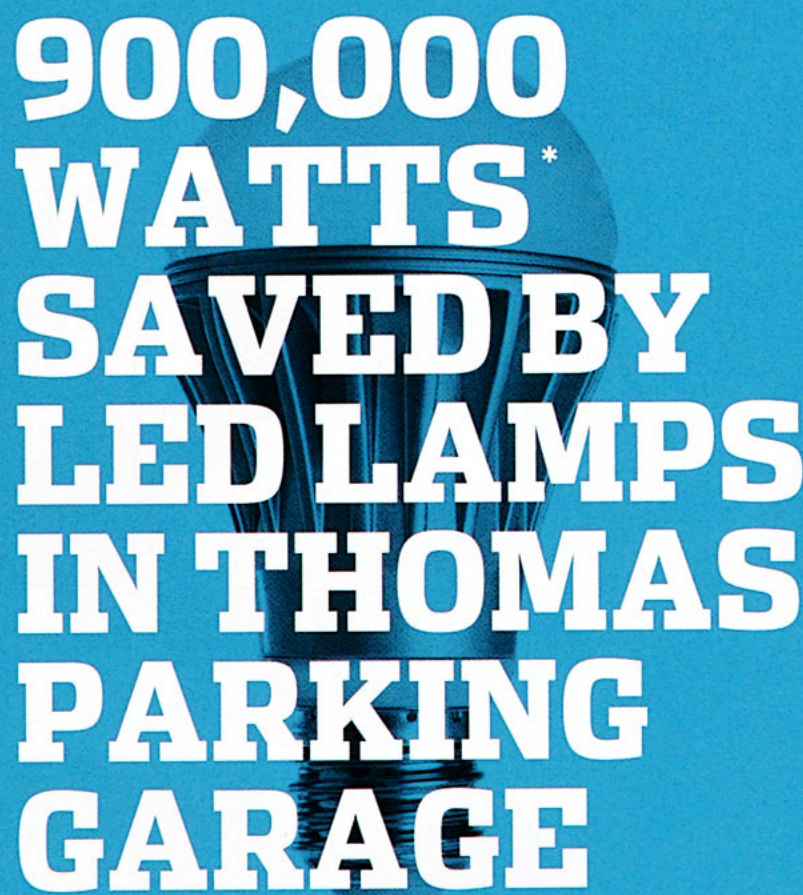
"We heard students really wanted a way to help the people who hadn't been recycling at all have a more convenient way and get more people

involved in the recycling program here at UT," says Gallagher.

SEAC sent out a petition asking for more access to recycling in residence halls and elsewhere. Student Government backed the plan. Now, community recycling bins are located in the laundry rooms of every residence hall to collect cardboard, paper, plastic and metal cans.

"The students don't even have to separate their recyclables. It's very easy. All they need to do is just bring it down to the community room," says Gallagher.

Motivating consumers to recycle, or even give up, bottled water is part of many recycling efforts. From a resource standpoint, it's better to reuse than recycle. With that goal in mind, Gallagher worked with Katie White,



**900,000  
WATTS\*  
SAVED BY  
LED LAMPS  
IN THOMAS  
PARKING  
GARAGE**

\*ANNUAL SAVINGS



the assistant director of campus recreation and wellness, to install two water bottle refill stations at McNiff Fitness Center where SEAC organized a campaign to drop disposable water bottles at an event they called What's Your Gympact.

"That's where we tried to get people on board with ditching the single-use water bottles and cups," says Gallagher. "On the more-used refill station, just from one semester, we already saved more than 20,000 water bottles from going into a landfill or being recycled."

Refill stations are also located at the Aquatic Center and in West Kennedy Hall. Since their installation, the four stations have kept nearly 100,000 disposable water bottles from heading to a landfill or recycling center.

The Environmental Protection Coalition (EPC) is another group, open to all UT students, promoting sustainability and environmental projects. Some of EPC's projects are regular Adopt-a-Highway cleanups of a small park along Bayshore Boulevard, beach cleanups near Clearwater, volunteering for animal care with the Animal Coalition of Tampa for its Spay Day clinics and volunteering at the Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful community garden.

EPC also combines beach cleanups with hanging out and organizes day-long canoe trips to get students out into the natural environment.

"Overall our organization tries to promote sustainable habits," says Katie Robinson '15, president of EPC. "Most of our work is through getting dirty and cleaning up. That's our main objective — to try to clean up our community."

One of EPC's most unusual projects is fundraising for the organization Carbonfund, which purchases and retires market-based carbon credits, tying up the rights of other businesses to produce greenhouse gases.

### GREEN WAYS TO GET AROUND

Two relatively recent initiatives have been implemented to reduce UT stu-

## A Bright Future



Adrian Forsythe '11 transferred to UT from the College of the Bahamas as a student in his mid-20s, with a bit of business experience and a desire to be an entrepreneur.

"I already had a construction background," he says. "I had some experience before I went to college, so I hit the ground running."

When he returned to his native Bahamas, he joined with another UT alumnus, Adrian Carter '01, to form Bahamas Alternative Energy, which they opened a year ago both to sell solar energy components and to install systems on homes and commercial buildings.

The greatest selling point for solar energy in the Bahamas? Not the abundance of sunshine, as you might expect. Rather, it's the high cost of electricity from the grid, compared with rates in Florida or the rest of the United States. With greater savings (by avoiding the higher rates), businesses and homeowners pay off the cost of their systems more quickly, says Forsythe. "Our return is three, four, five years instead of perhaps 10."

In the Bahamas, most electricity is consumed in running air conditioning.

"Unless you have some heavy equipment, as in manufacturing, AC definitely is number one," says Forsythe. For that reason, commercial sales are the easiest, because solar panels can supply some or all of the power to run air conditioners during the day when people are at work.

By contrast, residential solar systems require batteries to provide power in the evening, when people are home and consuming electricity. As a result, says Forsythe, it's a harder sell for residential. Unlike many states and countries, the Bahamas does not require the local utility to pay for surplus power generated by solar systems. That cuts out a potential source of income and incentive for installing solar power.

Forsythe and Carter work out of a major building materials retailer in Nassau. Much of their business consists of homeowners who buy a panel at a time for do-it-yourself projects. "A lot of our business is just selling stuff," says Forsythe. "We're not trying to monopolize the market."

Forsythe says he chose UT for its entrepreneurial degree. "I didn't want to get a generic business management degree," he says. A relationship between UT and the College of the Bahamas allowed him to transfer credits.

Forsythe and Carter have considered expanding into other solar and alternative energy systems, but for the time being plan to stick with photoelectric solar panels. It's a simple business concept with a bright future.

"It's very practical to put this on your roof," says Forsythe. "You save money. I make money, because I installed it. It's a pretty easy sell."

dents' reliance on owning, maintaining and paying for a car while in college. Bike UT is a free bicycle rental program that promotes both outdoor physical activity and sustainable transportation options. According to Campus Recreation officials, who coordinate the program, students use the bicycles both recreationally and to make trips to the grocery store, internships and area restaurants. The program is so popular that, at times, the 24-bicycle fleet is

fully rented by students.

For longer trips, students can take advantage of Hertz 24/7, which provides two vehicles — a Chevrolet Malibu and a Ford Escape — they can rent by the hour. The program offers students an economical, convenient and socially conscious alternative to car ownership. Of Hertz 24/7's 800 nationwide locations, UT's usage of the vehicles is ranked the top Florida location and one of the top nationwide.



## A MORE EFFICIENT CAMPUS

One of the larger sustainability efforts the University has undertaken is converting from traditional air conditioning to a chiller system.

A chiller is a centralized system to cool water that is then pumped through insulated underground pipes to cool buildings throughout campus. UT's system was expanded during 2012 and 2013 to additional campus buildings, including the Martinez Athletics Center, the Sykes College of Business, the Vaughn Center and West Kennedy Hall.

"It's vastly more efficient than any other form of air conditioning," Ogorek says. That efficiency saves the University money in electric bills. It also produces an environmental benefit, because most of Tampa's heating and cooling is powered by electricity, and virtually all the electricity comes from greenhouse-gas-producing fossil fuels.

"Where we can save in consumption of electricity, we think we're helping."

An energy audit last year evaluated electricity, natural gas and water consumption on campus and identified ways to save energy, Ogorek says. Also, UT now has a full-time energy manager to look for energy and resource savings and efficiency.

The University is saving electricity through more efficient LED and induction-lamp lighting in its parking areas.

"By doing better things with garage lighting, we're saving a lot of kilowatt hours," says Ogorek.

UT is also scoring energy gains with a solar hot water system on the roof of the Schoemaker ROTC and Athletics Building and West Kennedy Hall. At the facilities compound, a photovoltaic solar array provides electricity to offset the consumption that is used

for charging electric vehicles.

West Kennedy Hall, which opened last August, was built with LEED (U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification as a goal, with the solar heating system, low-flow plumbing, storm water collection to prevent rapid runoff, high-efficiency lighting controls, reliance on natural light in living spaces, use of recycled materials in construction, and recycling of 1,200 tons of construction waste (more than three-fourths of the total).

It would only make sense for UT to look for sustainability in its construction projects. The University is a founding member of the U.S. Green Building Council Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. The group sponsors education and outreach programs and guest speakers to spread the word about environmental sustainability.

## A Farm in a Box



The sustainable farming system David Wistocki '13 and other members of the fledgling company Ambrosia Global developed provides a lesson in the importance of real-world experience.

The project began as a competition among business students for the \$1 million Hult Prize in 2013. The challenge: to develop a sustainable solution to the global food crisis.

"We went into this project with the intention of solving food insecurity in impoverished communities," says Wistocki. His team analyzed Haiti as an example, and tried to craft a solution that would serve the needs of impoverished Haitians.

"They have very little arable land right now," says Wistocki. "They really can't produce too many crops in the land that is there."

They designed a portable food plot for raising fish and vegetables, based on the globally ubiquitous shipping container. "This is providing arable land where there is none — essentially creating a farm in a box," says Wistocki.

Team Ambrosia placed 12th among 50 competitors picked from 10,000 applicants. They won awards in two other competitions, and in the process generated a lot of contacts. They decided to try to commercialize their idea.

"We realized after doing a bit more research we needed some

on-the-ground experience in order to take the next step in this project," says Wistocki. "So we took the prize money we had won and went to Haiti."

Team Ambrosia spent several days in the country, meeting with people including U.N. representatives, U.S. embassy staffers and workers with small nonprofits. Finally they visited a rural school, climbing a scabbly mountain road in a tiny SUV.

"We're going up this mountain on a gravel road — we're basically at a 45-degree angle — and we realized there's no way we're going to get a shipping container up here," recalls Wistocki. "We had to go back to the drawing board and come up with a solution to that."

So they downsized, redesigning their food-producing unit around a fish tank four feet on a side, with panels on each side that lift to form platforms for produce trays. Waste from the fish fertilizes the vegetables, which drain recycled water back into the tank.

"It's a continuous system," says Wistocki. "It's basically replicating a regular ecosystem."

Wistocki hopes to commercialize the food system soon. Ambrosia Global includes Tammy Charles '13, MBA '14, Dorothy Estrada '13 and Samantha Rosenbaum '13. A prototype will be on display in partnership with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful at the Florida Learning Garden on the Florida State Fair grounds.



Previously, two other buildings were LEED certified — the Dickey Health and Wellness Center was certified at the Silver level and the Science Annex at the Gold.

"We're continuing to move in that direction," says Ogorek. "We're picking and choosing as things make sense."

### THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

One sign of the success of UT's sustainability efforts is it has reached beyond the boundaries of the campus — by working with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful to pick up beach areas, for example.

Perhaps the most visible way UT has embraced community sustainability is through the annual Sustainable Business Awards, a partnership between the University and the Sustainable Business Coalition of Tampa Bay (formerly Earth Charter U.S.). The awards, held annually on campus, are the brainchild of Jan Roberts, founder of Earth Charter U.S. and former adjunct professor in the Sykes College of Business.

