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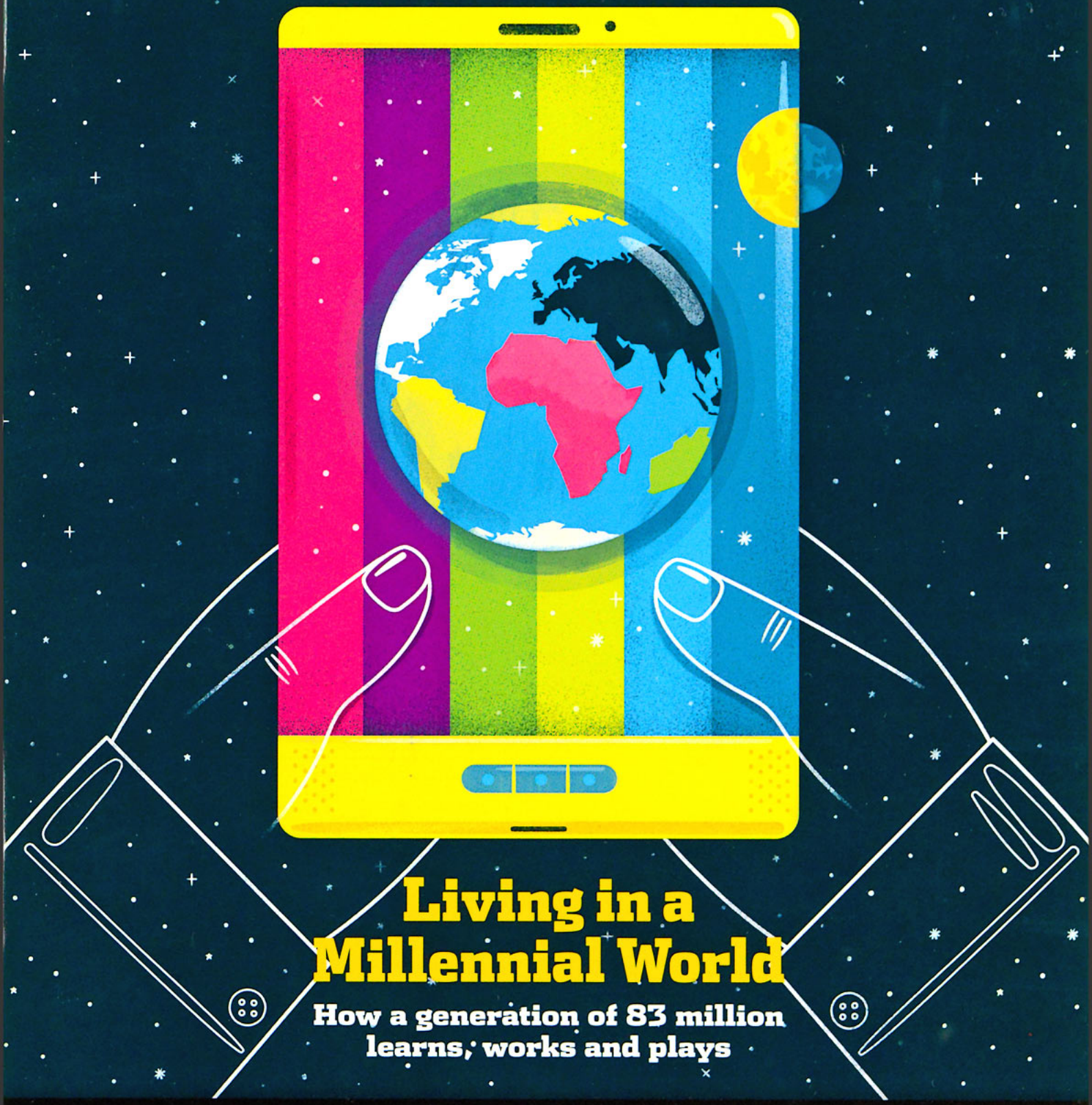

Living in a Millennial World

How a generation of 83 million learns, works and plays

PLUS: CREATING TOMORROW CAMPAIGN UPDATE page 33

Pointing Toward Perfection

Aside from Plant Hall's minarets, one of Tampa's most unique landmarks is but steps away in Plant Park.

There, seven, 36-foot tall pillars of quarter-inch steel plate point skyward, surrounded by fountains and a raised brick platform. Everyone knows the sculpture by its name, *Tampa/Sticks of Fire!*, but few remember its origins.

The sculpture was funded by a $100,000 grant from GTE Florida (now Verizon), but the seven pillars represent seven families who, in 1980, anonymously gave $2.5 million as a confidence gift to UT. The sculpture was dedicated in January 1984 by then-UT President Richard Cheshire during the annual Minaret Society Dinner, and was part of a greater plan to restore Plant Park.

The sculpture was designed and created by artist O.V. Shaffer, who had twice been an artist-in-residence at UT, and currently lives in Illinois.

At that time, Cheshire explained the name *Sticks of Fire!* is the legendary meaning of the word "Tampa," but also that the sculpture represents the mission of the University, by symbolizing "striving for the ideal of perfection ... The sculpture points the way to being nearly perfect — which is what we are trying to help our students to do."

The sculpture's dedication occurred just before my arrival to UT as a professor. I've always been moved by not only the beauty and symbolic nature of the sculpture — and its unique reference to Tampa and its meteorological repute as lightning capital of the U.S. — but by those seven families it represents.

It's important to understand this $2.5 million confidence gift was made during some of UT's darkest days. These were days when UT was struggling with enrollment and maintaining an aging physical plant, and also trying to mold its niche in higher education. At the same time, downtown Tampa was struggling, as businesses and retailers nationwide were fleeing city centers for malls and suburbs.

But these seven families persevered. They believed in UT and its mission, and its future as a model, metropolitan university. Even more, they knew Tampa needed a university in its downtown core.

Fast forward 30-plus years, and you can see what that sort of commitment has yielded. Today, UT is that model university that these families — and many more people — envisioned. I think we can say we do help our students seek perfection — in all aspects of their lives.

Recently *Sticks of Fire!* was given a facelift *(see page 7)*. The fountains are working again after a decade hiatus, the pedestal has been cleaned and repaired, and Plant Park itself continues to be a comfortable place for the UT community and the public to relax.

As we move forward in the capital campaign *(see update, page 33)*, we can look toward *Sticks of Fire!* and be reminded about how important it is to have a dream and a vision, and how critical gifts can be to the University — big or small. What we are building today will be remembered many years into the future as critical to UT's success. We are, in fact, creating tomorrow.

I urge you to consider your own legacy contribution to help UT become an even more special place for the generations to come.

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SPRING 2016 VOL. XXXI, NO. 3

contents

features

cover story

10 The Mind of a Millennial
With the world quite literally at their fingertips, millennials are changing the way we communicate, teach, work and learn.

profile

16 Writer to Writer
Amy Hill Hearth '82 and Jen Miller '02 sit down to discuss their paths as writers and the stories behind their latest books.

21 Summer(Reading)time
Looking for a good book to take to the beach, the lake or the pool? UT faculty recommend some great reads to beat the heat.

special campaign section

33 Your Impact is Everywhere
How Creating Tomorrow is securing UT's future and strengthening the way students are prepared to lead successful and meaningful lives.

About the cover: The millennial generation has unlimited access to information and an unprecedented platform for broadcasting their opinions (and themselves) to the world. Illustration by Shaw Nielsen.

2 news of note
Students strategize for Starbucks, art therapy students in the community, research finds link between sex and body comparison, hockey goes to nationals

24 alumni report
Gasparilla Brunch recap, help create the new alumni directory, Spartan Spotlights and Class Acts

43 brick by brick
Drew Mohr '63 on his time at UT, his career and what he's doing these days

48 minaret moment
An earlier chapter in the campus store's history

news of note

Starbucks recently opened a store in UT's Innovation and Collaboration Building.

Spartan Blend

UT students brew up original business strategies for Starbucks

It's not often that students get to suggest business strategies to one of the world's most recognized coffee brands. But that's exactly what Starbucks is offering to business majors.

Starbucks is allowing the approximately 350 senior-level students to group in 70 teams to pitch business ideas to Starbucks leaders in a case study competition. The student teams will be tasked with considering all facets of the multi-national corporation and come up with innovations to strengthen the Starbucks business.

Professors will pick the top six proposals, and the public, through social media, will be able to vote on which of the six ideas they like the most. Starbucks leaders will ultimately choose which group's plan is the most creative, realistic and best presented.

Throughout the semester, the teams will get two, 15-minute opportunities to privately interview Starbucks leaders, who will be following the students' process using #UTampa and #UTampaStarbucks on Twitter and Instagram.

The competition began on Friday, Jan. 22, when Starbucks leaders addressed the students and gave them a company overview.

On April 29, the six top teams will present their ideas to Starbucks leaders, who will choose first and second place winners.

The case study competition is a regular feature of the Sykes College of Business class Practical Strategic Assessment. The case study competition was started in the spring of 2008 and has been held every semester since then. Participating companies have included Mr. Empanada, College Hunks Hauling Junk, OneTouch Direct and United Way Suncoast.

Jody Tompson, professor of management and director of the UT Naimoli Institute for Business Strategy, said the competition is great experience for business students, and allows students to get real world experience dealing with strategic thinking in a competitive marketplace.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Starbucks to provide UT students with a one-of-a-kind learning opportunity," Tompson said. "I think Starbucks will be overwhelmed by the quality of the ideas that are presented in April."

Starbucks, which recently opened a store on the first floor of UT's new Innovation and Collaboration Building, currently has 23,571 stores in 70 countries around the world with more than 300,000 partners that wear the green apron globally.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER LAUDED

The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center in the Sykes College of Business was awarded the National Model Program Award for undergraduate entrepreneurship programs by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship®. The center also received the Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation Award by the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers.

"We use art tools and symbolism to discover what may be going on internally with someone."

– MERRILEE JORN, INSTRUCTOR IN UT'S ART THERAPY PROGRAM

Finding Ways to Communicate, Heal Through Art

One afternoon last fall, Michelle Torrech '16 asked an art class full of pre-teen girls to imagine they were a famous artist. They discussed professionals like Picasso, van Gogh and Warhol, and then she set them creatively free to create their own masterpiece, which they had to present and explain to the class at the end of the session.

"The discussions were the best part," said Torrech, an art therapy major who interned last semester at the centre4girls, a nonprofit center that utilizes art to empower girls. "The exercise creates self-confidence, which was evident in their faces. Others who were listening were asking meaningful questions. It definitely motivates me."

Art therapy is "a vehicle for communications that uses art for its medium," explained Merrilee Jorn, an instructor in the program who is past president of the Florida Art Therapy Association and executive director of Arts for Health Florida.

Jorn sees art therapy's use in a variety of ways, from veterans with PTSD to children with autism. "We use art tools and symbolism to discover what may be going on internally with someone," she said.

Jenny Asaro '16, an art therapy major from Huntington Station, NY, said "the most important aspect of art therapy is it can be used as an alternative or supplement to pharmaceutical therapy, as a tool to encourage self-confidence and self-efficacy," adding its versatility for populations and locations from schools and mental health programs to detention centers.

Torrech came to UT from Puerto Rico, which doesn't offer the program in its schools. UT is the only school in Florida that offers the art therapy undergraduate major. Jorn explained there are online programs, but it can often be difficult to find supervisors for the required in-person experiences.

"All of my aunts are art teachers, and I like the psychology major," said Torrech, who interviewed a practicing art therapist who worked with her father to see if she'd like the career. "I read about art therapy and researched it, and since I like helping people, it seemed like a good fit."

The program at UT started around 1995 and lived under both psychology and the art therapy realms. As the field has transitioned from a mental health treatment to more preventative in nature, UT was ahead of the curve.