"The goal really is to recognize and raise visibility of businesses that are dedicated and engaged with a triple bottom line of people, planet and profit," says Roberts.

UT business students helped develop the criteria for the awards six years ago, borrowing from the Global Reporting Initiative "which is considered the gold standard for looking at businesses," says Roberts. Students are responsible for interviewing company nominees, making presentations to classmates and selecting about 15 winners each year. Winners have included Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, IKEA Tampa Bay, Mosaic, and the Tampa Bay Times Forum, as well as many smaller innovative growing companies.

"What's so exciting about it is the companies," says Roberts. "They think they are simply doing the right thing, but when they hear someone presenting the award with the enthusiasm we have for it, they think, well, this is special after all." As for students who

## Sensible Alternatives



For a while at UT, Matt Thomas '11 thought he might start a bottled water company that sends a share of its profits to projects in developing countries in need of clean drinking water.

But as he researched the industry, he made an abrupt about face. He decided that bottled water was so wasteful and expensive, he would launch the benefit corporation BeCause Water to find alternatives to water in bottles. "We specialize," he says, "in local, sensible alternatives to bottled water."

Specifically, Boston-based BeCause Water works with students groups, including the Student Environmental Action Coalition at UT, to raise money, promote water sustainability, and to get people to give up their bottled water and disposable water bottles.

Bottled water has plenty of downsides, says Thomas. From an environmental standpoint, bottled water produces emissions and consumes energy in manufacture and transport. It leaves consumers with a lot of plastic to send to a landfill or recycle. It even uses a lot of water to manufacture and move about — about 3 liters for every 1-liter bottle of water.

On the health side, Thomas says, common tap water is more strictly regulated for purity than bottled water is. And bottled water costs a lot, about \$250 a year per average consumer, he says. Per gallon, it costs more than gasoline.

Fortunately, Thomas says, there are plenty of alternatives — reusable bottles of stainless steel, glass or plastic. "It's as easy as filling up your bottle at your house in the morning or your dorm," says Thomas.

Working at UT with SEAC, BeCause Water helped organize the "drop campaign" to raise awareness about the waste involved in bottled water and to raise money to install water refilling stations. BeCause Water also helped with SustainabilityFest in Spring 2013 to raise money, call attention to the bottled water issue and strengthen the brand of the SEAC student group.

BeCause Water is helping SEAC organize a 6K run this spring to again bring attention to the group and the cause of clean water.

"Six kilometers happens to be the distance that people in developing countries generally travel per day to fetch clean water. So it's raising awareness on that issue. The end point of the 6K will be, hopefully, at the new installation of a bottle-filling station — or something that celebrates and raises awareness of the issue of water and what SEAC is working toward," says Thomas.

BeCause Water operates with a fundraising platform of its own, including the grassroots fundraising site Kickstarter. BeCause Water also recruits businesses to sponsor events.

"We pitch it as a return now, not just a cause," says Thomas. "The key word for us is empower."


are selecting the winners, "it gives them hope for what is happening in the business world." The awards help students think about ways sustainability can be implemented in business as they graduate and pursue careers in various industries.

That hope is well founded, because sustainability is proving, well, sustainable. Far from being a feel-good effort that cuts into profitability, says Roberts, "the research is now showing

that those companies that do engage in sustainability the way I'm talking about it, with the triple bottom line, are benefitting financially as well as environmentally."

The same is true not only for companies, but also for other institutions, such as universities and communities. Sustainability represents a multiple payback — to people, their organizations, their environment and, most of all, their future. **UT**





One professor's work  
may help to reveal  
new worlds.

# STAR- GAZER

BY KILEY MALLARD

ASTRONOMY IS NOT A HOBBY OF MINE, BUT I WILL ADMIT THIS: I WAS RECENTLY in rural North Carolina, admiring the dark sky on a cold and clear night, in awe of the millions of stars that are faded and forgotten in my usual urban sky. Eventually I asked myself, perhaps as every human everywhere wonders at some point in their life, "Are we alone?"

Simon Schuler, assistant professor of physics, doesn't think we are. He said the first step in answering this universal question is to find planets like Earth that are in the "habitable zone" of a star, where the temperature is not too hot or too cold and liquid water can exist. One of Schuler's current research projects may help scientists find these planets more quickly. "We have to start with what we know," said Schuler.

Here's what we know right now.

ILLUSTRATION BY  
DAN DURDA





An artist concept of  
Kepler-11, one of the stars  
in Schuler's study.



## "IF WE HAVE A SIGNATURE THAT WE CAN LOOK FOR, AT THE VERY LEAST IT CAN HELP GIVE US SOME DIRECTION." — SIMON SCHULER

**I**n Earth's solar system, there are five planets that can be seen with the naked eye: Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Humans have known about these planets for thousands of years. Looking at Uranus, discovered in 1781, and Neptune, discovered in 1846, requires use of binoculars or a telescope.

Schuler said the first planet around a star similar to the sun *outside* our solar system, called an exoplanet, wasn't discovered until 1995, and since that time approximately 1,000 exoplanets have been identified using powerful telescopes here on Earth. While there is some debate on the actual number, Schuler said, "The point is, there are a lot of planets."

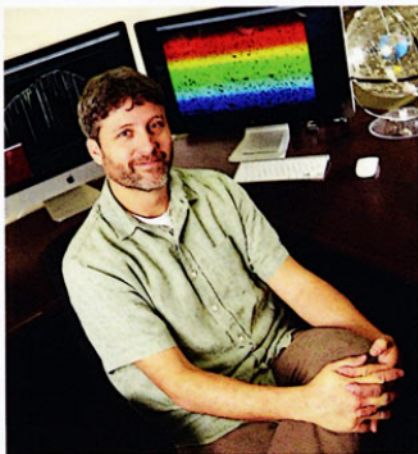
NASA's most recent effort to identify exoplanets is the Kepler Mission, which launched a specially designed space telescope to find habitable planets outside our solar system. Kepler finds planets by looking for tiny dips in the brightness of a star when a planet crosses in front of it, called the transit method. To date, Kepler has identified more than 3,500 possible planets outside our solar system (from 2009–2013).

Schuler explained the Kepler instrument only looks in one direction.

"So just in this one small part of our galaxy, there are thousands of planets," said Schuler, implying there are likely millions more in other parts of our galaxy.

Schuler currently holds a grant from NASA to study the chemical compositions of stars hosting planets discovered by Kepler. He is looking for differences in the compositions of stars with planets and those not known to have planets to identify possible signatures of the planet formation process.

The closest of these stars is thousands of light years away. So, one might ask, how does he figure out what the stars are made of? It's not like he can take a sample. He does it by studying the fine details of the light they exude,



Schuler, pictured in his office, uses spectroscopy to identify the chemical composition of a star's atmosphere.

which is known as spectroscopy.

"Light holds an incredible amount of information," said Schuler. Through spectroscopy, astrophysicists can determine the temperature, velocity and composition of an object in space, as well as infer mass, distance and much more.

To begin, Schuler obtains a high resolution spectrum, either from his own observations (see sidebar) or through the NASA archive. The spectrum shows the light waves from the star spread out according to their wavelengths. Think of the way light through a prism is broken out into its various color components to create a rainbow.

Along the continuous spectrum will be tiny dips, called absorption lines. Schuler explains that atoms of different elements in the atmosphere of the star absorb specific photons on the spectrum, creating a dip in the continuous spectrum. Schuler measures these dips to see how much of a given element is in the star's atmosphere.

The purpose of this is to discover if there is a particular composition, a chemical signature, that determines the kind of planets that form. *If* this chemical signature exists, when you look out at the universe and find a

star with that chemical signature, it *should* have Earth-sized planets.

That is a big "if," but if scientists can identify such a signature, it could save time and millions of dollars.

"Kepler was a \$600 million piece of equipment we sent out to find these types of planets," said Schuler. "If we have a signature that we can look for, at the very least it can help give us some direction of which way to point the next one."

**L**ike many of us who don't grow up knowing exactly what we want to be, Schuler wandered his way into astrophysics. He took some time off between high school and college and then set out to study marine biology. He attended Middle Tennessee State University for a year, where he began reading a lot of physics and astronomy books.

He transferred to the University of Miami to study with a renowned shark expert there, but after taking an introductory physics course — and enjoying the challenging material — he soon switched his major.

Though UM gave him a foundation in physics and astronomy, his first experiences using professional telescopes were in graduate school. Because of the size and expense of professional telescopes, Schuler said it is very difficult to host such a telescope just anywhere.

His first semester of graduate school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas he was able to visit the Kitt Peak National Observatory in Southern Arizona, where he used the WIYN 3.5-meter telescope.

"It's like the difference between a moped and a Harley Davidson," Schuler said about the difference in power between an amateur telescope versus a professional telescope at an observatory.

For his doctoral studies he followed Jeremy King to Clemson University, whose research interests — composi-



tion and structure of solar-type stars — aligned with his. Schuler wrote his dissertation on “Chemical abundances of solar-type dwarfs in open cluster stars,” a line of research he is still pursuing alongside his Kepler study.

**S**chuler has been at UT a little less than two years, during which he has been helping Ethan Denault, associate chair and associate professor of physics, to design courses in the University’s fledgling physics program and teaches general physics, a physics lab and an introduction to astronomy course. There is currently only a physics minor at UT, which began in 2012, although the University has recently approved a physics major beginning Fall 2014.

Schuler said the idea of helping to lay the ground work for a new physics program was one of the things that attracted him to UT. He is currently testing out an upper level astrophysics course, which will become a regular course in Fall 2014.

He of course enjoys working with students and is overseeing research

by graduate students at the University of Arizona and Vanderbilt University. They fill him in on their efforts during weekly phone calls, and he offers advice. (His student at the University of Arizona is graduating in the spring and has won a prestigious Carnegie Institute fellowship.)

Schuler currently has two UT undergraduates working on research projects with him. Zack Vaz ’14, a biology major and physics minor from Wesley Chapel, FL, is working with Schuler on his Kepler research.

Vaz is studying spectra from three stars that host planets discovered by Kepler and records the absorption lines into computer programs. Then Schuler helps him to interpret the data.

“I may be sitting in a lab staring at a computer screen, *but* I tell myself I’m looking at atoms from a *star*,” said Vaz. “This light had to travel thousands of light years to be picked up by equipment here on Earth so that is pretty amazing.”

Vaz attended the American Astronomical Society conference with Schuler in January and presented a poster, “Metallicity Analysis of

Planetary Hosts Kepler-11, 37 and 68.” For Vaz, who hopes to attend graduate school to study biomechanics, the experience has been invaluable.

“Being exposed in the lab and working toward publishing a paper, these are things I need to get into graduate school,” he said.

Schuler has also been working with Alanna D’Amelio ’14, a biology major and psychology minor from Tampa. She has been working with Schuler on his continuing research into open cluster stars.

“When I was little I wanted to be an astronomer,” explained D’Amelio, who plans to attend medical school after graduation. D’Amelio is also measuring absorption lines and said working on the project has built her confidence and patience.

“It is mutually beneficial. They get great experience gathering and measuring data, skills necessary to be successful in graduate school and as a working scientist,” said Schuler. “I’m getting out results, which I can then turn into a paper and give them a co-author credit of course.” **UT**

## Making Observations

### What do you *do* at an observatory?

“You’re sitting in front of a computer,” said Schuler with an almost apologetic smile. He explained that all professional telescopes have instruments where the eyepiece would be on an amateur telescope. The instrument Schuler uses, called a spectrograph, records photons coming from the star, which are stored in a file on a computer.

Schuler explained much of his job while at an observatory is looking at the weather conditions — too much cloud cover, for instance, can affect the observations. With the help of a specially trained operator he finds his target (a specific star).

Depending on the brightness of the star, the size of the telescope, weather, etc., the scientists take an exposure ranging from a few minutes up to an hour. It is a delicate balance, just as with a photograph. If he overexposes (lets in too many photons) it will saturate the image; if he doesn’t let in enough photons, he won’t get an accurate reading.

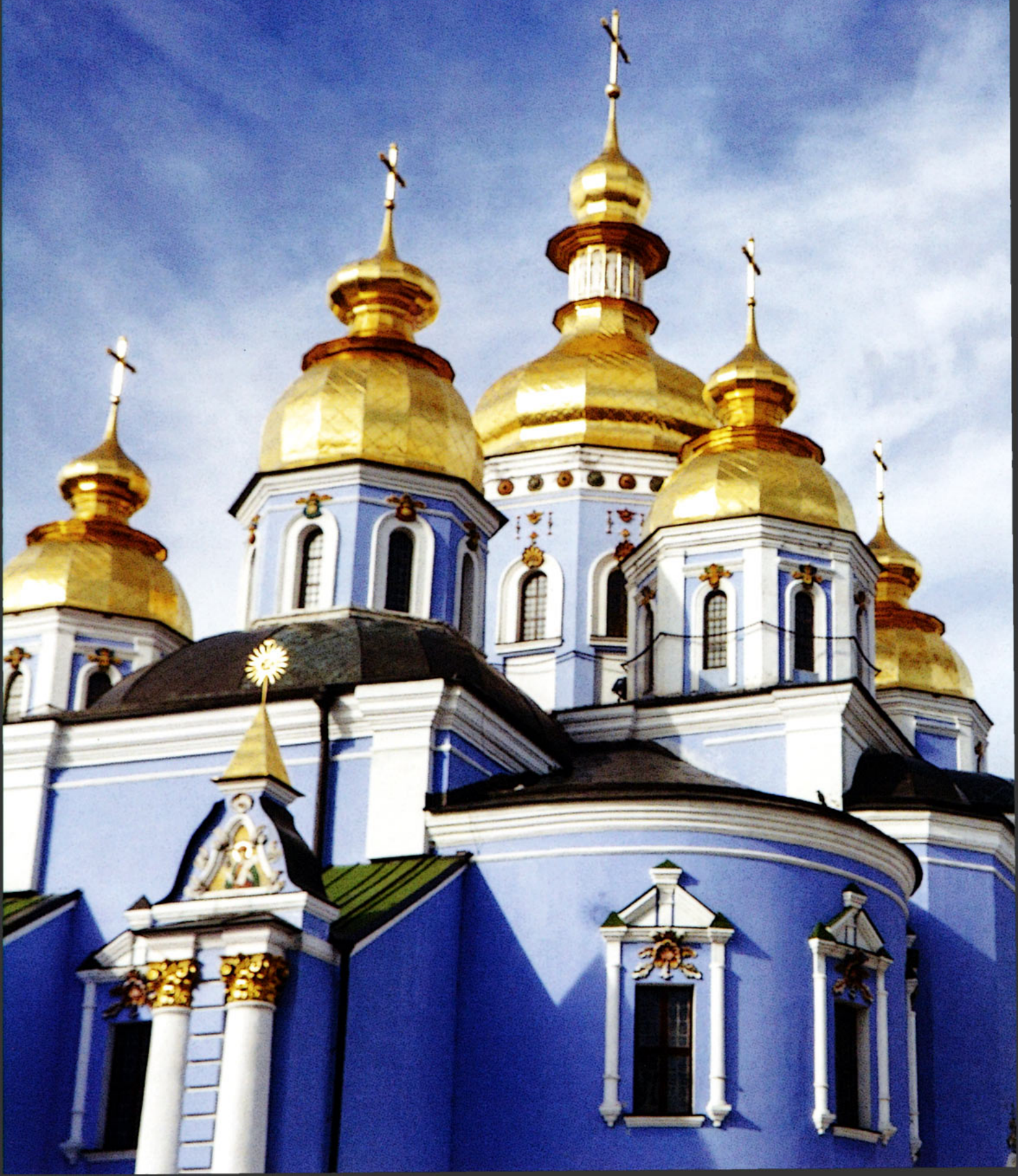


Then Schuler looks at the data. If he has what he needs, the scientists move on to the next target. Some nights he’s observed only a handful of stars, but others up to 20.

Observation time is highly competitive, with scientists applying six months to a year in advance. Throughout his career so far, Schuler has been able to use a dozen observatories to further his research, including the 10-meter Keck telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawai’i, the largest optical telescope in the world (pictured above).



BY STEVE GONYEA MBA '86  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ANATOLY KASYAN





From the aftermath of the Kosovo War to rising tensions in Ukraine, dealing with unpredictability is part of the job for Steve Gonyea MBA '86.

# A Diplomatic Mission



Gonyea outside  
St. Michael's Cathedral  
in Kyiv, Ukraine.



I have not lived in the U.S. since 1992. My work with the U.S. government has taken me to Poland, Slovakia, Macedonia, Afghanistan, Jordan, Nicaragua, Ukraine and many places in between.

People often question the need for the U.S. to fund foreign assistance programs. My response is immediate: "The cost of working in these countries is a fraction of the huge political and economic dividend we potentially get back."

For me, the chance to live and work overseas, to help people and change countries every few years is about as fun as a job can get.

#### THE JOURNEY BEGINS

The foundation for my career was laid at UT, both through the education I received and the University's flexibility in allowing me to complete my last semester in Paris.

In 1992, three years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, I joined the Peace Corps. Due to my business background and MBA, the Peace Corps assigned me to help with privatizations that were underway in the heavily industrialized Lower Sudenty region of southwest Poland.

After three years in Poland, I went to work in Slovakia, first as a Peace Corps trainer and then with a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded project that helped to financially and operationally restructure companies in order to help them survive in the new free market system.

In 1997, I went to work for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) directly and was appointed director of the economic growth office in the Republic of Macedonia. Little did I know at the time that this small, former Yugoslavian republic was about to take center stage in world politics.

On March 24, 1999, the U.S. began a 10-week bombing campaign to stop Slobodan Milosevic, president of Serbia and Yugoslavia, from ethnically

cleansing the Kosovo territory. The ensuing war sent up to 200,000 refugees flooding into neighboring Macedonia.

Two days after bombing began in Serbia, the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia, was overrun with protesters. Once inside the embassy compound, protesters burned cars and smashed windows, but fortunately were unable to penetrate the hardline doors and windows and get to staff.

I watched the smoke from the embassy compound, just a few streets away from my house. My wife, four months pregnant with our first child, and I prepared for the embassy evacuation order that fortunately never came. Since no one was injured during the protests, our ambassador diplomatically shrugged off this isolated incident, and we all stayed and continued our work, though in a much more tense environment.

The USAID program in Macedonia took on the role of protecting refugees and helping to stabilize the fragile new republic that had only been a country for eight years.

Just two years later, Macedonia was facing another crisis. Albanian separatists began to push for a partitioning of the country along ethnic lines. With helicopter gunships operating on the city outskirts and outdated Soviet fighters buzzing the main boulevard, a U.S. Embassy temporary evacuation notice came down. We packed what we could and took a commercial flight out of the country, not knowing if we'd ever be able to return.

Only the peacemaking skills of Macedonia's young president, Boris Trajkovski, kept the civil war from expanding and engulfing the region. The Ohrid peace agreement was signed in August 2001, and I was able to return to Macedonia with other embassy staff.

After this setback, USAID was back to work building the country. In 2002, an idea was presented to me that would set the country's course for years to come. If a local Internet



Gonyea zip lining with his family near Granada, Nicaragua, on Mombacho volcano.

service provider could get a little bit of financial help and a huge amount of political cover, they could break the telecom monopoly and offer affordable Internet service to the whole country.

Over the next few years, along with a donation of about 6,000 Chinese computers, USAID rolled out a plan to set up wireless clouds over all of Macedonia's roughly 400 primary schools. This new, inexpensive Internet connectivity ultimately created the world's first wireless country along with new opportunities in education and e-government, and even gave birth to a thriving digital animation business sector. In fact, one of the digital animation companies born out of this project, FX3X — which also received a \$250,000 grant from USAID — worked on the Academy Award-winning movie *Life of Pi*.

I stay in contact with friends and co-workers in Macedonia. Both President Trajkovski, his chief of staff Zoran Jolevski and current Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski were good friends long before they got into politics.



## "FOR ME, THE CHANCE TO LIVE AND WORK OVERSEAS, TO HELP PEOPLE ... IS ABOUT AS FUN AS A JOB CAN GET." — STEVE GONYEA MBA '86

My most painful memory in the Foreign Service was Feb. 26, 2004. That's the day when news began rolling in that President Trajkovski's plane had gone missing in southern Bosnia while flying to a regional conference. Macedonia lost its beloved president that day, and after seven long, hard years I began thinking it was time to move on.

### ON TO THE MIDDLE EAST

When a good friend was appointed director of a new billion-dollar USAID mission in Afghanistan, I dropped him an email to congratulate him. An hour later, I got a phone call from him hand-picking me to come and help set up the economic growth office.

The decision was difficult since it was a two-year, unaccompanied post, and I was married with two small boys at that point. Nonetheless, I couldn't resist the challenge to oversee a several hundred million dollar economic growth program in one of the most difficult environments imaginable. Rather than relocate to the U.S., my supportive wife and boys went to live in my wife's native Poland.

Afghanistan wasn't a post-conflict country, this was a post-devastation country. For nearly 30 years the country had known nothing but war. There was hardly a building in the city that had not sustained damage. Electricity was non-existent, except by gas-powered generators. Girls were forbidden to go to school or step out alone.

Much of that has since changed. On the ground it is impressive what has been accomplished over the last 10 years and how far that country has come, though I'll admit the country has a long way to go.

I worked closely with the president's chief economic advisor to come up with a strategic plan to build institutional capacity within the government, develop the financial sector, adopt badly needed commercial legislation and build the small business sector.

Coming out of Afghanistan, I was

assigned to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Jordan is a half-billion dollar, high-profile program in a very volatile neighborhood — with Iraq to the east, Syria to the north, Israel/West Bank to the west and Saudi Arabia to the south.

A big plus in going to Jordan for my family and me was the chance for us to start to do things together again, including visiting the biblical and desert tourist sites. As a bonus, places like the ancient Rose City of Petra, the Dead Sea, the desert of Wadi Rum and the seaside town of Aqaba were not just tourist sites, but parts of a hugely successful tourism development project in my economic growth office's portfolio.

Though I visited them all monthly, I never tired of the beauty, splendor and history these places evoked. Camping in Wadi Rum under billions of stars you could almost hear the voice of T.E. Lawrence planning his 1917 surprise assault on the Turkish fort in Aqaba.

### A BRIEF STOP

After two years in Afghanistan and then nearly four years in Jordan, I was looking for something a little more grounded and closer to home. USAID is the agency in the U.S. government responsible for implementing the White House's "Feed the Future" initiative, an ambitious billion-dollar global program that addresses a broad range of food security issues in less-developed countries. As a potential recipient, the mission director in Nicaragua contacted me and invited me to consider coming there.

Nicaragua offered me the opportunity to build a Feed the Future program in the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. What a challenge! Just a short time after arriving in Nicaragua though, I learned that due to major budget cuts Nicaragua would not be getting any funds and that my four-year tour would only be two years.

Nonetheless, during my time there I was able to accomplish quite a bit. I helped facilitate new lending by

the Inter-American Development Bank to the coffee and cacao sectors and worked to dramatically increase agricultural exports, especially to the U.S., to include organic peppers to McIlhenny Tabasco and higher quality plantains to Del Monte.

As time wound down in Nicaragua, I began to look around the globe for where I could go for my next assignment. When the possibility of Ukraine popped up I jumped at the chance. After many years in Eastern Europe, it would be a country I could easily adapt to, plus the fact that Ukraine was next door to Poland sealed the deal.