"What is remarkable are the relationships we have with the hospitals like Moffitt Cancer Center, and we're already in the wellness paradigm," said Professor Jack King, who has been a champion for the program since its inception. "We're putting students in internships at excellent hospitals with great supervisors, and we have a 100 percent placement rate for undergraduate students in graduate programs."

Torrech isn't the only intern at the centre4girls. UT's art therapy program has been partnering with the nonprofit since its director, Gabrielle Perham '02, MBA '11, took over in August 2014. In addition to art therapy interns, Perham has hosted both psychology and dance interns, too.

"Our interns have been very insightful and dedicated. They develop the lessons and pretty much run the show," Perham said. "They add great value to the center."

UT students lead pre-teens at the centre4girls in creating stepping stones.

Sex + Body Comparisons May Add Up to Poor Body Image

"What does she have that I don't?" If you hear your teenage or college-aged daughter making sentiments such as that, you might start getting concerned about her body image.

While some research has shown a link between sexual activity and decreased body satisfaction among female young adults, a new UT study went a step further and examined whether the act of comparing one's body to others' influences the relationship between sexual activity and body dissatisfaction.

The researchers found that sexual activity, in and of itself, is not damaging to body image. Rather, it is the combination of sexual activity and frequent appearance-focused comparisons that is detrimental.

"If you are a sexually active woman in your early 20s/late teens, you might be more likely to look at the bodies of other women and compare yours to theirs negatively," said Erin Koterba, UT assistant professor of psychology and one of the two research authors. "We think educating young women about this tendency might help attenuate harmful consequences on body image."

The research, which is currently being reviewed for publication in the *Journal of Adult Development*, surveyed 75 female college freshmen. The survey assessed current and past sexual activity, how frequently the students had compared their bodies to others' bodies in the past week and asked the participants to identify features they disliked about their own bodies.

Interestingly, the research found a significant relationship between the frequency of appearance-focused comparisons and body dissatisfaction, but only for females who reported being currently sexually active. Appearance-focused comparisons were not significantly related to body dissatisfaction for females who reported being sexually inactive.

"Sexual activity during emerging adulthood puts females at greater risk of making appearance-based comparisons, and these comparisons are, in turn, detrimental to their body image," said Cynthia Gangi, UT assistant professor of psychology and the research co-author.

For parents with teenage and college-aged daughters, the researchers stressed the importance of parent-child communication, particularly around sexual activity, social comparisons and how they might make young people feel about their own bodies.

"Engaging in comparisons themselves might not be such a big deal for body image, and being sexually active alone might not be such a big deal for body image," Koterba added. "But they work together in interesting ways."

Gangi and Koterba are conducting follow-up research to help determine more about the specific nature of these comparisons.

A STAMP OF APPROVAL

The University has earned regional reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for a term of 10 years, the maximum length of time that it can be awarded. The commission's decision was based on a self-study report by UT and a three-day campus visit last February by a SACSCOC evaluation team composed of faculty and administrators from peers in the region. The University has been accredited by SACSCOC since 1951.

UT Receives Grant to Study Tampa's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

How do cities and governments leverage their resources to build successful entrepreneurial environments? And how can Tampa develop a culture and environment that promotes and rewards entrepreneurship?

These are questions UT will answer thanks to a recently announced $150,000 grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Rebecca White, professor of entrepreneurship and director of the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center, said a main goal of the grant is to provide compelling evidence of how individuals and institutions interact with the Tampa Bay environment to facilitate start-ups.

"This opportunity to showcase the Tampa Bay region as a model entrepreneurship ecosystem and work with the Kauffman Foundation and other accomplished scholars to develop an algorithm to measure these kinds of systems is very exciting for the faculty and staff of the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center," White said.

The grant will provide a foundation to present the entrepreneurial ecosystem's factors that are driving entrepreneurship in the Tampa Bay region. White added that understanding what factors serve as either a barrier or trigger to entrepreneurship is important in order to enact appropriate policy initiatives to promote venturing activity.

"The findings of our study will be of immediate use to Tampa Bay region policy makers who can act to reduce barriers to the creation and development of transformative new companies," White said. "For example, Tampa Bay may need to act to reduce bureaucratic costs and red tape associated with starting new businesses, and to build infrastructure of venture finance and angel investor networks."

Toward the end of the grant period, UT will host a launch event in September 2016 to include a panel of individuals who can comment on the report and the Tampa Bay entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Rebecca White, Ph.D.

The University is certainly doing its part to help drive entrepreneurship in the Tampa Bay region.

The 2016 class of the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list included the cofounders of Tembo Education: Phil Michaels '10, MBA '15, Ulixes Hawili '17, Samantha Taranto '15, Sercan Topcu M.S. '14 and Brent Caramanica '16. Housed in the Entrepreneurship Center's Community Incubator, Tembo Education brings early childhood learning into the homes of thousands of families in developing countries.

In addition, entrepreneurship major Matthew Sarli '16 was recently named to the 2016 cohort of the Future Founders Fellowship, a year-long program offered by Future Founders, a nonprofit organization that fosters the entrepreneurial spirit among youth. Sarli is leading a group of three other students, Ali Austin '16, Anthony Pabst '15 and Max Coulls '16, in developing Spartan Grip, a foam attachment to increase grip and aid in diminished dexterity.

SHAPING UP Construction of the new Fitness and Recreation Center is well underway, and the facility is on track to open in time for the Fall 2016 semester. You can view a live Web cam of the construction site at www.ut.edu/construction.

Bequest Helps Restore Music Room to its Glory Days

Enter the Plant Hall Music Room these days, and you'll be transported back to the way the room looked during the building's time as the Tampa Bay Hotel.

This transformation is thanks to a renovation led by The Chiselers, a volunteer organization dedicated to the preservation of the 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel (now known as Plant Hall).

During the two-year, $300,000 project, 70 years of paint and vinyl wallpaper were stripped from the walls. Two layers of wood floors were removed, the concrete slab reinforced and new Celtis wood floors installed. The floor-to-ceiling windows were restored and are now all operational. And the broken balcony railings were repaired.

The piece de resistance? The reproduction of *Wine, Women and Song*, a seven-panel painting that used to hang in the room as a backdrop for the orchestra. The original painting, created in the late 19th century by German artist Paul Stodt, today hangs in the Plant Museum. It was photographed by local photographer Alex McKnight, reprinted on canvas and custom framed by Specialized Services Group to once again hang over the stage.

The project was made possible thanks to a bequest from the estate of Emily and Ashby Moody, who left their estate to The Chiselers.

"It is only fitting that the Chiselers chose to restore this room in memory of Emily and Ashby Moody. It symbolizes their love of music and theater," said Chiselers president Pat Keel.

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.

"The Chiselers have contributed much to ensure that this building remains in the heart and soul of our community," said Keel.

The Music Room was dedicated on Feb. 7, which also happened to be the hotel's 125th anniversary. The theme for the event? Wine, Women and Song.

Restorations included reproducing *Wine, Women and Song*, a seven-panel painting that used to serve as a backdrop for the orchestra.

IT'S SMOKE-FREE AT UT

Beginning on Aug. 1, the University will join the growing list of U.S. colleges and universities to ban all smoking and tobacco use on campus.

The policy bans smoking and use of tobacco of all types, including electronic cigarettes, chew tobacco, hookah, cigar and cigarette smoking. It includes all students, employees — including contractors — and visitors.

Smoking has long been prohibited in UT's buildings, and since 2013, UT had limited smoking to designated zones on campus.

Gina Firth, associate dean of wellness, said the new smoke-free policy was intended for the "health, safety, wellness and benefit of our students." She added that it appears that smoking has decreased on campus since the implementation of the smoke zone policy in 2013, and the new smoke- and tobacco-free policy is the next logical step to benefit the UT community.

"Our goal is to create and promote a healthy campus that will foster teaching, learning, working and living," Firth said. "This initiative will have a positive impact in many ways, including enhanced community life, improved productivity through better health and potential decreases in health care costs."

Along with senior university administrators, the student organization Breathe-Easy UT helped craft the new policy.

Sticks of Fire! Reignited

Whether or not Tampa is the lightning capital of the U.S. may be disputed, but it goes without saying that the *Tampa/Sticks of Fire!* sculpture in Plant Park continues to be one of Tampa's most renowned works of public art. Yet after 32 years, a facelift was due. The fountains surrounding the sculpture are working again after a more than decade-long hiatus, the sculpture is fully illuminated and the pedestal has been cleaned and repaired. The old, high hedges surrounding the sculpture and fountain were removed, making it more visible from the street and throughout the park. For more history of the sculpture, see the President's Message on the inside front cover.

spartan sports

Piagno and Team USA became the first country to win the gold medal for women's baseball in the Pan Am Games.

Girls of Summer

Alumna Dominates Women's Baseball

Throughout her time at UT, Stacy Piagno '13 played softball for the Spartans during the school year. But each summer she returned to her first love: baseball.

And this past summer, she made history as part of the USA Women's Baseball team.

The 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto were the first to include women's baseball. With both the offense and defense playing with focus in every match up, Piagno and Team USA became the first country to win the gold medal for women's baseball in the Pan Am Games.

"Winning gold was like nothing I have experienced. It has been the highlight of my athletic career thus far," Piagno said. "Playing in Toronto has been one of the largest stages I have been on. Not only did I get to pitch in the gold medal game against Canada, but I also pitched a no hitter against Puerto Rico a few games earlier."

The no-hitter against Puerto Rico was not just any no-hitter in the Pan Am Games or in baseball in general. This no-hitter was the first entire game no-hitter in the team's history.

The opportunity to play for Team USA first came her junior year of high school. Piagno heard tryouts would be open in 2007-2008, so she decided to give it a shot. She made the first cut and got into the top 40. Unfortunately, the team did not go on to play in the International Baseball Federation's (IBAF) World Cup that year.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF USA BASEBALL

She returned to tryouts once again in 2011-2012 and made the team. It was that year that Piagno got to play in her first World Cup in Edmonton, Canada. With the event occurring every two years, her next showing at the World Cup was in Miyazaki, Japan, in 2014. Both years resulted in second place for the USA team.

Born in 1991 in Yulee, FL, Piagno grew up playing baseball, starting at age 5 when her dad signed her up for little league. Her dad played a vital role in developing her love for America's pastime.

"It was always a fun sport to play, and as I grew older it became a passion for me," she explained.

Playing a male-dominated sport did not stop or detour her. It only fueled her drive and made it that much more important for her to show her incredible talent to everyone.

"Growing up playing against the boys, I always had to prove myself twice as hard," Piagno said. "In order for me to be successful, this had to be something I was passionate about and something I had to work at to constantly improve."

In high school, she played on the baseball team alongside her brother at Pedro Menendez High School in St. Augustine, FL. Piagno was the only girl on the team and began her career as a pitcher.

After graduating in 2009, she began her college career at Flagler College, but soon transferred to UT and made the switch to softball.

"UT had a great softball program, as well as athletics in general. They were also offering my specific major — graphic design," said Piagno. "I loved UT. As an athlete, my team became my family. I was always surrounded by great people."

Several of her fondest memories at the University come from the softball field, weight room and the cafeteria.

"Us girls could eat," said Piagno with a laugh. "In fact, one funny memory I have came from my first year at UT before I knew anyone. One of the rules we had on the team was no sweets. Well, I was at a wedding with my coach, and they passed out cupcakes after dinner. I didn't know how strict this rule was, because I ate the cupcake right in front of my coach, and she jokingly took pictures. The next day we had to run for it."

Piagno's nickname for the next two years: Cupcake.

These days, Piagno works part-time as a graphic designer and is also working on obtaining an elementary teaching certificate. She intends to continue playing baseball as long as she possibly can, until the day she is ready to settle down and start a family of her own.

In the meantime, Piagno is an inspiration to young girls who dream of playing sports that are dominated by boys. Women have a long legacy in baseball, a legacy of which Piagno is now a part.

— Emily Stoops

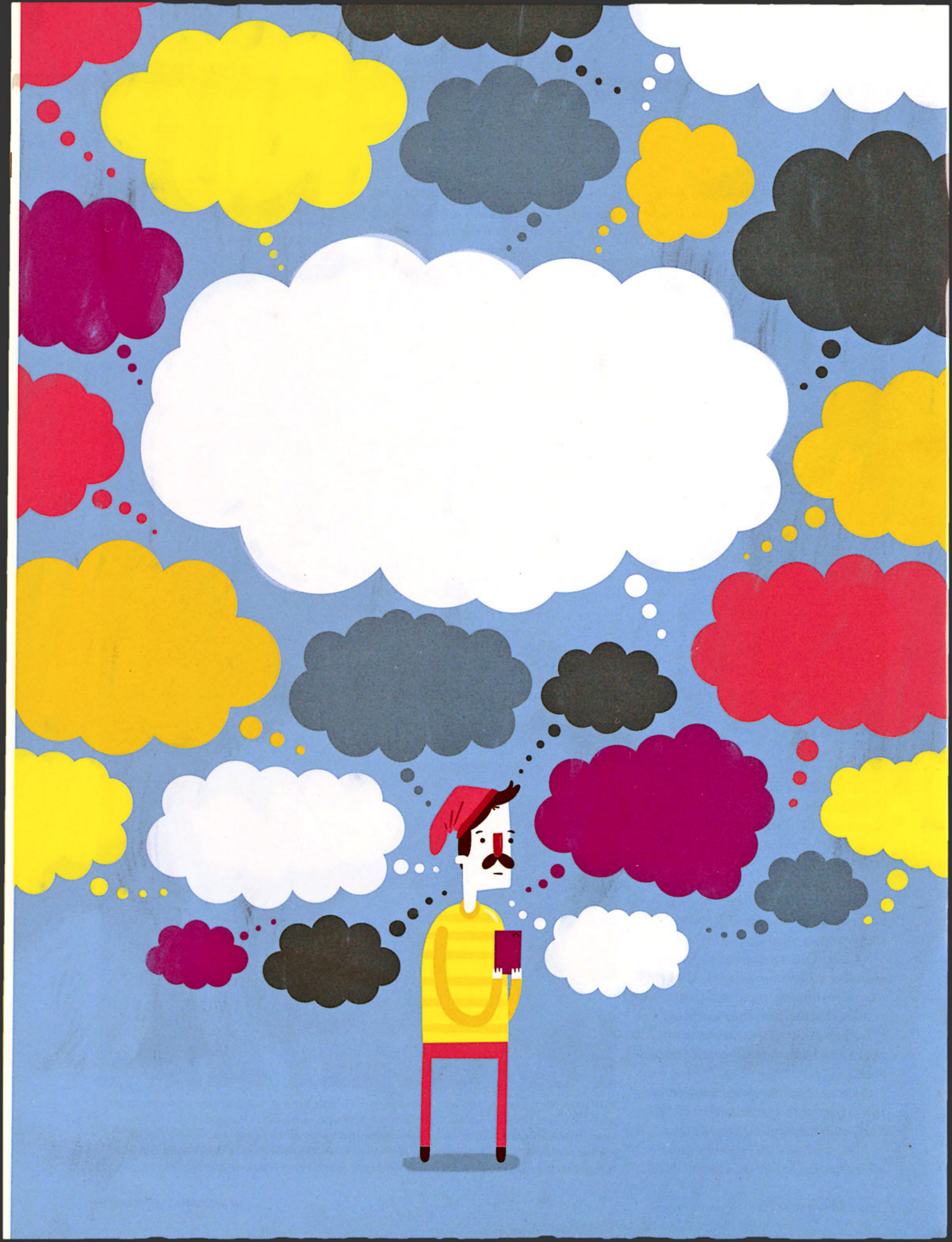
HOCKEY GOES TO NATIONALS

In March, the UT ice hockey club team, who ranked No. 2 in the South Region of the American College Hockey Association Division 3 all season, traveled to Grand Rapids, MI, to compete for the Division 3 national championship.

UT lost tight contests against Aquinas College and Fairfield University. In its final game, UT bounced back and dominated the No. 1 seed in its bracket, Colorado State University, beating them handily 6-1.

The Spartans finished the season with a record of 25-6-1, plus one overtime loss.

PLAY BALL For the second consecutive season, Major League Baseball spring training action began with the UT Spartans facing off against the Philadelphia Phillies in an exhibition matchup. After a historic victory over the Phillies in 2015, the Spartans fell by an 8-3 score to the Phillies this season. Catcher Michael Kleinman '18 connected on a two-run double down the left field line to bring in teammates Cody deNoyelles '16 and Zion Bell '16 (No. 21, pictured here) in a three-run third inning for Tampa.



the mind of a millennial

BY MICHELLE BEARDEN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAW NIELSEN

A look at one of history's most researched, mystifying and intriguing generations

Obviously distressed, the student approached Monnie Wertz with a printout of back-and-forth text messages. "Would you mind looking at these?" she asked. "I'm worried about this girl who lives down the hall from me." Wertz, assistant to the vice president of operations and planning at UT, said coming to her office was the right call. The girl down the hall was expressing suicidal feelings in her texts.

But when Wertz asked if she had walked to the girl's room and had a face-to-face conversation, the student was taken aback.

"Why would I?" she asked.

And so it goes with the millennial mindset. Why talk when you can text?

"If it sounds a little crazy to us," she says, "you have to understand it is business as usual for them. They have a different communication platform. And face it, we're all living together now, so we all have to adapt."

Indeed, adapting is essential if college professors want to teach effectively, if employers want to hire and maintain good workers, and if family units are to survive and thrive in the future, because millennials now are 83 million strong, the largest population group in the country. They're going to comprise more than one in three adult Americans by the year 2020.

And arguably, this generation is history's most researched, mystifying and intriguing.

At 31, Jacquelyn Deptula is a millennial, but she frequently does not relate to her own generation.

"I don't understand how conflict, whether it's with a teacher or a roommate, has been reduced to a series of emails. I tell them that won't fly in the grown-up world. If you want to get a problem solved, address it in person," says Deptula, an assistant director of Residence Life at UT.

Deptula sees a lack of patience amongst her millennial students — they want answers *now*.

"Maybe it's because they've grown up in an on-demand culture where there's always a sense of urgency," she says.

UT senior Erica Casbar agrees. She calls herself "the worst texter in the world." When she doesn't answer a text immediately, the sender thinks she's mad or ignoring them.

"Everything has become so impersonal," says Casbar, 22, a graphic design major from Pipersville, PA. "What's wrong with picking up the phone and calling someone so you can actually talk to each other?"

EVERYTHING IS NEGOTIABLE

In the college setting — especially a private university like UT — professors and administrators grapple with a sense of entitlement in some of their millennial students.

Chris Gurrie, assistant professor of speech, has another term for it: Everything is negotiable.

"I get this attitude of, 'So what if I'm late by a week to turn in my paper? My mom and dad paid big money for me to be here.' It's as if they feel they've got a say in the rules, because

the millennial age

Every generation has been defined and scrutinized by historians and sociologists.

Gen X, the group before millennials, was populated by the "latchkey" kids raised by working parents. They grew up with MTV and got an early rap as slackers and disenfranchised. Many ended up "boomeranging" as adults back to their parents' homes when their careers or marriages sputtered. On the plus side, they're considered the happiest, most balanced and highest educated group.

Baby boomers, who preceded them, were the nonconformists, going against social norms of the day. They triggered the sexual revolution, championed a renewed interest in women's rights and experimented with drugs. They led war protests and raised the alarm on the environment. And when it came to music, they ushered in rock 'n roll, a genre still going strong today.

Researchers offer varying opinions about when the millennial age began, but the most accepted model comes from historians William Strauss and Neil Howe. The authors of *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*, they generally describe millennials as people born from 1982 to 2004. That would cover most of the student population at UT.

To complicate things further, this is a generation of subgroups, or microgenerations. Older millennials, in their late 20s and early 30s, still have some connections to Generation X, and don't always align with their younger counterparts.

they're paying your salary," Gurrie says. "Some students just figure they can meet later to work out something on their own terms."

Maybe that attitude rankles authority figures. But it could serve millennials well in the workplace. Gurrie says he envisions today's students having no fear of taking on CEOs of major companies.

"I can see them partnering with the big dudes with this approach: You may have the experience and money, but you need my ideas," Gurrie says.

When it comes to entitlement, Jake Van Loon '16 acknowledges his good fortune. Most of his schooling has been paid for by the GI bill, made possible by his father's service in the Navy.

"You can never lose your gratitude. Only when you forget that does entitlement take over," says Van Loon, 22, who hails from Simsbury, CT. "I've been handed a lot, and I know it's a blessing. So I'm going to make the most of it."

Van Loon says his generation has a "constant rejection of parochialism," and millennials don't like it when people are set in their ways and rely just on past experience.

Indeed, in the classroom setting Gurrie sees an urgent need for professors and instructors to adjust to this generation. The old-school way of traditional lectures with blackboards and films no longer capture the attention or imagination of this age group.

"Death by PowerPoint," he says. "Students are flat-out bored with our conventional methods of teaching. The amount of information available to a person today is unprecedented. And they can get to it with a few taps on their phones. So what can we do to engage them in a way that's meaningful?"

Gurrie no longer uses PowerPoint. Instead, he relies on group discussions for student interaction. And in the shortened summer sessions where

"Students are flat-out bored with our conventional methods of teaching. The amount of information available to a person today is unprecedented. And they can get it with a few taps on their phones. So what can we do to engage them in a way that's meaningful?"

—CHRIS GURRIE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPEECH

classes are much smaller, he creates a private Facebook page for his speech courses. Students connect through the social media site, where they can post their class videos, discuss the week's lesson and, ultimately, learn more about each other.

"By the time we get together in the classroom, they're more comfortable with each other," he says. "It's the same principle with the way they date. You chat back and forth with technology before taking the next step."

PROMISE AND POTENTIAL

Undeniably, amongst millennials social media is a vital component to staying connected with friends and family and abreast of global events.

"I can't go a day without looking at it," says Claire Reffitt '19, a communication and criminology and criminal justice double major. "Even with my roommate and I sitting in the same room, we're both on our phones, doing whatever. It's what we grew up with."

Reffitt, of Point Pleasant Boro, NJ, acknowledges that some of her peers spend too much time judging others from what they see and read on their phone and computer screens. Her advice: Get out in the real world.

"You can make a judgment call without ever leaving your room," she says. "But that could mean missed opportunities. I think we're going to have to make the effort to be more engaged with people, because it's just too easy not to be."

As director of Career Services at UT, Mark Colvenbach warns students to be careful what they post to social media; employers can easily track Twitter and Facebook accounts of prospective employees. One of the first exercises he gives students is to do a Google search on their name, and see what pops up.

"That can be pretty eye-opening," he says. "And if it makes them more cautious, then we've succeeded."

In his position, Colvenbach helps students define the assets and contributions they can bring to the table. He stresses the importance of self-branding to stand out in the crowd.

And when they are hired, he tells them to practice a little patience. Some are too quick to jump in and try to take control before paying their dues or understanding the rules.

"About six years ago, I was more frustrated with millennials than I am now," he admits. Now he's learned to embrace all the "promise and potential" they are already demonstrating in the marketplace.

"The truth is, we wanted a lot of the same things — independence, flexibility and the opportunity to be the CEO," he says. "They just have their own way of going after those goals."

Van Loon's goals after he leaves UT in December with a double degree in entrepreneurship and writing, include a job that combines three of his interests: economic research, technological skills and international travel.

"Millennials who have their act together will grind it out if it's something they love," he says. "Our careers are fluid. We love change. You won't see people in my generation get an accounting degree and settle down with the same firm for 40 years."

But graduation won't be the end of his education. He says millennials will be learning all their lives, given their access to information, and will never be attached to a professional label that defines them.