### UNPREDICTABILITY

My family and I relocated here last July. My initial perception of Ukraine was that it was moving in the right direction since the government was looking to sign a European Union association agreement in November 2013. I was as surprised as everyone when just days before the agreement was to be signed, the Ukrainian president did an about face and rejected the deal to instead sign a \$15 billion assistance agreement with Russia.

With their European aspirations dashed, hundreds of thousands of young and old protesters took to the streets. On Dec. 8, only a block away from my house, a breakaway group threw a cable around the neck of a large Lenin statue that had stood for 50 years and toppled it.

After nearly three months, the pot finally boiled over on Feb. 20 when police snipers opened fire on protesters. European diplomats quickly drew up a fragile peace agreement that became meaningless when the president and his cronies all went on the run the next day. A makeshift parliament is trying to form a new government under the watchful eye of all those wanting peace, security and democracy. How this will play out is anyone's guess at this point. But then dealing with unpredictability is what the Foreign Service is all about. **UT**







# alumni report



(From left) Calega and Joyner now work with their mentor, Krebs.

## Co-curricular to Career

A LITTLE OVER 10 YEARS AGO, FIVE newly minted graduates left campus with a passion for student affairs that was ignited during their time as student leaders at UT. As students, Jennifer Blackwell '04, Shannon Calega '03, Ciarra Joyner '03, Sarah Morgan '03 and Viancca (Burger) Williams '03 were highly active outside the classroom and held leadership roles in multiple organizations — Student Productions, Diplomats, Orientation, Panhellenic Council and Residence Life to name a few.

This allowed them to see firsthand the dedication UT staff have for creating programming that helps students to better understand themselves and grow through co-curricular experiences.

A decade later, they have turned their passion into a career and are inspiring the next generation of college students. Blackwell is academic counselor and civic engagement coordinator at Delaware Technical Community College. Morgan is assistant principal

at Preston Residential College at the University of South Carolina. Williams is assistant director of fraternity and sorority life at the University of South Florida. Calega and Joyner both work at UT, as director of leadership engagement and coordinator of student conduct and orientation, respectively.

Though multiple people have served as mentors, all of them mentioned Stephanie Russell Krebs, now dean of students, as someone that set them on the path toward careers in student affairs.

"She always came to work with a smile on her face and genuinely enjoyed what she did. She inspired me on a daily basis to do my best no matter what, to be creative and to have pride in my work," Morgan said.

Williams and Blackwell both said Krebs was the first to tell them that they would be great in the field and helped show them how the leadership roles they loved as students could be a career. While each of them thought briefly

about other careers, in the back of their minds they all knew that working in student affairs was the right path for them.

Each day these women work closely with students and in turn have become unofficial recruiters for the next generation of student affairs professionals.

"I consistently remind my student leaders that if they like what they're doing every day, to remember that it can be the career of a lifetime," Blackwell said.

Morgan shared that she is always promoting student affairs as a career path for students in her office, and she has served as a mentor for six graduate students in higher education master's programs. Williams feels that she wouldn't be where she is today if Krebs hadn't "tapped" her into the field, so she tries to do the same with student leaders at USF. Over the last seven years, she has had more than 10 students go into student affairs after graduation.

All of these women attribute where they are today to the experiences they had as student leaders at UT. Their collective advice to students around the country is to get involved and become active outside the classroom ... you never know where it might lead.

### ALUMNI SURVEY RESULTS

Last fall, many of you participated in our Alumni Attitude Survey and told us how we can better meet your needs as alumni. We are working to implement changes to our programs based on your feedback. Turn to pages 34-35 to see a sampling of the results.



*Do you have news to share? Contact Jay Hardwick, Alumni Director  
alumni@ut.edu  
(813) 253-6209*



# class acts

**WHAT'S NEW?** Stay in touch by sending us your Class Acts. Go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) today!

**44** **Malcolm Beard** was honored during the dedication of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office operations center that now shares his name. **Sheriff David Gee '90** dedicated the operations center in Ybor City during a morning ceremony attended by Malcolm.

**48** **John Tinny** published *From the Inside Out* about his career as a U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer at various embassies and consulates overseas. (See page 29.) Email: [overlook3@comcast.net](mailto:overlook3@comcast.net)

**50** **Milton "Mits" Zamore** and **Fannie (Rosenberg) Zamore '50** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. According to the *Tampa Tribune* the couple marked the event with dinner at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City, a tradition they have observed for the past 65 years.

**69** **Daniel Francabandiero** retired after 33 years as organist/choirmaster of Riverside Park United Methodist Church in

Jacksonville, FL. He will continue to live in Jacksonville, where he maintains a private studio. Email: [dan0641@gmail.com](mailto:dan0641@gmail.com)

**Vic Thixton** will be honored as Columbus North High School (IN) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the 1963-1964 men's basketball team for their undefeated season and trip to the Final Four. Columbus North will recognize members of the golden anniversary squad at halftime of the school's game against city rival Columbus East.

**70** **Frank Permuy** was inducted into the National High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. He became the Gaither High School (Tampa) baseball coach in 1984 and has lead the team to eight district titles and a state runner-up finish in 2005.

**71** **Anthony Gaudio** is a senior management consultant for John Harvard CPA, a Tallahassee accounting and business advisory firm. Email: [anthony@gaudioenterprise.com](mailto:anthony@gaudioenterprise.com)



## Make the Scene

(From left) Mabel Galbreath '57, Tom Walker and Geraldine Law Hynes '59 took time to pose for a photo during the social hour at the Decade of the '50s Reunion in February, the 20th anniversary of the event. Norma Barbon Lobato '56 entertained the crowd with a speech about the '50s generation and the importance of this reunion.

**72** **Bismarck Myrick** is an ambassador-in-residence and lecturer in political science and history at Old Dominion University. He was recently featured in *InsideODU* where he shared his memories of Nelson Mandela. Bismarck met Mandela on several occasions when he served as United States Consul General in South Africa in the early 1990s, and remembers him as humble, unassuming and courageous.

**73** **Bob Dooley** was named Salesman of the Year for 2013 by Prestige Brands, a leading personal care and home cleaning products manufacturing company. Email: [bdooley@prestigebrands.com](mailto:bdooley@prestigebrands.com)  
**Paul Fronczek** is closing down

his furniture and mattress store, Abbey's Home n' Bed, located in Georgetown, TX, in its 10th year of business because of retirement and the business climate. Paul plans to buy a hunting ranch in East Texas as a semi-retirement second home and run a few head of cattle on it. In Paul's spare time, he plans to continue his writing, ballroom dancing and other hobbies. Email: [paulfronczek@gmail.com](mailto:paulfronczek@gmail.com)

**74** **Harold Youmans** recently lectured on the War of 1812 at the Florida Bibliophile Society.

**77** **James Kaminski**, senior vice president and chief financial officer of

**Save the Date!** Homecoming and Reunions 2014 will be celebrated on Oct. 17-19. The classes of '64, '89, '04 and '09 will commemorate their 50th, 25th, 10th and fifth year reunions, respectively. Go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) for hotel and event information.





Scivantage, was named CFO of the year in the category of "Private company with revenues of up to \$50 million" by *NJBIZ*, New Jersey's weekly business journal. Scivantage is an independent financial technology provider.

**78** **Michael Benson** will be retiring from teaching chemistry after a successful career in education. He taught for a total of 34 years, of which 29 were spent at Rock Island High School in Rock Island, IL. He is looking forward to the next part of his life but will miss the students and exciting times he had as an educator.

Email: climbing54@gmail.com

**Carl Cowden III** recently exhibited his works in *Mythic Dimensions in Printmaking* at Hill-sborough Community College Ybor Gallery, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

**80** **Wes Champney** received the imSTAR (Superior Talent Achieving Results) award from Fidelity Information Services in Orlando for overseeing quality assurance procedures and revamping the beta annual release process for the HORIZON Community Banking Software product. Wes has been with the company for 13 years and plans to continue to work with FIS until he retires.

**81** **Mike LaRocco MBA**, CEO of AssureStart, announced he is open for business in Texas, according to *TMCnet.com*. AssureStart sells small business insurance on the Internet.

**82** **Thomas Graham** was appointed to the board of directors for Old Line Bancshares Inc., the parent company of Old Line Bank.



spartan spotlight

## Jennings Wright '87

*Imagining New Worlds*

Jennings Wright '87 is sure she's on some kind of government watch list.

"If you look through my Internet search history, you'll find things like EMPs [electromagnetic pulse] and biological warfare — I figure homeland security is going to show up one day," she said with a laugh.

Such are the hazards for a writer of a trilogy of novels set on a dystopian alternate-Earth called Ixeos. When Wright sat down to pen *IX-EOS*, she had no plans for the story to go beyond a single novel.

"I got about 60,000 words in and realized there's no way I could finish the story in one book," she said.

Wright has written and self-published seven novels and one nonfiction book in just the last couple of years, a writing spree originally spurred on by National Novel Writing Month in November 2011 in which participants have from Nov. 1–Nov. 30 to write a 50,000 word novel.

By the time Wright finished she had more than 88,000 words and the beginnings of

what would become her first novel, *Solomon's Throne*. She hasn't stopped writing since.

Before she began writing, Wright home-schooled her children and helped her husband run a shopping center maintenance business.

After years of supporting others' mission work, in 2008 the Wrights founded a nonprofit, Ten Eighteen Inc., in Uganda. Through the charity, the Wrights provide a variety of help: microbusiness grants for women, covering rent for women in a crisis situation, paying kids' school tuition, even buying milk for the elderly.

"Our goal with the younger women is to help them get on their feet and eventually be able to sustain themselves," she said.

Wright said all money donated to Ten Eighteen goes directly to the charity with no overhead fees. She and her family members even buy their own plane tickets when they visit.

This past summer, the Wrights expanded Ten Eighteen to Andros in the Bahamas. In August they hosted a youth basketball camp there and have plans to open an elderly day care.





### Gathering in Beantown

UT parents Michael and Joan Bernert, their son Michael '09 and Kaushal Vaddiraj '13 enjoyed the alumni and parent gathering in Boston in February. A group of 60 UT alumni, parents and friends met at the Greatest Bar for a pre-game social before heading to the TD Garden to watch the Boston Celtics beat the Sacramento Kings.

**83 Bruce Borden** has been promoted to national safety director for M/I Homes Inc. He also serves as M/I Homes' national storm water management director and national customer experience manager.

**Bruce Haddock MBA**, city manager for Oldsmar, FL, has been named to the State Emergency Response Commission by Gov. Rick Scott, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

**Mark Turner** organized a reunion for his fellow Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers for the second year in a row in conjunction with Gasparilla. The group held a reception in the Rathskellar on Friday night, attended the UT Gasparilla Brunch on Saturday and a few members of the group also participated in the parade.

**85 Phil Acaba** has been a deputy with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for 27 years, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. He serves as a community resource deputy where he works

with neighborhoods and businesses to address concerns.

**86 William Rutherford** has been appointed chief financial officer and executive vice president of Hospital Corporation of America (HCA). As CFO Rutherford will have management responsibility for the company's treasury department, Office of the Controller, information technology, government programs and strategic resource group. He is a 24-year veteran of the company.



Mark Turner '83 (not pictured) organized a reunion for his fellow Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers during Gasparilla weekend.

**87 Scott Leonard** recently performed at the Capitol Theatre in Clearwater, FL, with the group Rockapella. According to the *Tampa Tribune*, he is the longest-tenured member as well as the resident composer and arranger for Rockapella.

**89 Lorraine (Rafter) Graybill** has been appointed as region director of Delta Gamma Fraternity. She supervises a volunteer team that supports all alumnae groups and collegiate chapters in the Northeastern U.S. and Southeastern Canada. Email: graybill5700@verizon.net

**David Hanson** has joined Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, as chief financial officer. Phillips Exeter Academy is a co-educational residential school serving 1,000 students in grades 9 through 12 and post-graduate level. David formerly served as senior vice president and chief operating officer of Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Linda (Evans) Huffman** completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. last October. Email: clwahuffman@msn.com

**Donna Lee** is the vice president for student life and dean of students at Agnes Scott College, a small private liberal arts college for women. She is the special events chair for

the American College Personnel Association 2014 convention.

**Kimberly Poston Miller** was profiled in *Everyday Health* about her first book, *Living With Juvenile Arthritis: A Parent's Guide*, a comprehensive guide to raising a child with juvenile arthritis.

**91 Iana Quesnell** was profiled in *U-T San Diego* for her exhibited works in *Women, War, and Industry* at the San Diego Museum of Art. She has also been part of exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CECUT in Tijuana, Mexico, as well as showings in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

**92 Gregory Canty** retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army after more than 20 years of service. He served five years in the White House as the senior military social aide to both Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush. He culminated his service working at the Pentagon for the surgeon general of the Army. Email: gregg.canty@gmail.com

**93 Jonathan Anselma and Michael Rossi '93** are celebrating 20 years in business after starting Paragon Financial Group Inc. two years after graduating from UT. Email: jon@paragonfinancial.net

**Jason Fernandez** has added Mexican cuisine to his Ybor City restaurant empire. He's purchased Tequilas, a taqueria and tequila bar in Ybor City. He already owns Bernini, Green Iguana and Carne ChopHouse. Jason is also the owner of the largest collection of Ferdie Pacheco paintings. He has several at Carne ChopHouse, where he rotates his collection.

**Philip Foster** has completed his doctorate in strategic leadership



with emphasis in strategic foresight from Regent University (VA) in December. He also published a book, *Organization 3.0*, which is available on Amazon.com. (See below.)

Email: philip@maximumchange.com

**Sita Monti MBA** was featured in the *Tampa Tribune* when she opened Liv Afrika, a store featuring fair trade home décor as well as jewelry made by women from small South African villages. Liv Afrika is located on South MacDill Avenue in Tampa.

**Charlotte (Pridgen) Peterson** has purchased a house on a creek at Pewaukee Lake in Wisconsin so her 1-year-old daughter will soon be able to boat and fish in the front yard in the summer and ski and snowshoe in the winter.

Email: charlotte.peterson@harken.com

**Thomas Shaver MBA** has been promoted to chief operating officer at International Dispensing Corporation (IDC). IDC is a packaging research and development company that specializes and manufactures innovations for the food and beverage industry.

**94 Kathleen Mikell** embarked on a new business venture as a Younique independent presenter. Younique is a direct sales company specializing in beauty products. Presenters market and sell almost exclusively using social media.

**Jennifer Uhlarik** had her short story "General Robert E. Lee and Santa Claus" profiled by the Christian Fiction Historical Society.

**95 M. Nerissa (Greenaway) Golden** published her first children's book, *Island Days*, a collection of illustrated poetic memories of growing up in the Caribbean. (See below.)

Email: nerissagolden@gmail.com

**96 Christina O'Brien** has been elected to the Association of Family Law Professionals Board of Directors (AFLP). The AFLP's mission is to promote cooperation in matters of family law in order to achieve cost-effective resolutions and to maintain emotional stability and necessary family relationships.

Email: christina.obrien@henlaw.com

**97 Tina Paone** was profiled by *CBS Philly* for the many roles she fills as the clinical director of the Counseling Center at Heritage in Montgomeryville, PA.

**98 Scott Slack** proposed to Jessica Carlson on the skating rink at Rockefeller Center over the holidays. The couple is planning a fall wedding.

**00 Robert Salvog** was profiled in the *Osprey Observer* for his outstanding work

as head coach of the Brandon High School soccer team, leading them to a 14-2-2 record. Prior to his arrival, Brandon posted a 0-11-3 record in 2010.

**01 Wesley Kogelman** recently celebrated the 14th anniversary of BuyaTimeshare.com, according to *Perspective Magazine*. He is president and CEO of BuyaTimeshare.com, an online business that provides owners the ability to market their timeshares to potential buyers.

**Jessica Strassner** and **Tommy Goodwin** were married on Oct. 26, 2013, at Potomac Point Winery in Stafford, VA, according to the *Washingtonian*.

**02 Jenn Greacen** was presented with the UT Alumni Association Alumni Achievement award at UT's commencement in December. The award recognizes UT alumni who have made great accomplishments in their career.

**Gabrielle Perham MBA '11** and her husband, Manny Potter, have relocated their marketing and design firm from Riverview to a studio overlooking Centro Ybor in Ybor City. Their firm, Mace Multimedia, provides full-service marketing with an emphasis on design to Tampa businesses.

Email: gabrielle@macemultimedia.com



Jenn Greacen '02 and President Vaughn at December commencement.

**Charles Scherer** has been promoted to deputy director of the State of Florida Abuse Hotline and Statewide Command Center.

Email: cfs1979@aol.com

**03 Ron Carlstrom** has started a new job at Bank Rhode Island as vice president of marketing.

Email: Utzartan@hotmail.com

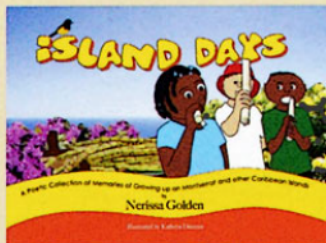
**Laura Fedock** has started a new job as traffic manager at Enterprise Creative Solutions of Bank of America.

Email: lfedock@gmail.com

**Seth Garber** has been named president and CEO of the national healthcare consulting firm Bild and Co.

**Jaime (Ruffolo) Kulaga** published *Type 'SuperWoman — Finding the Work-Life Balance: A Self-Searching Book for Women*. (See below.)

**Manuel Martinez** recently joined Crain's Chicago Business



#### Four alumni recently published books:

*From the Inside Out* by John Tinny '48, *Organization 3.0* by Philip Foster '93, *Island Days* by M. Nerissa (Greenaway) Golden '95 and *Type 'SuperWoman — Finding the Work-Life Balance: A Self-Searching Book for Women* by Jaime (Ruffolo) Kulaga '03.



spartan spotlight

## Edouard Carrie '10

*Working Toward a Cleaner Haiti*



Jan. 12, 2010. Edouard Carrie '10, then a senior entrepreneurship major at UT, was at home for the winter break in his native Port au Prince, Haiti, when the ground began to shake. A 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated his home nation, killing more than 230,000 people, injuring another 300,000 and displacing 1.5 million.

After seeing the devastation firsthand, Carrie made helping to clean up his home country his goal. Back at UT, he used his business classes to help flesh out an idea — using recycling to create a cleaner environment in Haiti and a better way of life for its people. By the time he graduated, he had a concrete business plan in hand.

Just a few years later, Carrie's company, Environmental Cleaning Solutions, S.A. (ECSSA), has about 40 full-time employees and more than 8,000 full-time collectors.

Collectors spend their working time collecting recyclables. They then sell the items they've collected by the pound to collection centers, which are based in most major cities in Haiti. Once a center has collected a minimum of 12,000 pounds, trucks pick up the materials, which are

brought to ECSSA headquarters for processing and export.

"The economic benefits to my suppliers are many," said Carrie. "A steady activity with steady income, a guarantee of payment upon delivery of materials, a cleaner community, but most of all hope for the future as some did not know where to find the means to feed themselves."

Carrie said that in Haiti, the average wage is less than \$5 per day. The collectors who work for ECSSA can make in excess of \$20 per day.

In 2012, the UT Entrepreneurship Center named Carrie the Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year.

Looking toward the future, Carrie hopes to continue expanding operations regionally while diversifying the materials collected. In 2014, he plans to set up Haiti's first bottle-to-flake operation, which turns PET bottles into PET flakes that are then used to create a variety of products.

"By bringing adequate infrastructure to enable appropriate salvage operations, we provide a cleaner environment and a cleaner world," said Carrie.

as a staff photographer/videographer.

Ruth (Smith) Myles was promoted to public relations manager at the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism in December 2013.

Email: ruthsmithmyles@hotmail.com

Genevieve Whitaker serves as the deputy supervisor of elections (St. Croix) U.S. Virgin Islands. She earned her law degree in 2007 and master's in political management in 2013. She also enjoys spending time with her 5-year-old son Yiore. Email: genwhitaker@hotmail.com

**04** Zeheria Marie Brown offers crafting classes through her business RSVP by Z Marie, according to *Tampa Bay Online*, which she began after creating her own baby shower invitations. Zeheria creates video tutorials that she posts on YouTube.

Melissa Dantic had a baby boy on Aug. 3, 2013. His name is Andre De La Rosa, and she hopes that he will be a future UT student.

Email: sk8tgirl100@gmail.com

Elizabeth (Smith) Thompson married Michael Thompson in August 2012, and they are currently expecting their first child, due August 2014.

Email: esmith913@hotmail.com

**05** Jeffrey Bourguignon recently opened his chiropractic practice in South Tampa after living in Chicago for almost five years. He is excited to be back in the Tampa Bay area and to start helping patients relieve their pain and stay healthy.

Email: jeffreybourguignon@hotmail.com

Doug Graham was a contestant on *Wheel of Fortune* in January, bringing home a grand total of \$63,539 in cash and prizes. According to WTSP, he is an insurance underwriter and Zumba instructor.





Ryan '05 and Cortney Hamel '10 with their son, Oliver

**Ben Haberman** launched a new business, Clean, a professional cleaning service that handles commercial and residential property as well as weekly rental cleanings in the summer in Cape May, NJ.

**Ryan Hamel and Cortney (Hall) Hamel '10** had their first child, Oliver Drew Hamel, who was born on Oct. 4. Cortney is an elementary school teacher for Fairfax County, VA, and Ryan is a project manager for a concrete restoration company. The family resides in Arlington.

**Francisco "Paco" Perez** joined the Foreign Service as a public diplomacy officer in 2008, according to *The Washington Post*. He met his wife during his first assignment in Matamoros, Mexico, and the two now serve in the consular section of the Embassy in Santo Domingo.

**Lisa Vodola M.Ed. '10** is the owner of Preschool Readers, an accelerated reading program that incorporates instructional methods and techniques from various experts in the field of early learning to prepare children for kindergarten. Preschool Readers also works with parents to create a fun and interactive print-rich environment in the home.

**Nesrine Zalloum** and her husband, Amer, moved to Newark, DE, for her job in August 2013. She is a customer service and sales representative at Bank of America and in the process of completing a



Avery Noelle Johnson

paralegal certificate program.  
Email: nesrine.zalloum@gmail.com

**06 Brittney (Nelson) Boyce** welcomed her daughter, Hayden Ashley, to the world on March 14, 2013.

Email: brittneymeehan@gmail.com

**Christian Collier**, who had the opportunity to read with legendary poet Ishmael Reed in 2013, recently released his debut extended play (EP), *Between Beauty and Bedlam*.

Email: grippopunk@gmail.com

**Michael N. DeBiase** and Kimberlee J. Otis announce their engagement, according to *The Valley Breeze*. The couple is planning to marry on April 26 at the Jupiter Beach Resort and Spa in Jupiter, FL.

**Alissa Faust** has joined Momentum Worldwide as manager, business leadership. Momentum Worldwide is a global marketing agency founded in 1857.

**William Franchi**, who runs Pro Agents Sports Management, and **William Hitzelberger '02**, who runs Spectrum Sports Performance, have announced a new partnership. Pro Agents' clients can train in a premier facility to maximize their athletic ability and increase draft interest and free agent signings, and Spectrum Sports' clients will have access to one of the top sports firms in Florida.