"We're going to be evolving and learning our whole lives," he says. "That's a big plus for us. We are open-minded."

the participant trophy generation

Joe Sclafani, professor of psychology and associate dean for teaching and learning, can't disagree with most of the stereotypes that surround millennials, "though I can always find five exceptions to every rule." When it comes to their flaws, he places a lot of the blame on the parents.

"They were too indulgent. Kids get rewarded just for breathing. The 'participation trophy' issue is very real," Sclafani says. "In their case, success comes before work only in the dictionary."

He also points to a culture that puts celebrities on a pedestal and delivers news in sound bites and infoboxes.

"Our students get their news from Stephen Colbert and TMZ. It's no wonder they know more about the Kardashians and Taylor Swift than Joe Biden," Sclafani says.

His main concern: That they graduate from school with the ability to think critically, communicate clearly and write effectively. That's one of his constant themes with students, and he's pleased that some take that foundation seriously. He would also like to see more parents get out of the way.

"The more their parents shield them, the harder it will be in the real world," he says. "Helicopter parents aren't doing their kids any favors. They shouldn't dictate what degree their kids get. It should be about pursuing your passion."

"A lot of us have big hearts, and we're so passionate about what we believe in ... That passion will go a long way in changing the world. We've got the technology, and we've got the capacity. We're going to make a difference."

—ERICA CASBAR '16

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

A Brookings Institution paper on "How Millennials Could Upend Wall Street and Corporate America" noted that 88 percent of millennials expressed a stronger likelihood they would buy from companies that supported solutions to specific social issues, suggesting they care about the state of the world and feel a responsibility to leave it a better place.

Griffin Guinta '16 is an example of that commitment. He's volunteered at homeless initiatives in both his hometown of Bradenton and Tampa, and traveled solo to Dublin in August on an Honors Program grant to study and write about how that city addresses the issue.

He also joined fellow students last year on a two-week volunteer mission to a program in Oakland, CA, that assists struggling immigrants and low-income children.

Millennials have been accused of being stuck on themselves — and Guinta understands why it looks that way. This generation likes attention and to be validated by others. That explains all the selfies and Instagram postings.

But to paint everyone with a broad brush is wrong, says Giunta.

"There will always be those who put themselves first. But you can't say it's true for everyone," says Giunta, 21, a writing major and editor of UT's student newspaper, *The Minaret*.

For example, he says, "we're not all posting about having fun at the (Tampa Bay) Rays game. We're also posting about the real issues of the day. We're using this platform for meaningful and good reasons, too."

As for the perception that millennials spend much of their waking hours on their phones, Guinta says there's more than meets the eye.

"For the first time, our generation has unlimited access to information," he says. "If we're stuck at an airport or on a long car ride, we can be reading articles or staying on top of the news. Maybe we're watching a YouTube video on how to cook. It's not always a bad thing."

With graduation looming, Guinta admits to being a "little nervous" about his future. But when he ponders what's next, both his sense of adventure and his caring nature play significant roles. He's interested in investigative reporting, or spending a year or two abroad teaching English.

"I think one of the best things you can say about millennials is that we have a lot of curiosity and creativity," he says.

For Casbar, despite all the pejoratives about her generation, she sees a wellspring of good. She believes she's an example of that — juggling a couple of jobs, relying on several loans to help pay for school and making regular visits to her grandparents who live nearby.

"A lot of us have big hearts, and we're so passionate about what we believe in," she says. "That passion will go a long way in changing the world. We've got the technology, and we've got the capacity.

"We're going to make a difference." **UT**

A conversation with Amy Hill Hearth '82 and Jen Miller '02 about writing for a living, writing for fun and that magic place where writing is both.

Writer to Writer

BY CAREN CHESLER PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLIN LENTON

At first glance, Amy Hill Hearth '82 and Jen Miller '02 might seem like they have little in common. Hearth, 57, is a former *New York Times* writer whose bestselling book, *Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years*, was so popular it was turned into a Broadway play and a television movie. She's been writing books — first nonfiction and now novels — ever since. Miller, 22 years Hearth's junior, is a journalist and has spent much of her career writing about running, business and the Jersey Shore.

Their paths first intersected in 2008, when Miller interviewed Hearth about her book *Strong Medicine Speaks* for the *St. Petersburg Times* (now the *Tampa Bay Times*), and the two have been friends ever since.

They email or speak on the phone regularly, are in the same Jersey-based writers' group — and both have books that have come out in the last year. Hearth's book, *Miss Dreamsville and the Lost Heiress of Collier County*, came out last September. Miller's book, *Running: A Love Story*, was released in March.

The two came together recently for lunch at the Turning Point restaurant in Long Branch, NJ, with fellow Jersey writer Caren Chesler, who is also in their writers' group, to discuss their careers and new work.

Miller (left) and Hearth sat down for lunch and a chat at the Turning Point restaurant in Long Branch, NJ.

Though they graduated 20 years apart, Miller (left) and Hearth have bonded over their passion for writing.

Caren: What was your major in college?
Jen: I went to UT for marine biology, but I realized I didn't want to spend all my time in a lab. I also get seasick. I figured English was a safe bet.
Amy: I started out at University of Massachusetts at Amherst as a sociology major, but I couldn't handle the big school. I was hanging out in Tampa with family and not sure what I wanted to do, and my dad said to me one day, "You know, you're always happy when you have a writing assignment."

Caren: You mean a paper for class?
Amy: Right. I hadn't really noticed that. He said, "You really love writing." I said, "Doesn't everyone?" He said, "Are you kidding? Most people hate writing." He suggested I take some writing courses at UT and live with my grandmother for the summer. I did, and I never looked back.

Caren: Was that the moment you knew you wanted to be a writer?
Amy: Yes. I just took it for granted that I loved to write. I had to have someone point it out to me. I got involved in the writing program, and for my senior year, I was editor of the college newspaper.
Jen: I was also editor of the newspaper, but I never thought it was something I wanted to do. I thought, "Who becomes a writer?" I just figured I was doing the newspaper, because it paid for part of my tuition.
Amy: There was a scholarship involved.
Jen: I did an internship in D.C. one summer working for a news service, and I hated it so much, I said I never want to work in newspapers. I just didn't like writing news, and everybody there seemed miserable.

In 2002, while I was in grad school, I met Lisa Underberg through one of my classes in graduate school. She writes for Oprah.

Caren: She's a freelance writer?
Jen: Yes, and she came in and talked to one of my classes, and I was like, "I want to do that." So I started while I was in graduate school.

When I graduated from Rutgers Camden in 2004, the editor of one of the publications I was writing for, *SJ Magazine*, quit to start another magazine. I called the publisher and said, I want her job, and I got it. So then I was officially magazine editor.

Caren: At what age?
Jen: 23. I did that for just under a year. And then they moved us out of our offices in the middle of the night and said, you work from home now. So I was like, this isn't stable. So I went freelance full time. I said I might as well try it now. Somebody told me, you should try it now, because you don't have any responsibilities.

Caren: That was good advice.
Jen: I pretty much wrote whatever anybody would assign me at that point. It was 2005. Everbody had money. I wrote for *Jeep Magazine* before I had a Jeep. I wrote for Publix news magazine. I did whatever anybody asked me to.

Caren: And you've been doing that full time for 11 years now?
Jen: Well, during the recession, things got pretty bad, and I'd just bought my house. It was perfect timing. I lost half my clients. So I went back to work, temporarily, for (my father's) construction company. They were pretty flexible and allowed me to make calls for my freelancing. I interviewed Michael Palin from Monty Python on my lunch break, and afterwards my boss was like, "How was it?"

"HE SAID, 'YOU REALLY LOVE WRITING.' I SAID, 'DOESN'T EVERYONE?' HE SAID, 'ARE YOU KIDDING? MOST PEOPLE HATE WRITING.'"

— AMY HILL HEARTH '82 DISCUSSING MAJORS WITH HER DAD

Caren: So, when did you start writing for places like *The New York Times*?
Jen: About 2005. I just started hammering away at one of the editors there, and he really liked my pitches. I just started pitching big names pretty quickly. They didn't notice I didn't have any clips.

Caren: Who is your biggest client?
Jen: Well, I just got offered an opportunity at *The New York Times*. They have this new thing called *New York Times* Beta, where they're trying all these different things. One of them is a cooking newsletter, which I love, and now, the Well section is starting one, and they hired me to write the running newsletters.

Caren: Wow, that's great.
Jen: But my biggest client right now is CIO.com. I write a column there three times a month.

Caren: Amy, I want to get back to you. So you graduated in ...
Amy: 1982. I did an internship with *Tampa Magazine* before I graduated, and at that time it was a really good magazine. They did a lot of investigative stuff.

Caren: So, you don't just like the writing. You like the reporting ...
Amy: Well, I like all kinds of writing. And that's what was great about the writing program at UT. It wasn't focused on one aspect. I took magazine writing, newspapers, fiction. All kinds of stuff.

My first newspaper job was up in the Berkshires, *The Berkshire Eagle*. There was a recession going on in '82. It was a really difficult time. Not as bad as the one we just had, but it was not a good time. So the *Eagle* could only keep me for like eight months of the year. So I thought, I'm going back to Florida. I got a job in like 30 seconds at the *Daytona Beach News Journal*. I did that for a couple of years. And then I met my husband, Blair. I interviewed him for a story.

Caren: What was the story about?
Amy: Poverty and hunger in Volusia County. The city fathers were saying that there was no problem. We've taken care of it. And I was seeing people living under bridges. I started looking into it more and more, and the only person really up front with me and giving me computerized records in 1983 was Blair. His food bank fed 40,000 people a year. The story was turned into a series, and it won a lot of state awards. And I got married. I wasn't expecting any of that.

Once we married, we moved north, because he got a great job in the city.

Caren: That's when you started working for *The New York Times*?
Amy: Yes, I got a contract with the *Times* to write features and long stories.

Caren: So how long had you been a reporter at that point?
Amy: About seven or eight years. I had really good clips from Florida. It was a wonderful place to be a reporter. You could wait your whole life to write some of the stories up here that I was writing about down there. It's really hard to explain, but that's Florida. That's why I had to write a novel about Florida, because Florida's weird.

Caren: So you went up to New York because Blair got a job, and you wind up working for *The New York Times*?
Amy: Right. I had a contract. They asked me if I wanted to be on staff, but I said no because then they could just send me to Timbuktu. I knew I'd have a lot more say with a contract than if I had been on staff. And then I wrote a story about the two women.

Caren: The Delany sisters. How long had you been working there when you wrote that?
Amy: Two years. It was a long piece for a newspaper. It was like 1,400 words. It was a lot of research, actually. Fortunately, having lived in South Carolina as a kid, I understood a lot of the stuff they were talking about. They grew up in North Carolina. I knew some of the peculiarities of the South, like the term "free negroes," stuff like that. After that, I got a call from a book publisher who'd read my story in the *Times* and asked me if I wanted to do a book. At that point, I decided to pretty much stop writing for the *Times*.

Caren: You left the *Times*? Hard to imagine.
Amy: People told me I was completely out of my mind. They said you're going to sell 11 books, and no one will read it and no one will care, and you will have lost your career writing for *The New York Times*. They were wrong. The book was on *The New York Times* Bestseller List for 117 weeks. And it's still going strong. That's amazing for a book that's been out 22 years.

Caren: And after that ...
Amy: I wrote more nonfiction books. I was having a great time doing what I wanted to do. And then I turned to fiction a couple of years ago for no particular reason at all except to do something different.

Caren: You decided you wanted to write fiction first and then you came up with a story, or you came up with a story and then thought, "I want to try my hand at fiction?"
Amy: No, it was more like I needed to take a break. I didn't want to sign a contract and take on anything big. I remember telling my mom I just want to write for fun and kind of chill out.