Kimberly '08 and Randy Lester '06

**Kori Feener** has started a new job as a media arts faculty member at Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, MA. In addition, Kori debuted *Hard Way Home*, her thesis film for her MFA from Emerson College, at the Virginia Film Festival to a sold-out crowd in November.  
Email: kori.feener@gmail.com

**Katherine (Rolen) Kowalski** has joined Winston and Strawn LLP's San Francisco office as senior marketing and business development specialist. Katherine's duties include the implementation of marketing strategies and business development programs for the firm's San Francisco and Silicon Valley offices.  
Email: katherine.r.kowalski@gmail.com

**Joshua Rich** has started working as a civil litigation attorney at the Law Office of Thamir A.R. Kaddouri Jr. P.A. in Tampa.  
Email: jrich327@hotmail.com

**Ben White** has completed seven years of active duty Air Force service as an F-15E weapons systems officer and will begin classes toward an MBA at UT in 2014.

**07 Eric Clark** has been named director of marketing for the Altman Companies, according to *MultifamilyBiz.com*.

**Ashly Eikelberg** has started working with Marina Bay Realty

Group as a real estate sales and leasing agent.

Email: ash@sspads.com

**Valerie French MBA '12** became engaged to Jeff Collignon on Oct. 26.

Email: vfrench17@gmail.com

**Kristin (Rathjen) Johnson** and her husband Greg welcomed a new baby girl, Avery Noelle, on Jan. 18.

Email: kristin.johnson512@gmail.com

**Tiffany Miller** has been promoted to correctional senior probation officer at Florida Department of Corrections.

Email: misstampa07@yahoo.com

**Kristen (Nardelli) Ostow** recently launched a women's outdoor apparel brand called Southerndoe.

**Ashley (Richardson) Strachan** has been promoted to WIA youth program coordinator at Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance (TBWA). TBWA delivers workforce solutions that support economic development in Hillsborough County.  
Email: ashleyrstrachan@gmail.com

**08 David Irwin** finished No. 1 in sales during the 2013 fiscal year at The Reynolds and Reynolds Company. He was awarded the MVP and service marketing champion for his department.  
Email: david\_irwin@reyrey.com

**Kimberly (Kessock) Lester** started a new job at TSL Marketing as senior program manager. She and husband, **Randy Lester '06**, were married Sept. 25, 2010, and had their first child, Brielle, on Nov. 11, 2011 (11/11/11). Their son, Blake, was born on Oct. 30, 2013, the day the Red Sox won the 2013 World Series at Fenway.  
Email: y2kimmy83@hotmail.com

**Lorien Mattiacci** is a Tampa Bay area educator who has created a website, iheartteachers.





## A Pirate's Life for Me

The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter hosted its annual Gasparilla Brunch in January. This year's crowd was large and lively, with more than 300 guests in attendance. The event featured a photo booth stocked with accessories fit for a pirate, a coloring station for children and music provided by the UT student radio station, WUTT.

org, that provides a safe, happy place for teachers and those who "heart" teachers to work together and share ideas. This positive web-site helps to improve teachers' lives through content, community and collaboration.

**Kathleen Taylor MBA** started her own business, KT Coaching and Consulting, where she coaches people on how to speak their truth in a business context, according to *83 Degrees*.

**Kristen Michelle Taylor** and Hamilton Bruce Terrell Jr. were married on Oct. 12, at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Stanford, KY.

**09 Hilary Armstrong** and Kyle DeLeonard were married on June 23 at the Grand Plaza Beachfront Resort in St. Pete Beach, according to *CDAPress.com*.

**Chris Brown** was appointed to the board of directors of Stage-works, a performance arts group in Tampa. He joined Trenam Kemker law firm in October 2013 and practices in the firm's commercial litigation group.

**Katrina Castillo** graduated

from Valparaiso University Law School in May 2013 and is living in Washington, D.C.

Email: katrina.castillo@valpo.edu

**Pauline Hill MSN** was featured in *Southernminn.com* for her continued participation in a seven-year program to help restore health care education to Rwanda. Her job is to teach doctors, nurses, midwives and students about caring for newborns.

**Andrew Learned** was profiled in the *Osprey Observer* as the owner and operator of Grade Power Learning located in Valrico, FL. Grade Power Learning offers individualized tutoring as well as SAT and ACT test preparation.

**Jonathan Marcantoni** released his novel, *The Feast of San Sebastian*, in Spanish through Araña Editorial.

**Kimberly Nahm** became engaged to **Nathan Brown '09, M.S. '13** at UT's Plant Park on her birthday and will get married on May 24 in Tampa.

Email: k.nahm1@gmail.com

**Leslie Norden** recently joined Rubenstein Public Relations as a

senior account executive, according to *NBC12 (NY)*.

**Melanie Paukner** joined Davis and Hodgdon Associates CPAs as a senior accountant and currently resides in Burlington, VT.

**Katrina Vidal** has earned her Master of Social Work from Bridgewater State University (MA) in May 2013 and is directing programs for adults with traumatic brain injuries at Community Support Associates Inc.

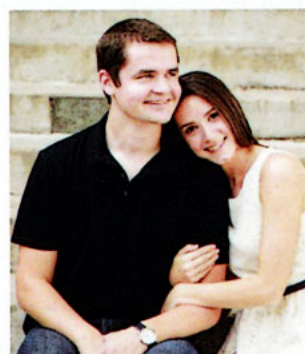
Email: vidal.katrina@gmail.com

**10 Kevin Eldridge** has been promoted to director of rules and competition by the Massachusetts Golf Association, according to *The Boston Globe*.

**Josh Long** was part of the stagehand crew at the Mattie Kelly Arts Center in Niceville, FL, responsible for setting up the Broadway musical *The Addams Family*, according to the *Crestview News Bulletin*.

**Joseph McKenna** started a new job as a senior consultant for Ernst and Young's advisory unit under the financial services division. He specifically works for the regulatory and compliance unit helping Fortune 500 companies manage their compliance, risk and controls. He works and resides in New York City. Email: jmckenna14@gmail.com

**Jessica Merrick** has joined



Kimberly Nahm '09 and Nathan Brown '09, M.S. '13

the Minor League Baseball staff on a full-time basis as marketing coordinator, according to *Ballpark Business*. She is responsible for supporting sales material development, assisting in the management of the sales pipeline and coordinating team inventory needs and initial contractual development.

**Shannon Navarro** lives in London where she is in her second term at the Royal Central School for Speech and Drama working on a master's in music theatre. This term brings her first public performance, a production of *The Beggars' Opera*.

Email: diasalicious@gmail.com

**Lan (Nguyen) Pratt MBA** has partnered with a colleague to begin a career at National Strategies Public Relations in Tampa where she has taken on the role of vice president/chief operating officer. She previously spent six years as the executive director at WellSpring Cancer Center.

**Ryan Thompson** recently signed a two-year contract with the Tampa Bay Rowdies, according to *Our Sports Central*.

**11 Tanya Capper** is deployed to Afghanistan as an Air Force nurse. She works in the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility, coordinating patient movement out of Afghanistan and to Germany where troops continue their journey of healing.

Email: aftcapp07@hotmail.com

**Sarah Friswell** has started a new job as a sixth grade life science teacher at Natick Public Schools in Natick, MA. Email: sarahfriswell@gmail.com

**Ashton Graham** is in his first year of professional basketball with the Island Storm in the National Basketball League of Canada, according to *The Guardian*.

**Jeremiah Kerr** was named



the Tribune Hometown Hero for his role as the outreach and community development coordinator at the Ybor Youth Clinic, according to the *Tampa Tribune*.

**Jillian McGovern** has been promoted to clinical data abstractor for clinical quality and effectiveness of New York University Langone Medical Center. She also created and developed an academic health science department for New Dorp High School (NY) targeting health science career interests. Email: jmcgovern1120@gmail.com

**Chris O'Linger** was recently profiled in *SwimSwam* for his study comparing female and male world records for competitive swimming.

**Kostas Stoilas MBA** joins CBRE Tampa's industrial services team as senior associate, according to *RealEstateRama*.

**Lorimar Vega** has started a new job with the Department of Homeland Security in Los Angeles and recently received a commendation letter from the Western Regional Director.

**12 Sean Bierman** has joined the Chicago White Sox organization, according to *Southside Showdown*.

**Rashad Callaway** signed with the Staten Island Vipers of the American Basketball Association, according to iBall United.

**Nicholas Cannavo** has started working for Florida Youth Soccer Association as administrator of events.

**Nikki Donahue** is working as a private investigator at Capital Investigating out of Manchester, NH, and resides in Woodstock, NH. Email: missnikkidonahue@yahoo.com

**L.J. Govoni M.S.** intends to run for the state of Florida's House District 69 seat, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

**Molly McGill** finished her first job as a producer for HRTV, the network for horse sports, a piece on superstar Shania Twain. Molly interviewed Twain, spoke with her horse trainer and interviewed her close friend, actress Bo Derek. The piece was released on Nov. 30, and within a week it claimed the No. 1 spot on HRTV.com.

**Matt Murphy M.Ed.** released an album, *Beautiful Life*, on iTunes, a collection of nine worship songs and ballads. The album is a follow up to *Come Home*, which he released in 2011. He wrote the song "Little Miracle" for and dedicated the album to his son, who was born in November 2013.

**Melissa Santell**, who is working as a marketing and communications coordinator at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pinellas County, was nominated for the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Up and Comers Awards in 2013. The Up and Comers Awards honor rising young stars in the Tampa Bay area.

**Eric Santos** was profiled on the blog for Washington and Lee University School of Law discussing why he chose to attend the school.

**Paul Szoldra** will be moving to California to open a west coast bureau for the *Business Insider*. According to *Talking Biz News*, he is currently the front-page editor for *Business Insider*.

**13 Matthew Crum MBA**, who is currently the president of Frank Winston Crum Insurance Company (FWCI), was nominated for the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Up and Comers Awards in 2013.

**Danielle Duet** was awarded a full fellowship grant to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN, where she is studying to earn a Master of Arts degree in Catholic Studies. She was also hired by Tommy Media, Minnesota and had

her first information graphic design published.

**Kaela Rose McGovern** and **Javon David Edwards '10, MBA '12** will marry on Aug. 30, 2014, at the Seaport Hotel in Boston, according to the *Scituate Mariner*.

**Kendra New** was profiled by blogger Marisol Medina for her belief that the general public should be formally educated about the Stand Your Ground and other self-defense laws.

**Alyssa Novick** joined Minor League Baseball's Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders in September as a regional sales manager, according to *TheTimes-Tribune.com*.

**Rachael Parker**, a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army, was recently featured in the Fort Sill community newsletter leading a formation in training. She will join other female officers in being the first to officially hold positions within direct support of field artillery battalions, brigade combat teams and cannon battalions in fires brigades.

**Ally Perkins** is working as an intern at Marketing 2 Go in Flagler County. According to *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*, she is working with her mentor and owner of Marketing 2 Go, Cindy Dalecki.

**Steven Schmidt** started a new job at 21st Century Financial as a financial advisor. 21st Century Financial is in business to help provide for the financial planning needs of its clients.