Caren: So you didn't have a hankering to write fiction?
Amy: I like to write anything, anytime, anywhere. I just wanted to write something for fun, and the first thing that popped in my head was my late

"I THOUGHT, SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE TO COME UP TO MY HOUSE, KNOCK ON MY DOOR AND HAND ME A CHECK BEFORE I TALK TO THEM."

— JEN MILLER '02

mother-in-law, who was this really amazing woman. She was this gorgeous red-headed woman from Boston who went to Collier County, FL, and I knew she'd had a really hard time when they moved there in '62. Blair had been telling me these stories, and I knew she had started a radio show and that it ticked everybody off. I thought, maybe this is a short story, and I just started writing it. It was really just an exercise. I started playing around with it, and I was having fun, adding characters and making stuff up. I had no pressures on me whatsoever.

Caren: **Did you tell your agent?**
Amy: No. I didn't tell anybody. If I told my agent about it, it would have become a work thing. I wanted it just to be fun.

Caren: **Why not write it as nonfiction?**
Amy: I wanted to fictionalize it, because I had a lot of other threads of things that didn't happen, experiences I had as a reporter in Florida, people that I met, things that happened. But I ripped off Blair's childhood, basically. When I was finished, the one person I was worried about how he would feel was Blair. I read it aloud to him one weekend when we were snowed in. When I finished, I said, "What do you think?" He was speechless.

Caren: **What did he say?**
Amy: At first he said, "Gee I don't know. This is about my mother. How would she have felt about it?" I said, "Are you kidding me? Your mother would have loved it!" He said, "You know what? You're right." Then I sent it to my agent. He read it over a weekend and said, "So this is what you've been doing." And he sold it in one minute.

Caren: **What made you want to write a second book?**
Amy: Everybody in the universe asked me what was going to happen next, and I still loved my characters a lot, so it was not hard to say, I think I will go ahead and do a second book.

Caren: **On to Jen's book. You pitched a running book to agents at the American Society of Journalists and Authors conference. But you'd had a near miss with a running book before that.**
Jen: I did. I was approached by an editor at a publisher that shall not be named to write a running book for her. She'd seen some of my running stuff in the *Times*. I got this email saying, "You want to write a book for me?" At first I thought it was a scam.
Amy: I remember all of that.
Jen: I met her in New York in this café where Sophia Coppola was like right over there. She told me what she wanted the book to be about, and she had me write a proposal.

I hadn't had an agent for my first two books so I got one for this, and I wrote the proposal. She wanted to see two sample chapters. Sample chapters take an awful lot of work to write. And it's not like there's a check at the end. Everybody kept saying, it's going to happen. So I did it. And then the editor passed on the book. I was livid.

Caren: **How long did the proposal take?**
Jen: All summer. My agent had said well, if she passes, we'll send it around. So I said, "Do it. Do it now." I was angry, and rightfully so. So she sent it around, and then I didn't really hear anything. Then I saw my agent's Facebook page, with pictures of her at home with her kids during the middle of the day. And it turns out she'd quit being an agent and didn't tell me.

I asked her for the list of who she'd sent the book proposal to. There was a list but no real notes. When that first editor passed, my agent's perspective was, well it's an honor that you were asked. I was like, I run a business. I'm never doing this again.
Amy: It was a rough time.

Caren: **You were never going to try and publish a book again?**
Jen: No. I thought, somebody's going to have to come up to my house, knock on my door and hand me a check before I talk to them.

Caren: **Then what happened?**
Jen: I started writing with a friend. We'd swap essays every other week, and I thought, I'm going to write about my running (experiences), and if I don't sell a book, I'll sell the essays. I'd already been writing for the *Times*' Well blog. So in January or February of 2014, I went to Cape May and locked myself into a hotel room and wrote the first really terrible unfinished draft of what became *Running: A Love Story*.

Caren: **A draft of the book, or the book proposal?**
Jen: The book. Well, it wasn't the whole book. I mean there were TKs (shorthand for "to come") everywhere. It was the skeleton of the book. You could see where things were going, how it could be a narrative — even though I wound up completely changing the structure.

The chapter that sold the book I didn't even touch in that hotel, because it was so painful. The Steven chapter. It's about a relationship I had with an alcoholic. I really started running after that relationship ended. That was my first 10-mile run. We broke up, I bought my house and my grandfather died all in quick succession. So I was like an emotional disaster. Like, I couldn't get up off my floor. I wrote that chapter, and my agent sent it around, and there was a lot of interest.

Caren: **Do you feel there's a similarity that runs through the two of you, given the fact you both went to UT?**
Jen: It has a special place in my life.
Amy: Me, too. It's where I discovered, thanks to my father pointing it out to me, that writing is really what I ought to consider doing. **UT**

"Looking for a good book?
Great reads to beat the heat."

Summer Time

READING

A VARIETY OF FACULTY PICKS INSIDE ›

LONGER DAYS WITH LESS TO FILL THEM leave just enough room to read a good book — but what to read? That's the question we put to an array of UT faculty, and their answers were diverse — classics, nonfiction, poetry, memoir, bestsellers and more. So whether you are cooling off at the beach, the lake, the pool or simply your favorite chair in your air conditioned home, here are a few books our faculty recommend you dive into.

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

"I picked this book up after enjoying *Like Water for Chocolate*. It opens as a quiet story about a girl who can taste the emotions of the person making her food, which reveals a myriad of secrets about her family. But the book takes a turn about halfway through that I wasn't expecting at all. The magical realism in this novel is subtle and beautiful. It's been a long time since a story took me by surprise like this one, and, when I was done, I wanted to start over and eat it … I mean, read it … again"

—KACY TILLMAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

High-Rise by J.G. Ballard

"Now a major motion picture, this novel was written in 1975 about a near future in which people are stratified according to the floors they inhabit and the speed at which they revert to more primal behaviors once the social order is threatened. While that may sound rather disturbing, there is a triumphantly joyful spirit that runs throughout the book, compelling the reader to cheer on characters as they hasten the collapse."

—KYLE R. MCINTOSH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Country Girl: A Memoir by Edna O'Brien

"O'Brien's memoir is a fine introduction to one of Ireland's greatest contemporary writers. She traces her childhood in stifling rural Ireland, the rebellion in her life and in her early writing, which was banned and burned as being lurid, anti-Catholic and anti-Irish. She was at the center of the swinging '60s in London and has known many writers and celebrities, from Samuel Beckett to Robert Mitchum. This stunning work traces the evolving role of a woman in Irish letters, someone whose work anticipated a less traditional country."

—KATHLEEN OCHSHORN, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Contagious: Why Things Catch On by Jonah Berger

"Berger walks through why ideas catch on and go viral. It's a must read for anyone involved in entrepreneurship, marketing or raising awareness. Quick read; brilliant work; very entertaining examples; solid framework; and backed by science. I think it's the best practical application of academic scholarship I've ever seen."

—ERIC LIGUORI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

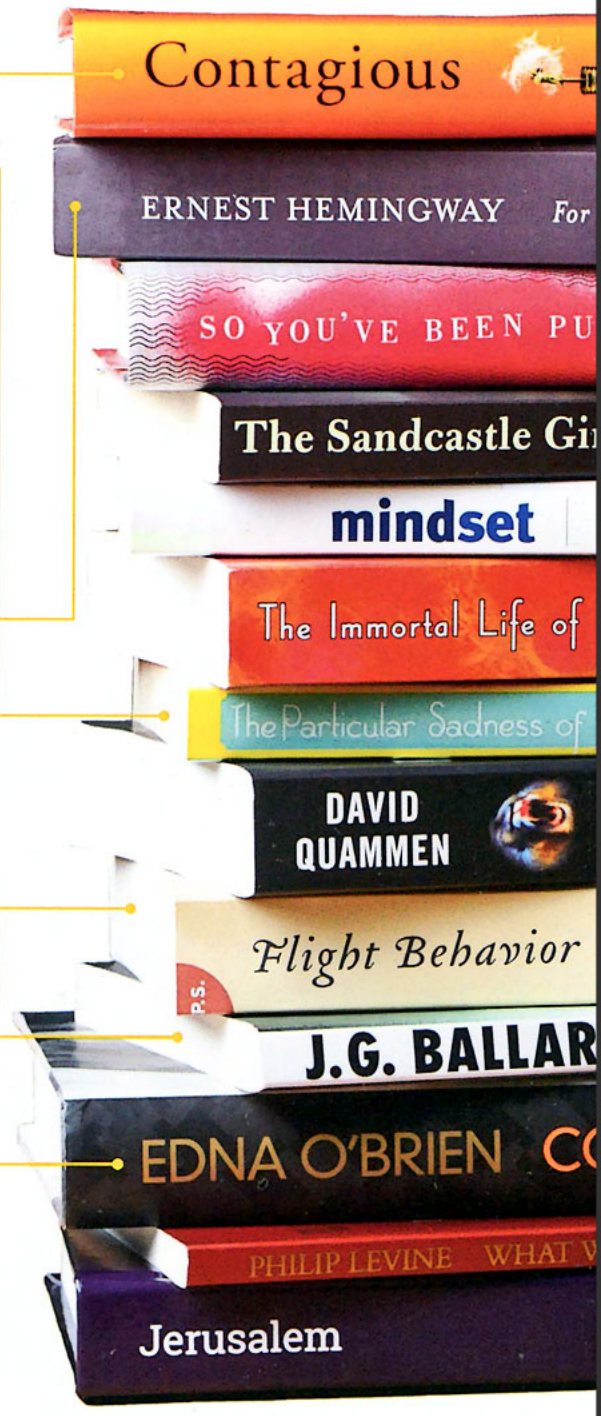
"This has been one of my favorite books since I was in college oh so many years ago. It is beautifully written and excellently captures the human struggles with the euphoria of love and darkness of war. I feel a real connection with the characters every time I read it."

—SIMON SCHULER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

"Barbara Kingsolver is a famous fiction writer who is actually a biologist, and I loved her last book *Flight Behavior*. It explores monarch butterfly biology and climate change, as well as a woman's journey as she tries to balance being a mother while participating in scientific research and figuring out if/how/when she could go back to school."

—LORI BENSON MCRAE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



So You've Been Publicly Shamed by Jon Ronson

"Oh my gosh, you've got to read *So You've Been Publicly Shamed* by Jon Ronson. It illuminates the reintroduction of a cruel punishment we thought we had eradicated long ago — public shaming. Ronson explains how this tradition has come roaring back into our culture through social media. A must-read."

—DAVID WHEELER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM

The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian

"Bohjalian, of Armenian origins like me, also grew up in my home town. Like me, his awareness of this ethnicity was shaped strongly by the horrors of the Armenian Genocide of 1914–1918, a time in which we both lost family. For Bohjalian, the self-discovery resulted in a tender and powerful narrative of an Armenian-American nurse arriving in Syria at the outset of the genocide in order to help in refuge efforts. That leads her to a long look at her family history of irony and loss."

—HAIG MARDIROSIAN, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS AND PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck

"This award-winning, research-rich book helped me see that we all can foster our growth and intelligence; our personal mindset matters tremendously. Even if we're just starting out, we can begin to accomplish our goals. We're on the path to success. According to Dweck, this approach can be conceived as the 'power of yet.' With time, dedication, determination and a positive attitude, we can all achieve our goals and move toward success."

—AIMEE WHITESIDE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

Jerusalem by Selma Lagerlof

"This book was given to me by one of my student's Swedish parents at the December commencement ceremony." Set in Sweden in the mid-1800s, *Jerusalem* tells the story of a group of peasants who, under the spell of a charismatic leader, break out of society and immigrate to Jerusalem. Bonus: the book is available for free through Project Gutenberg.

—STEPHANIE THOMASON, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE SYKES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

The Immortal Life of Henrieta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

"It is the story of the life and death of a poor African American woman and the care she received from Johns Hopkins Hospital. Cervical cancer cells harvested from her without her knowledge or consent became the first immortal cell line to be successfully cultured, with far-reaching ramifications for research in biology and medicine. It is as captivating as it is thought-provoking in that this book places the reader directly in the intersection of history, race, poverty, science, medicine and ethics."

—STEVE KUCERA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Spillover: Animal Infections and The Next Human Pandemic by David Quammen

"Fascinating reading. Science, specifically viruses, made exciting and understandable for the layperson. A viral high, you might say."

—ARTHUR O. HOLLIST, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

What Work Is by Philip Levine

"I've been reading the poetry of Philip Levine, more specifically his volume, *What Work Is*. I learned of his work through news commentary on his death last year. His poetry finds dignity, meaning and significance in the lives of ordinary working-class people and uses them to reflect on the meaning of life in our time."

—ALBERT TILLSON, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

alumni report

class acts

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

56 **Vilma Zalupski** took part in the 50th birthday celebrations for St. Petersburg College's Clearwater campus in November. Vilma is the longest-serving provost of the Clearwater campus (1979–1995) and was the first woman provost in Florida, according to the college's faculty and staff newsletter, *Blue & White*.

60 **Billy Turner** is retired and battling cancer, but neither of those things have kept him from staying in the game, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. The winningest football coach in Hillsborough County history, Billy assists his son, Brian, as he coaches the Sickles High School football team and mentors Earl Garcia, head coach of the Hillsborough High School football team.

62 **Mary Valido Champion** and her husband, David, celebrated their 50th anniversary this summer with a Caribbean cruise.

69 **Chris Pinholster** retired from Hillsborough County Schools, where he worked as a teacher and a coach.

72 **Robert "Bob" Coffey** retired at the end of 2015 as the general manager of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, according to *Business in Savannah*. He is looking forward to spending his retirement hiking, biking, kayaking and enjoying the intracoastal life in Savannah with his wife, Mary Ellen.

76 **David Bryant** was featured on Tampa's Fox 13 News during Black History Month. David shared stories of his service in the U.S. Army, including storming Omaha Beach during World War II and being one of the first African-Americans promoted to chief master sergeant.

Keith DeMyer is retiring from a 40-year coaching career, according to the *The Ledger* (Lakeland, FL). Keith has coached at several schools, but finished his career with 17 years at Lake Gibson High School and is the most successful football coach in the school's history.

Sean Evans is back in the U.S. after his most recent mission as criminal intelligence officer in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, where he was responsible for anti-maritime piracy with Interpol.

77 **Robert Blagojevich** was the featured speaker for the January event of the Four Seasons Author Series, organized by the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County. Robert spoke about his latest book, *Fundraiser A: My Fight for Freedom and Justice*.

78 **Clovis "Dean" Rusk** exhibited a select body of figurative oil paintings at Michele Tuegel Contemporary gallery in St. Petersburg. Dean began fine art painting once he retired after 35 years as a graphic designer.

79 **Mark Bachmann** retired from Unilever after 24 years in September 2015. He was a senior human resources director supporting two global organizations. Mark and his wife, Tina, have relocated to their newly built home in Fincastle, VA. Both of their sons got engaged in 2015 and are planning weddings in 2016.

81 **Jane Castor** was named to GTE Financial's Supervisory Committee. The committee's role is to ensure the nonprofit credit union's financial records are in order and internal controls are in place to protect the assets of the credit union and its members. Jane retired from her position as the chief of the Tampa Police Department in May 2015.

Marc Sarnoff joined Shutts & Bowen LLP as a partner in the government law and land use practice groups in the firm's Miami office. Previously, Marc served the city of Miami for nine years as a city commissioner for District 2 and chairman of the Miami Downtown Development Authority.

82 **Trish Messina** is teaching new venture finance at UT as an adjunct professor in

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Many of our alumni refer to Tampa's Gasparilla festivities as UT's second homecoming, and we couldn't agree more.

We saw a record crowd of more than 500 alumni and friends at the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter's (TBAC) Gasparilla Brunch on the morning of the parade. This annual event has steadily grown over the years, and it is now our most popular alumni function.

For the first time this year, in lieu of charging for chapter membership, the TBAC included a gift to UT as part of the registration fee. This small change raised close to $5,000 for the University.

It was also great to see the Krewe of Sparta at the brunch and on their float traveling down Bayshore Boulevard in the parade. The Krewe raised $2,500 for their endowed scholarship at UT.

We look forward to seeing everyone again next year, if not sooner at homecoming weekend in October.

addition to serving as the director of client services at Resources Global Professionals.

85 **Lawrence Schreiber** has been named president of Empire BlueCross BlueShield, according to *TheBlaze*. Before joining Empire, Lawrence was the president of Anthem BlueCross and BlueShield Plan in Wisconsin. Empire BlueCross BlueShield is a wholly owned subsidiary of Anthem Inc. and is the largest health insurer in the state of New York.

88 **Roccie Soscia** relocated from Washington, D.C., to Maryland, and said she was excited to learn that her daughter, Gabrielle, was accepted to UT.

89 **Todd Wilcox**, who is running for Florida's open U.S. Senate seat, visited campus on Feb. 4 to speak to senior cadets in the UT ROTC program about how his experience in ROTC impacted his leadership development and career trajectory.

91 **Ozzie Timmons** had right hip replacement surgery in mid-November and is happy to report everything is going well with his rehab, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. Ozzie played in 1,800 professional baseball games across 16 seasons and all that time at bat took a toll on his right hip. Once cleared by doctors, Ozzie will start his new role as hitting coach for the Tampa Bay Rays' Triple-A team, the Durham (NC) Bulls.

UT Army ROTC Director LTC Scott Greco and Todd Wilcox '89

92 **Jackie Munro**, director of development and practice for Morton Plant Mease hospitals, received the Excellence in Nursing Leadership award from the Florida Organization of Nurse Executives, according to *Tampa Bay Newspapers*.

93 **Eddie Creech** is running for the District 1 seat on the Williamson County (TN) School Board. Eddie works as an information technology consultant.

Edward Kolodzieski MBA has been appointed to Liquidity Services' board of directors as well as the company's compensation and governance committees. Edward retired from Walmart Stores Inc. as executive vice president of global sourcing in 2013.

Lorenzo Vigas became the first Venezuelan to win the Venice Golden Lion best film prize at the Venice Film Festival for his film *Desde Allá* (*From Afar*), according to *Variety*. The film also won an AFI Special Jury Prize for Best Screenplay. *Desde Allá* was picked up by Strand Releasing and will be released in the U.S. this spring.

94 **Sean Coniglio**, senior partner at HCP Associates, is celebrating the firm's 30th anniversary in 2016. HCP is a marketing firm that provides professional consulting focused on research, business strategy and communications.

95 **Natalie Bushman MBA '01** has begun a new role as head of compensation at Invesco, an Atlanta-based investment management company that serves clients in more than 150 countries worldwide. Natalie and her wife, Kristen, are enjoying their new city and community.

Cathy Salustri has been hired as the arts and entertainment editor for *Creative Loafing*, Tampa Bay's alternative newsweekly. In this job, Cathy will be in charge of the newspaper's arts and culture content, reporting on events taking place in the Tampa Bay area.

Anthony Stinsman has been appointed regional sales manager for TixClix Inc., an online ticketing and reservation system for general admission events. Before joining TixClix, Anthony served as senior marketing executive for LivingSocial and was responsible for entertainment ticketing in Nashville, TN.

97 **Vincent Frattaruolo** was ordained to the diaconate at Our Lady of Good Hope in Pinellas Park, FL, on Nov. 10.

Charisma Marin opened her own professional real estate group with real estate company Keller Williams. The new group, Charisma Property Group, specializes in residential real estate, international buyers and sellers, and helping customers around the globe get in touch with the right agent when they are outside the Orlando area.

99 **Jodi Gardner** was featured in the *Forsyth Herald* for her work as the Forsyth County (GA) director of communications over the last 10 years. Jodi has helped create TV Forsyth, as well as the county's logo, Facebook page and new website. Her position evolved from a stand-alone position to running the county's communication department.

Brett James McMullen MBA was awarded The Bronze Star Medal at a ceremony at United States Central Command (Centcom) at MacDill Air Force Base in

Mark your calendar! Homecoming 2016 will be held the weekend of Oct. 13–16. We'll be celebrating reunions for the classes of 2006, 1991 and 1966. If you'd like to get involved with your class reunion or help with other homecoming events, email alumni@ut.edu.

Tampa on Jan. 5. The medal was awarded for his performance as commanding general, Centcom Joint Theater Support Command in 2014-2015 in Afghanistan.

00 **Danielle Marante** has been named the head volleyball coach at Tampa Preparatory School, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. Danielle previously served as the head boys volleyball coach and assistant girls volleyball coach at Berkeley Preparatory School.

01 **Tony Mosco MBA** joined Polymer Logistics as its North American vice president of sales. He will be responsible for all commercial activity in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Polymer Logistics provides plastic container and pallet pooling services.

02 **Sherry Fagan Martin** opened Mrs. Sherry's Studio in Valrico in 2010, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. In December, a group of her piano and voice students, ages 6 to 18, performed at Hawthorne Village of Brandon's Assisted Living Facility.

03 **Jim Bridgham** has been a second lieutenant twice in his career. After graduating from UT, he was commissioned as an active duty intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force. He later attended the Denver Seminary and became a Colorado Air National Guard chaplain. He serves as the 140th Wing chaplain at Buckley Air Force Base, CO.

Ron Carlstrom is the CEO and president of Reel Big Media, a video production company based in Rhode Island. According to *The Valley Breeze* (RI), the company has been using drones in their work for more than a year and have amassed hundreds of hours of flight time.

spartan spotlight

Donna Lee '89

Authentic Leadership

Years ago, when a new college president asked Donna Lee '89 to step into the role of interim dean of students, her first thought was, "Me, a dean? No way!"

That reaction seems surprising for a woman who spent nine years in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of captain, and who has since held several leadership positions, including her two current posts: vice president for student affairs at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and president-elect of the American College Personnel Association.

She attributes her early reticence to having never seen someone like herself — a woman of color — in such leadership roles. Fortunately, she still said "yes" to the opportunity.

"Once I realized I had the capacity to step into a role like that, I knew it was my responsibility to mentor others so they could see themselves in those roles, too," says Lee. "So I started helping students see that they bring a unique set of skills, gifts and talents, and how using those to make a positive difference is what leadership is about."

At Macalester she looks for opportunities to connect with students in a meaningful way. She may strike up a personal conversation while walking her dog across campus, participate in an existing student program or invite a small group to her home for a meal. No matter the setting, Lee creatively opens space for students to share their stories in a safe, receptive environment.

She gently guides the discussion by starting with her own story and then asks questions that help students to reflect on who they are and what matters most to them. Often they delve into questions such as: What is my story? What important things make me who I am? What do I value and why?

Through the process students begin to recognize how they can contribute positively to the wider community by using their gifts and being true to who they really are.

Lee's nose ring, braided hair and distaste for suits, for example, might challenge the typical image of institutional leadership. But, for her, authenticity is paramount.

"There are probably doors that haven't opened because of who I am, but those are spaces I wouldn't want to be in. My path hasn't been a traditional one, but I've only moved into positions where I felt an alignment with who I am and what I value."

For the most part, that has meant working at liberal arts institutions. Prior to Macalester, Lee served as vice president for student life and dean of students at Agnes Scott College, a private liberal arts college for women in Atlanta. She also worked 12 years in a variety of student affairs positions at Rollins College, a co-ed liberal arts school in Winter Park, FL.

"Liberal arts education is such a transformative experience, one I had the privilege of being a part of as a member of the UT community," she says. "Those kinds of transformative experiences are what I hope to facilitate for the next generation of leaders."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYA RAIT

Marlen Cortez was named a 2016 Illinois Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* in the area of employment and labor law.