**Michael Snyder** married Santiago Echeverry, associate professor of art at UT, over Thanksgiving break in Brooklyn, NY. Email: michaelnsnyders@gmail.com

**David Wistocki** (see story page 14) took part in a conference hosted by the University of South Florida's United Nations Association titled *The World We Want*, according to the university's newspaper, *The Oracle*. David acted



Molly McGill '12 on set for HRTV

as moderator for the universal Internet access discussion.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Alumni

Kenneth James Reid '39  
Doris Stalnaker '40  
Marea Bishop '46  
Frederick T. Lenfestey '47  
Nancy Ellen Humes Atkins '48  
Avron Bryan '51  
Elinor Blackwell Kaiser '51  
Perry Keene '51  
Gene King '53  
Bill Minahan '56  
Sam Capitano Jr. '57  
Guy Amuso '59  
Conrad Gail Conley '59  
Lillian Elizabeth (Liba) Miles '60  
George Moran '65  
Glenn Norman McCall '67  
Marcia Elaine Mitchell Trotter '67  
Richard Isaac "Dick" Crews '70  
Clarice A. Fischer-Marshall '70  
Ronald D. "Ron" Corriden '72  
Mary Frances Smith '72  
Robert H. Dupont '73  
George Earle "Smokey" Burgess '74  
James H. Horney '75  
Curry Waller Krider Jr. '76  
John Howard Riggins '76  
Barbara Millington Brayton Walker '77  
Susan Sutherland McLain '90  
Brian Francis McNeely '08  
**Students**  
Paul Badro '14



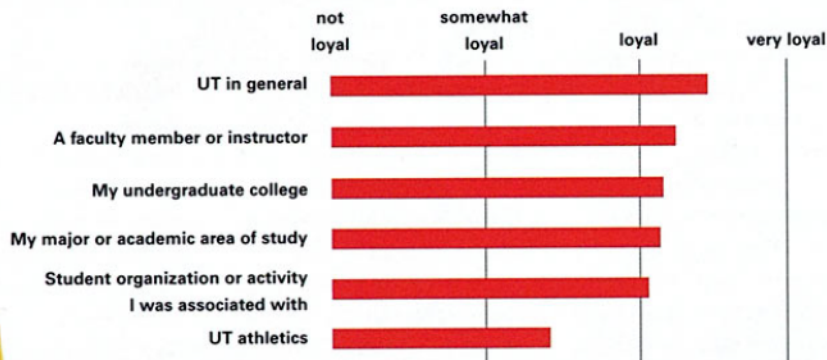
# Survey Says...

*A sampling of your answers to our recent alumni survey*



WHAT DO YOU THINK OF UT? IF YOU'RE LIKE MOST ALUMNI WHO RESPONDED TO OUR RECENT online survey, you're proud of the University and want to stay connected. The survey results will guide our future plans and help ensure we provide the programs, activities and communications you expect from UT. The survey was sent to all alumni with a valid email address on file, approximately 14,500, and the 7 percent response rate was on par with the national average for alumni surveys. If you would like to see more results, contact [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu).

## EXTENT OF YOUR LOYALTY TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:



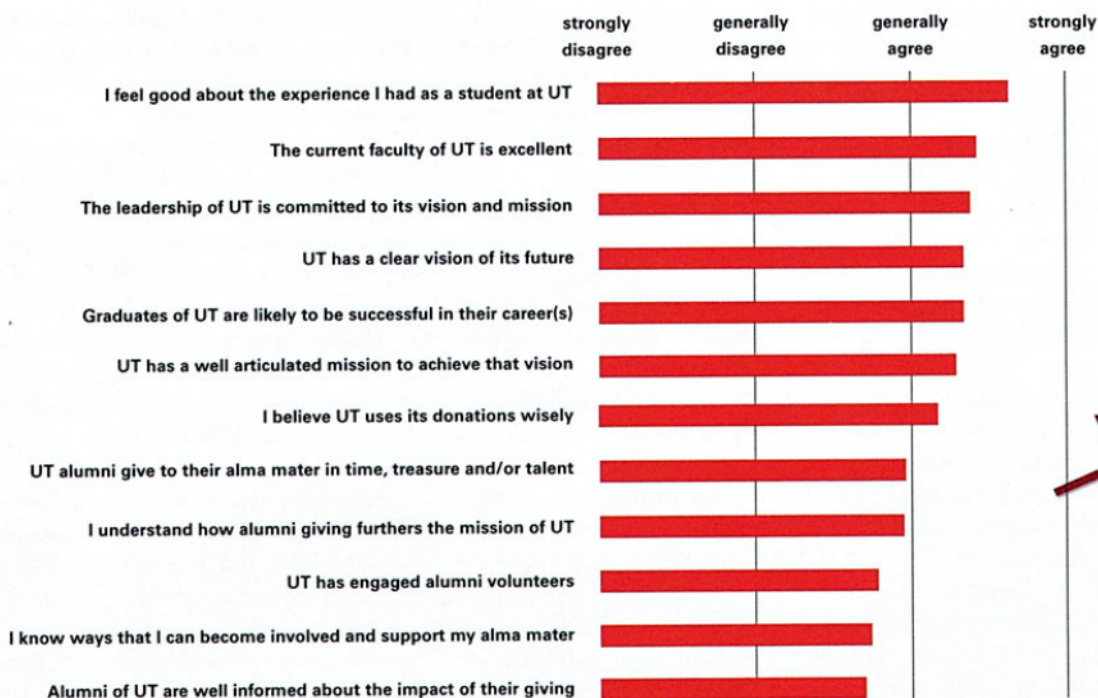
**“ I remember...**

**Dr. Philip Quinn was an amazing mentor. He encouraged me and pushed me to excel in all academic areas. Dr. Quinn was instrumental in shaping my interest into a career working with sex offenders' victims. The small class size allowed me the opportunity to get individualized attention.**

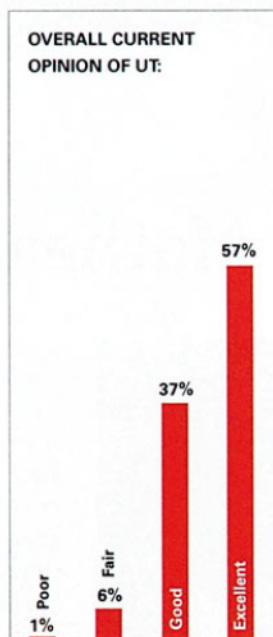
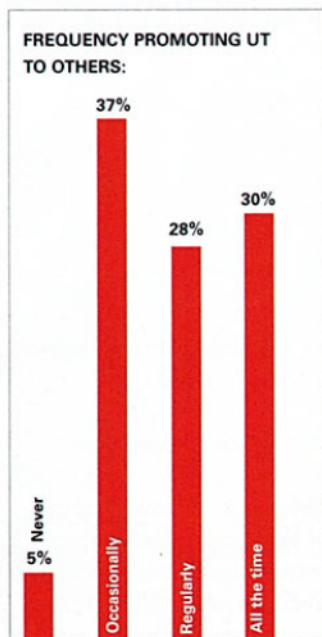
**—ALUMNUS '88**

**”**

## LEVEL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS REGARDING UT:







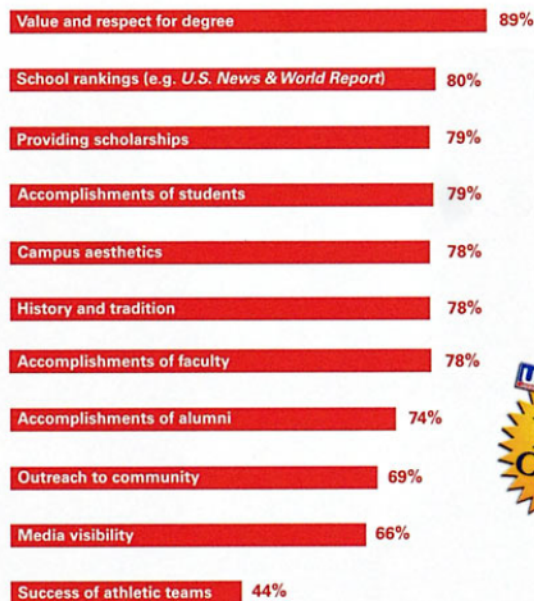
**“ I remember...**

**Dean of Women Marisol Johns encouraged me to apply and receive a federal grant to support a fledgling local nonprofit which then hired me, immediately after graduation as its executive director.**

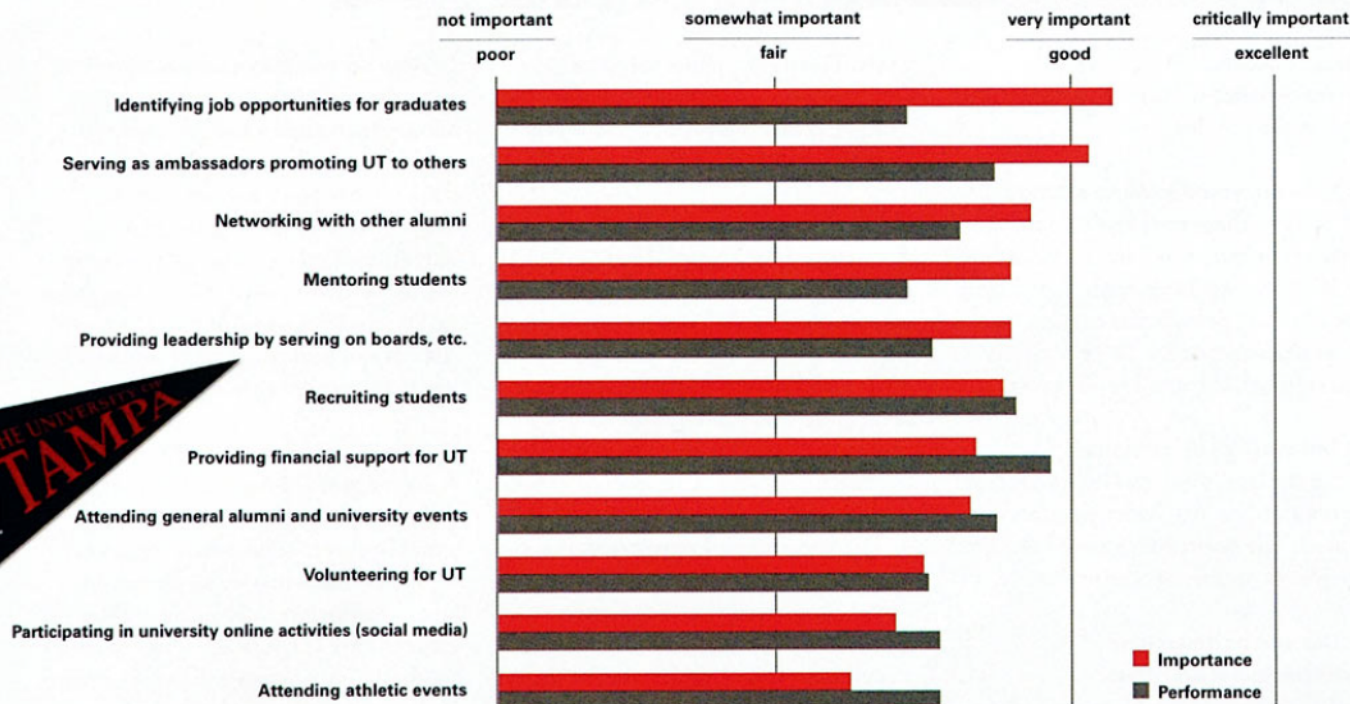
—ALUMNUS '71

**”**

**IMPACT ON OVERALL CURRENT OPINION OF UT:**  
(PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHOSE TOP TWO CHOICES)



**IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING TO ALUMNI VS. UT'S PERFORMANCE:**





# brick by brick

common good

## WHY I GIVE: Idelle Mathews '39



Idelle (McMillan)  
Mathews '39 at her  
home in Trenton, FL.

enjoyed the sporting events — basketball, football and baseball.

**Q: How did UT help prepare you for a career?**

**A:** UT has been a strong supporter of the general education in our community. Teacher education has always been considered outstanding. Soon after graduation I had my first contract to teach in Florida.

**Q: Tell me about your career?**

**A:** In 1940, I moved from my first teaching position in Arcadia, FL, to Memorial Junior High in Tampa. At Memorial, I taught English and social studies classes until the school was closed in the '70s. I finished my 40-year teaching career at Middleton Junior High.

**Q: How do you stay connected to UT?**

**A:** In the *UT Journal*, I enjoy reading about other alumni and the contributions they are making in their chosen field of work and their community. I look forward to the Golden Spartan inductions in the spring and the homecoming activities each fall. During these gatherings I see some of my college friends and hear about their careers and what they are doing in retirement.

**Q: Why do you support UT?**

**A:** I am a grateful recipient of the financial gifts others have made to UT. My annual gifts are small when compared to others, but when we all do our part, large and small, we can achieve many great things. UT is training many future teachers, who in turn will make a great impact on the future of our society.

**Major:** Education

**Profession:** Retired teacher, Hillsborough County School District

**Q: Why did you decide to attend UT?**

**A:** In 1935, there were few options for a college education in Tampa. A number of Hillsborough High School graduates found UT to provide the training and skills to be successful. Since teaching was my goal, UT was a good choice.

**Q: Did you live on campus?**

**A:** In the '30s, there was limited access to campus housing. Most students commuted. The street car rides to UT gave me plenty of time to read and study.

**Q: Did you participate in extracurricular activities?**

**A:** I was involved in several organiza-

tions. The most memorable was the Drama Club (313 Masquers). It allowed us to be creative and build social relationships.

**Q: Favorite place on campus?**

**A:** I enjoyed the library. There I could do in-depth research, had access to the great authors and the librarian, Miss Thompson, was a great help to me. The main lobby of Plant Hall was a great gathering place for meeting with friends and meeting new students.

**Q: Any fond memories of UT?**

**A:** The friendships I developed served me well throughout my teaching career. It seemed that we were one great family striving for the same goals. Everyone was included in the activities in and about the University. I also



"We didn't have air conditioning or a lot of the fancy frills the University has today, but it didn't matter. We were a family."

— JOAN JONES '99

leaving a legacy

## Emphasizing Education

ERNEST SEGUNDO '56 HAS A QUIET demeanor. But when he touches on the subject of his formative years at UT and what they mean to him, Segundo becomes UT's loudest cheerleader. Adjectives such as "innovative," "best" and "visionary" tumble off his tongue, and it doesn't stop there ... Segundo is a man on a mission.

"I'm very strong on education. If it weren't for the opportunities I received at UT, I don't think I would have been as successful as I have been," he said. "My parents were not wealthy people, but they always emphasized education."

Segundo was born in Matanzas, Cuba. In the 1940s his father came alone to the United States, where he first learned of The University of Tampa from a colleague.

"My father came back to Cuba for

a visit and told me if I finished school, I could come to the U.S. and attend college at UT," Segundo said. "I was very involved in politics in Cuba, so at the time, school was not so important to me."

However, he decided to accept his dad's offer. When he arrived in Tampa, he went straight to UT and enrolled.

It was a new world for the young immigrant. He spoke very little English and was accepted on condition he prove he could be academically successful.

Not only did he prove himself capable, he became a student leader as junior class president, vice president of inter-fraternity and sorority council, and president of Rho Nu Delta fraternity. Upon graduation, Segundo was awarded the UT Achievement Medal for Leadership, the first undergraduate to receive this honor.

Segundo had another surprise waiting for him at UT; he met Connie Felicione '56, his late wife to whom he was married for 49 years. The couple had three children, Ernest Jr., Stephen and Tara Marie.

With a degree in hand, Segundo secured a position with Mosaic Tile as a sales trainee for Latin America. He ultimately landed a job with Continental Oil Company (Conoco) and held a number of positions focusing on international sales and marketing.

In 1984, he joined Vista Chemical Company and was responsible for new business development, marketing and monitoring economic and political developments in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 1990, he retired and has focused much of his energy on supporting UT.

Segundo is a former member of the Board of Fellows, and in 1997, joined UT's Board of Trustees. He is trustee emeritus and on the board of the National Alumni Association. In 2002 he was selected for the *Esse Quam Videri* Outstanding Alumni Award.

While giving generously to the University, Segundo decided to include UT in his estate plans by making a gift through an insurance policy.

"I wish more people would consider a gift that would benefit the University," he said. "I've encouraged others to make a gift and will continue to do so."

When they are not involved in UT activities, Segundo and his wife, Carol, spend much time traveling across the county as well as abroad.



Ernest Segundo '56  
is an enthusiastic  
UT supporter.



Need more information  
about Planned Giving?  
Contact Cindy L. Tully,  
Planned Giving Officer  
[ctully@ut.edu](mailto:ctully@ut.edu)  
(813) 258-7373



## New Scholarship to Support Vets

AARON HENDRY MBA '82 HAS contributed to UT since he completed his degree more than 30 years ago. From 2000 to 2007, he was a member of the Board of Fellows.

But as a veteran who sustained an injury during his service to his country, Hendry always wanted to support an incoming MBA student who is a veteran, or is the child of a veteran, who has served in and been honorably discharged from a branch of the United States military service.

This year Hendry made that a

reality by providing funding for an endowed scholarship.

"I am very proud of my MBA from The University of Tampa," he said. "Not everyone has the same opportunities I had, and I want to do something to help another veteran receive an MBA from one of the best programs in the country."

Candidates with service-related injuries will be given preference in the awarding of the scholarship.

Hendry's professional career began in his mid-teens when he served as a

deckhand on a company tug. Today he serves as president of Hendry Corporation and Gulf Marine Repair. Hendry holds a civil engineering degree from Georgia Tech, is a registered professional engineer, is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Florida Engineering Society, and actively participates in various maritime-related organizations.

For more information about endowed scholarships, contact the Office of Development and University Relations at (813) 253-6220.

## GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

*Gifts made from Sept. 24, 2013–Jan. 22, 2014.*

### In Honor

**ELIZABETH BERKOWITZ**

Jane Elkins

**JULIE BOSTICK**

J. Stewart Bryan

**THE CHISELERS**

Steve and Marsha Dickey

**ELIZABETH GUSTAFSON**

Raymond and Christine Gustafson

**ELLA BETH LAIRD**

**HURST**

Janet Passman

**MEN'S LACROSSE**

Amy Smith

**ALISSA PRICE '09**

Larry and Diane Price

**JILL ROSENBLUM '13**

Lee and Barry

Rosenblum

**BOB RUDAY**

Anonymous

Mark Ruday

Sean Ruday

Clara Szydlowski

Diane Taninecz

**ERNEST SEGUNDO SR. '56**

Marion Wheeler

**DR. JEFFREY SKOWRONEK**

Joan and Jay Skowronek

**BRIAN SMITH '95**

Nancy and Roger Cohen

**A.C. VAN DUSEN**

Sara Van Dusen

### In Memoriam

**LAURA BENTLEY**

The Chiselers Inc.

**BARBARA ELIZABETH CASEY**

Karen Casey

**CLAIRE DOWNES '49**

Alan Downes

**FRANK AND FRANCES**

**FILEWICZ**

Renatta Cochran

**H. BRADFORD GRAHAM III**

William Guerriero '68

**JOAN GRUNERT**

Thomas Bernadzikowski '78

**WILLIAM A. KRUSEN SR.**

Fred MBA '88 and Diane

LeHeup

**DOTTIE MACKINNON**

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

**SUE MCCORD**

Judith Perlow

**BRUCE MILLER**

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

**REV. PAUL AUSTIN**

**PERRINE JR. '59**

R. Ann Perrine

**DR. RICHARD R. POWELL '39**

Bruce Powell

**BRAULIO RAMIL**

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

**MACK ROGERS**

Craig Hodge '99

**KITTY LEVY SHELDON '82**

Ben Sheldon

**JOAN SCHABACKER**

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

**RYAN SHUCK '04**

Justin Cole '05, MBA '08

**TIMOTHY SMITH**

Nancy and Roger Cohen

**DR. ANNE MEADE**

**STOCKDELL-GIESLER**

Helen Johnston

Michele McPherson

Mary Beth Murphy

Julie Scoggin

**SPENCER WALKER**

David and Suzanne

Meachum

Thomas '81, MBA '93 and

Kathryn MBA '00

Meachum

Vicki Meachum '85

**SCOTT WELTON**

Deborah Welton

**CONGRESSMAN BILL**

**YOUNG**

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

## NEW ENDOWMENTS

Aaron W. Hendry Endowed Scholarship

Bob Ruday Servant Leadership Endowed Award

**Note:** The Merchants Association of Florida has changed its name to Sherloq Solutions. Its two endowments at UT are now called the Sherloq Solutions Endowed Scholarship and the Sherloq Solutions Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Richard Swirbul.





Joan Jones '59 is seated in the Plant Museum wearing a replica dress a school teacher might have worn in 1891.

the annual fund

## Building Memories

IN FEBRUARY 1955, JOAN JONES '59 SAW her first Gasparilla parade. Jones was from the small town of Bryan, OH, and had been invited by Lucile King, UT's dean of women and Jones' former Sunday school teacher, to come down and experience Tampa and the University.

From that first visit, Jones was in love. She picked out a room in the residence hall during that trip, then went home to break the news to her family that she was moving 1,100 miles south.

Jones had been working for two years, since graduating from high school, to save up money to one day go to college. She had no financial support on her journey to UT, but knew in her heart it was the place for her.

So in August, Jones packed a single trunk and her life savings and settled into her new home on the 3rd floor of Plant Hall. Jones didn't waste any time getting involved on campus. She pledged to be a member of Alpha Chi Omega and joined the Dancerettes

to march alongside the Spartan band.

She quickly adjusted to life on campus, trying to please the house mother by being on time for weekday 10 p.m. curfew and never wearing her Dancerette shorts in the lobby of Plant Hall (a big dress code violation at the time).

"One of my favorite things about UT has always been the traditions," Jones said. "We didn't have air conditioning or a lot of the fancy frills the University has today, but it didn't matter. We were a family."

Jones smiled as she remembered wearing her "freshman beanie," a wool cap all freshmen had to don until the Spartans won their first football game.

But among all the fun, there was lots of studying and learning, too. Jones graduated in 1959 with an education major, and minors in English and art. She immediately lined up a job as a teacher in Tampa, where 40 years later, she finished her career.

"I retired in 1999, and a friend and fellow Spartan, Frances Barksdale '53,

asked me to volunteer at the H.B. Plant Museum for the Victorian Christmas Stroll. I fell in love with UT all over again," said Jones. "The museum is an important part of preserving not just the history of the Tampa Bay Hotel, but the history of UT. I tell everyone I lived in this building; it has been way more than a hotel and a museum."

In January 2000, Jones joined the volunteer counsel for the museum. Since then, she has logged more than 7,000 volunteer hours — the most in the museum's history. She is also an active member of The Chiselers and Friends of Plant Park. In addition, Jones has been a very loyal donor to the UT Annual Fund.

"I made my first gift to UT as a thank you and in memory of Lucile King, who played such an important role in my life," said Jones. "She used to tell all the students here at UT, 'My office, my home and my heart are always open to you.' I wanted to honor her."

Like many students still do today, Jones had a special connection to a lot of her professors and the staff at UT. She fondly remembers English class with Howard Baker and hearing Leo O'Hare recite *Casey at the Bat*.

"I owe everything to this University. I wouldn't have been a teacher for 40 years without UT. I give back now to help pave the path for the future generations," said Jones. "I am happy to say UT has a better reputation today than it did when I was a student. We have to rely on the next generation to make sure it's here in another 50 years and continues to improve. My hope is that everyone impacted by UT will give in any capacity they can to make sure future generations can build their own memories here."



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





## OUT FOR A SPIN

Long before UT implemented its free bicycle rental program, BikeUT, Robert "B.D." Owens (left), who was UT's president from June 1971 to July 1977, took a two-wheeled ride of campus. Anyone who recognizes the gentleman riding with Owens can email [publicinfo@ut.edu](mailto:publicinfo@ut.edu).



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**DIFFERENCE**

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(Florida residents only.)

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license plate (in addition to  
the regular tag fee), \$25 goes  
toward funding scholarships and  
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To learn more about the UT license plate, call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at  
(813) 253-6209 or email [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu).





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Students volunteered their time and energy at Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful's Florida Learning Garden at the Florida State Fairgrounds — and at four other area nonprofits — during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January.