Michelle Couture has joined Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners as its marketing director and private risk advisor. Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners is an insurance brokerage firm headquartered in Tampa.

Jaime (Ruffalo) Kulaga was the featured speaker for the March event of the Four Seasons Author Series, organized by the Friends of the Library of Tampa-Hillsborough County. Jamie spoke about her latest book, *A SuperWoman's Guide to Fulfillment.*

Sarah Morgan married Travis Kelly on June 27, 2015. **Shannon Calega '03**, director of leadership engagement at UT, served as her maid of honor.

Jeffrey Nowak MBA was appointed to the board of directors for Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts (TBBCA). Jeffrey is the vice president of customer success and innovation and senior member of the executive management committee at MedHOK Inc.

Michael Price M.S. '07 has joined Shinn & Co. as a tax senior. With more than 12 years of experience in accounting and technical valuation, he will play a pivotal role in his department's growth.

Jim Young is now on board at (add)ventures as a Web developer, engineering/digital. In this role, Young supports the digital team. Prior to joining (add)ventures, Jim was a Web developer with *The Providence Journal* and *Barefoot Books.*

04

Seth Garber was awarded the UT Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award at the commencement ceremony on Dec. 19. Seth is the director of sales-North America for Kore Inc.

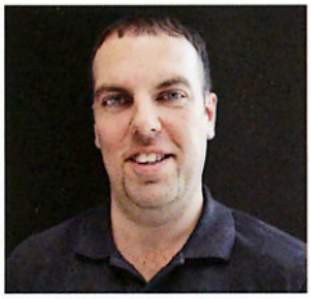
Jeff Keller MBA is the new general manager at Ultima Fitness and Wellness in Wellington, FL.

05

Amy Potter married William Matherly on Sept. 26, in St. Pete Beach. The bridal party included **Phyllis Lubin '04, Leah Wilson '04** and **Jillian Tefft '04**.

06

Rebbecca (Schwartz) Goodall participated in Judge Catherine Peek McEwen's quarterly mentoring program, with the topic of "Best Practices for Bankruptcy Paralegals." Rebbecca is an attorney at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP where she practices business litigation, with an emphasis on issues related to bankruptcy and creditors' rights.



Jim Young '03

Vernon Howell presented "Celebrating Satchmo, the Life of Louis Armstrong" for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Eckerd College three times in January.

Stefanie Phillips joined Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial as a trial attorney at its Miami office. She focuses on all aspects of civil litigation, with an emphasis on commercial litigation, products liability and catastrophic injury cases.

Brigitta (Johnson) Shouppe joined Landis Communication as senior account executive. Most recently, Brigitta served as the assistant director of public relations for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Landis Communication, located in St. Petersburg, provides communication services to clients across a variety of industries and fields.

Jamal Wilburg M.S. '14 was promoted to senior manager of training and development at Greenway Health. He and his wife, **Ileana '06, M.S. '14**, finished their master's degrees in instructional design and technology at UT. Both graduated with highest honors.

Stefanie Phillips '06

07

Veronica Echaniz married **Scott Sanacore '08** on Oct. 16, 2015, in Smithtown, NY.

Brittany Frattini-Cox married **Joel Phillips '08** in Narragansett, RI, on Oct. 10.

Jessica Highsmith teamed up with fellow Realtor Laura Pearlman to create Team 561 as part of Illustrated Properties, serving Palm Beach County (FL) residents looking to buy or sell their homes.

Michele Joel MBA created My Social Sitter, an app that helps teach social media etiquette to preteens and teens, according to the *Tampa Bay Times.* The app scans outgoing Twitter tweets and

Sarah Morgan '03 and Travis Kelly (center) with maid of honor Shannon Calega '03

April Jones '04 and Seth Garber '04 at UT's December commencement

Joel Phillips '08 and Brittany Frattini-Cox '07

stops negative posts from reaching the Internet, then sends a notice to parents. Michele also created a companion app for adults, My Social Standard.

Cory Moreira MBA was appointed chief technology officer for Lending.com. Prior to joining Lending.com, Cory provided strategic technological oversight for several early-stage startups in the health care, payments, loyalty and community banking industries.

Kristen Ostow has expanded operations to accommodate her growing clothing line, Southerndoe, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. She recently opened a studio and office in Lutz and ships merchandise to more than 250 stores in 19 states.

Elizabeth Pytlik married Aaron Cardenas on Oct. 31 in St. Augustine, FL. She is pursuing her Master of Public Administration at the University of South Florida and working as a special projects manager with Hillsborough County.

08 **Ryanne Dent** has joined the board of directors of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage Center (IL). Ryanne is an associate in the business and litigation group at Ice Miller, LLP.

Ben Earman works in box office management at Sunrise Theatre in Fort Pierce, FL, and, in November, directed the Vero Beach Theatre Guild's production of *Hairspray*. According to VeroNews.com, Ben's rigorous pre-audition recruiting drew 80 people to audition for a role, resulting in the most diverse cast in the history of the guild.

James King completed a Master of Science degree from the Florida Institute of Technology, where he works as a research associate. He is also a member of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. He and his wife, Laura, live in Indialantic, FL with their daughter, Sydney.

Julia (Richmond) McGrath was selected as a 2016 *Super Lawyers* Rising Star. Julia is an associate attorney at Dolman Law Group.

John McMahan MBA '10 is excited to move to St. Petersburg while managing two separate entrepreneurial ventures. He is the founder/event director of the Flavor Run — a nationwide 5K race series with fruit flavored powder — as well as the co-founder/event director of Running for Brews — the nation's largest social running club.

Theresa Meloche MSN published the article "Alzheimer's Disease Pharmacotherapy, Biomarkers and Genetics" in the *Journal of Neurology & Stroke*. The article is a cumulative review of both inherited and sporadic types of Alzheimer's, current pharmacotherapies, and the use of biomarkers for detection and early intervention of the disease.

Michael Puma is the CEO of LulaKids, a startup based in Tampa that sells LulaClips magnetic car seat clips and LulaBloc booster seat belt buckle holders online and in stores across the U.S.

Margeaux Sinibaldi led the Plant High School women's volleyball team to the Class 7A state championship finals in her first season as head coach, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Josh Tahan MBA '13 was promoted to research consultant at Study Hall Research in December 2015.

09 **Keil Brinster** graduated with an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University in May 2015 and accepted a job with Waters Corp. as a product marketing manager in Boston.

Nicholas Catania M.Ed. '12 and **Allison Vetter '10**, who run the blog *Never Have I Ever Tampa Bay*, now sell *Never Have I Ever* branded merchandise at select Tampa stores as well as online, according to *83 Degrees*.

Jonathan Marcantoni published his fourth book, *Kings of 7th Avenue*. He also founded the YouNiversity Project, an online mentorship program that teaches fledgling writers about marketing, networking and social media branding.

Jamie Segaloff, a captain in the U.S. Army, deployed to Afghanistan in October for a 12-month tour as part of the National Security Element, Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Jamie graduated from the advanced officer course, where he became a military intelligence officer. He has been on active duty since 2009.

Jill Sessions MBA was hired as the new director of solid waste by Plant City. Jill had worked for Tampa's solid waste program for five years before accepting the position.

Colleen Beaudoin M.Ed. '10, Connor Sequeira '15 and Casey Viera '13

10 **Colleen Beaudoin M.Ed.** is happy to share that there are now three UT alumni in her family. Colleen's sister, **Casey Viera '13**, graduated from UT's Master of Science in Nursing program in 2013 and her son, **Connor Sequeira '15**, graduated in December 2015.

James Lewis III married Sarah Louise Cooper on Oct. 10 at Vulcan Park and Museum Overlook in Birmingham, AL. During their wedding trip they visited St. Augustine, FL, Savannah, GA, and Charleston, SC. They reside in Tampa, and James owns a Dickey's Barbecue Pit franchise in St. Petersburg.

Phil Michaels MBA '15 was featured in a *Tampa Bay Times* article about the startup community in the Tampa Bay area. Phil is co-founder of Tembo, which uses mobile phone technology to provide early childhood education in the world's slums.

New directory coming soon ... The alumni office is partnering with Publishing Concepts Inc. (PCI) to create a new alumni directory. Starting in August, alumni will be contacted by PCI through post cards, emails and phone calls to verify contact information. Email alumni@ut.edu with any questions.

spartan spotlight

David Andrade '07

Studio for Storytellers

Animator Andreas Deja (*Lilo & Stitch*) inspired David Andrade '07 to pursue animation. But it took a layoff notice, a guitar-playing iguana and a comical cat to launch him into his dream job.

When Andrade's employer, Rhythm & Hues Studios, filed for bankruptcy in 2013, he and two friends — Juerg Grieder and Mark Olson — opted to transform an online side project into a formal company. Together they founded Theory Animation, a digital animation studio where artists from all over the world can collaborate virtually on projects.

The three friends had already collaborated virtually to create several short films for fun, so their startup began with the online infrastructure already in place.

"I like to use the example of a pizza parlor," says Andrade. "We had the oven and the recipes, so making pizza was not an issue. The issue was finding work."

Soon after, *Ray & Clovis*, Theory's animated Web series about an iguana (Ray) and his cat roommate (Clovis) drew both an online audience and prospective clients. Starting as a pitch from a young director named Evan Detwiler, the series grew to a collection of 20 short films featuring contributions from 36 artists worldwide.

Theory has since expanded its services to include special effects work and helping marketing clients tell effective stories. It also changed its name to Theory Studios to reflect its broadened scope, which now includes credits such as the HBO show *Silicon Valley*, the TV series *The Good Wife* and the animated series *Major Lazer*.

By fall 2016, Theory will roll out a new app called *The Ray & Clovis Funhouse*, a choose-your-own-adventure project that involves cake, monsters and a time machine.

"We want to give people the chance to be a piece of the story, and eventually hope to have a virtual reality component," Andrade says. "Our goal is to be a storytelling studio — one that takes you on adventures and also helps you to make your own."

He traces his own adventure back to his years at UT, a time when he didn't know which career path to take and was told to simply start and then find his way. His advice to students today is the same: just get started.

"My first job was making cartoons for a network that never saw the light of day. It wasn't Pixar," he says, "but it was a beginning."

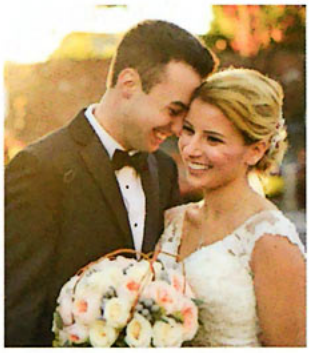
Samantha Sendlewski married Tom Banyar on June 20, and some of the guests were fellow UT alumni who have remained close friends even though they are now all over the country.

11 **Kasey Colucci** married **Michael Kyprianou '11** in East Williston, NY, on Nov. 14. The couple owns a home in Patchogue, NY, which they share with their dog, Indy.

Lucy Monette volunteers with Parents and Children Advance Together Family Literacy Program in Tampa. Every Christmas, Lucy collects gifts to bring to children in the program. She started this initiative as a student working in the PEACE Volunteer Center and has continued it every year since.

Amanda Savas MBA began working as a project manager for Dynamic Campus in January. Amanda also got engaged in September and looks forward to getting married in October 2016.

12 **Kyle Bennett**, who now works in his family's luxury motorhome repair business, was featured in an NBC News story about freshman homesickness. Kyle shared his own experience with homesickness and how he overcame it by getting involved and building a new social network.



Michael Kyprianou '11 and Kasey Colucci '11

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAVID ANDRADE '07

Samantha Sendlewski '10 and fellow UT alumni at her wedding to Tom Banyar

Vincent Lanci '13, MBA '15

Hailey Smith '14

Brittany Hagan MBA was the Indianapolis Colts Cheerleader of the Week in December. She also started her own business, ProMotion, where she helps dancers develop their careers. Brittany works as a digital marketing consultant for a cloud computing company.

John Jacobs starred on the first season of MTV's *Are You the One?* and, most recently, the 26th season of MTV's *The Challenge*.

Brittany Mielcarek married William Pawlak on Nov. 3, 2015, and they are expecting their first child in April 2016.

Abbey Ray has been promoted to associate corporate counsel at Ocean Properties LTD.

Princess Smith was one of four artists chosen by Swizz Beatz for *The Unknowns*, which featured pieces from unknown artists discovered on Instagram and put on display in a silent auction at Sotheby's in New York City and the Brooklyn and Bronx Museums.

13

Aaron DelGiudice was named to the Houston Astros minor league field staff for the 2016 season. Aaron will serve as the development coach at Triple A Fresno and Lancaster.

Danielle Duet appears in the cover image of the French edition of Nora Roberts' *Time Was* (*La passagère du temps*). The photo was taken by her cousin, Laura Miller.

Dory Estrada received a graduate study scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service. She is pursuing a master's degree at Universität Stuttgart in Germany.

AJ Favicchio is the owner of Sauce Digital, a full-service digital media company specializing in digital video production and photography.

Brandon Geronimo, Air Force Airman 1st Class, graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, according to *West Orange Times* (FL). He earned distinction as an honor graduate.

Eric Kuczynski MBA has been promoted to assistant vice president credit analyst at C1 Bank.

Vincent Lanci MBA '15 appeared on *That Business Show with Jamie Meloni* on 1250 WHNZ to talk about his recovery from a hit-and-run accident while a student at UT and his new nonprofit, Strive to Lead, which organizes speaking engagements and fundraising events for various causes.

14

Nick Caputo is an SEO analyst for Rank K.O., an internet marketing company housed at Tampa Bay WaVe's headquarters in downtown Tampa, according to *83 Degrees*.

Evan Dix is in his second year at Stetson University College of Law and is part of the school's Moot Court team this year, according to *83 Degrees*.

Melanie Hindley became the first female to attend the Bradley Leader Course, graduating Dec. 4, according to *The Bayonet*. Melanie was also promoted to first lieutenant on Dec. 7 and hopes to attend the Sapper Course.

Kaylee Koetter is an assistant coach of the UT women's volleyball team.

Simon Ruppert is the director of lacrosse for the city of Tampa. He organized the first in a series of metro Tampa-based lacrosse clinics with members of the UT men's lacrosse team in December.

Jared Shlager was awarded the Governor's Young Entrepreneur Award. Jared started his first business at 16, and has since founded multiple companies in the online pet supply market. His products are sold around the world, in stores such as Home Goods, but he is looking to expand to other retailers.

Hailey Smith opened her own bakery, Hailey's Sweets and Treats, in Janesville, WI, and was named a top seven culinary artist in Rock County, WI.

15

Bryan Galan was featured in a WTVT piece about his car detailing business, Midnight Waxers. Brian uses almost no water to clean his clients' cars, using a concentrated cleaner instead.

Le'Chantoria Gray is a youth care assistant with Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, where she is working with youth who need guidance in the right direction for their future.

Lauren Nielsen was crowned Miss Pasco County Fair in January, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. She will compete in the Miss Florida Pageant in Lakeland in July.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Josephine Beiro Agliano '48
Patty Ennis Jenkins '49
Dolores Etzler '50
Frances Marie Curry Vaughn '50
Robbins H. Denham '51
Donald W. McMahon '51
Jean E. McRae Plummer '52
Ferdinando "Fred" Papia '55
John "Johnny" Alfano '56
Fernando Noriega '56
Richard Allen Reece Sr. '56
Lois C. Page '58
Mike G. Skaroulis '58
Jim McNamara '59
Rose Marie Lazzara '61
Joyce Mays Traina '63
Dennis George Sanchez '66
Robert Rosenberg '73
Joseph Anthony Savarese III '74
William J. Launikitis '79
Michael L. van der Kieft Jr. '94
Michael Kuley '00
Louella Martinez Godwin MSN '03
John B. Mariotti '03, MBA '10
Andrea Lynn Gallagher '06
Jonathan Ipock '10
Camille Kurtenbach '12
Matthew Charles Dellaquila '14

Students

Lindsey L. Dickey '18

Faculty

Frederick Mathew Hornack Sr.
Wayne L. Smith

Alumni gathered at UT for their annual DECADE OF THE '50s luncheon and reunion in February, including (from left) Mits Zamore '50, Fannie (Rosenberg) Zamore '50 and Austin Curry '57.

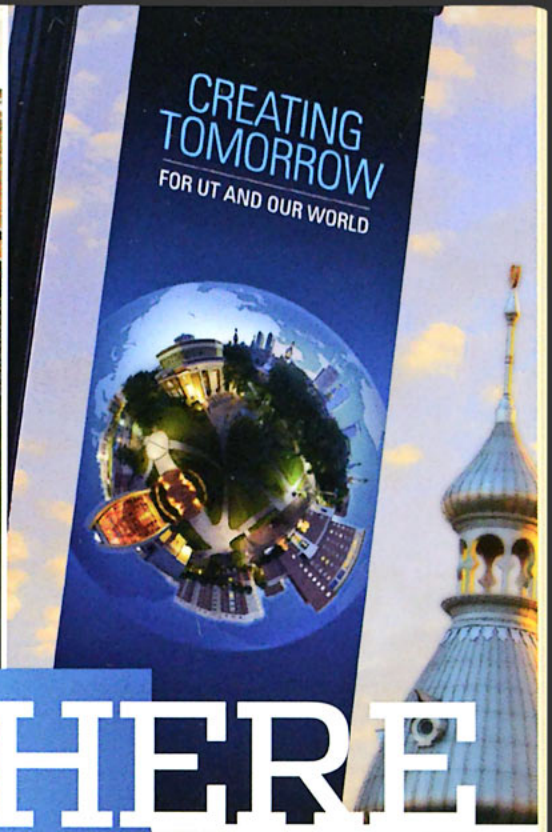
(From left) Ileana (Torres) Wilburg '06, M.S. '14, David Ramnarine '09 and Tracy Wiles '10, M.S. '15 were in attendance at the TAMPA BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER'S November networking reception in Brandon.

The speakers for this year's FELLOWS FORUM, which benefits the Board of Fellows Endowed Scholarship, were Rick Davidson (pictured), president and CEO of Century 21 Real Estate; Joe Adams, managing partner and CEO of RSM US; and Eric Affeldt, president and CEO of ClubCorp.

The fifth annual ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS OWNER ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS were held in the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center in February. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Robert Borrego '79 (left), pictured with event sponsor, Alan Shoopak '79.

More than 500 alumni and friends of the University — a new record — were in attendance at the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter's annual GASPARILLA BRUNCH in January.

Attendees of the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter's annual GASPARILLA BRUNCH grabbed some grub and grog before heading down to the festivities on Bayshore Boulevard.

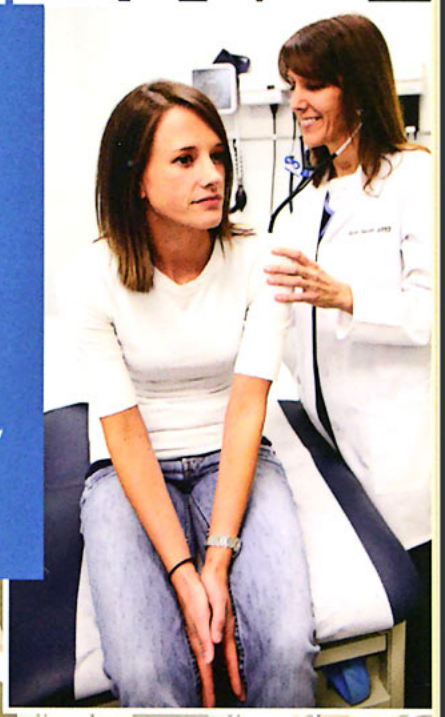


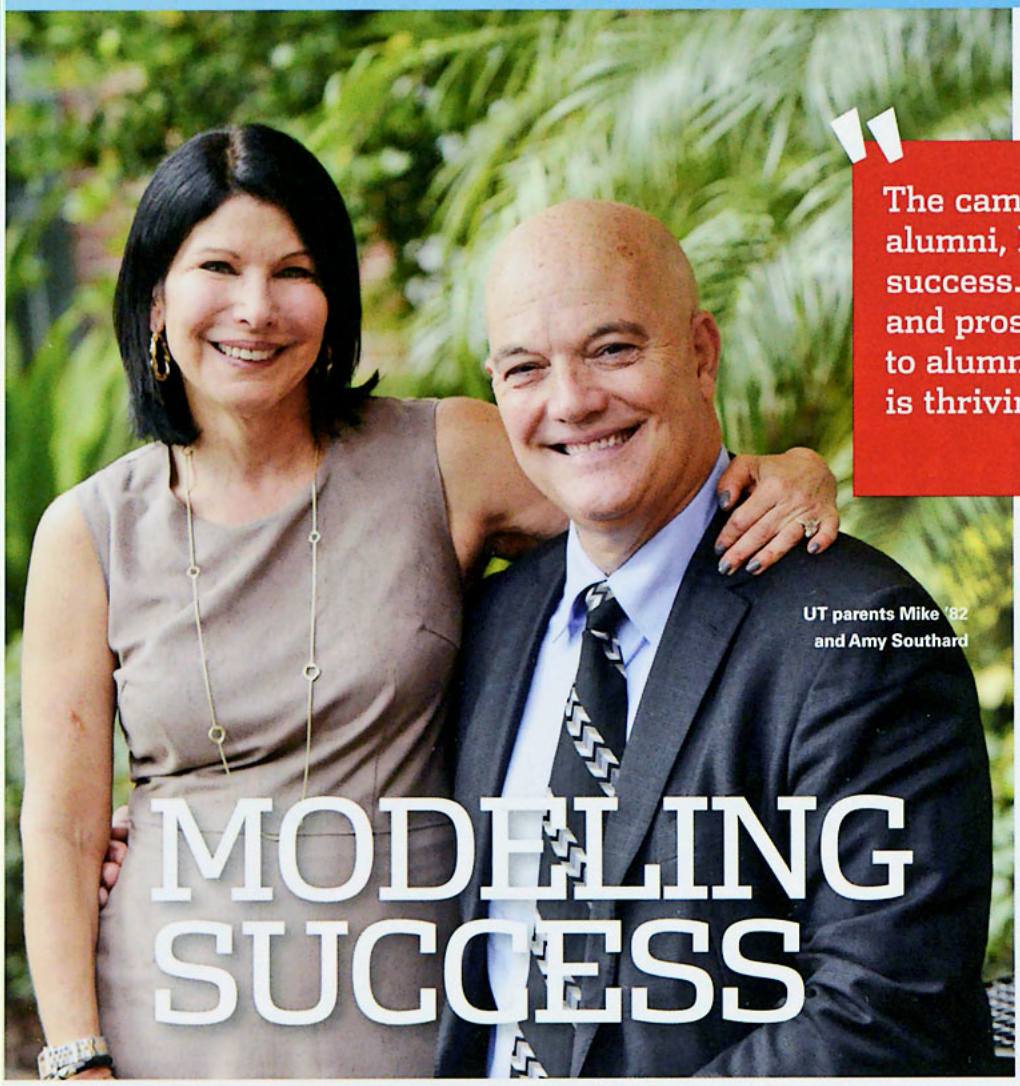
YOUR IMPACT IS EVERYWHERE

SECURING THE FUTURE. CHANGING LIVES.

The University of Tampa's tremendous growth since the mid-1990s is a testament to those who held a vision for the University. Propelled by Creating Tomorrow — The Campaign for UT, the University will continue this growth, strengthening the way students are prepared to lead successful and meaningful lives.

The reasons supporters donate, volunteer and mentor are individual. Their reasons are sparked by their unique relationships with the University, but all supporters share the same desire to make a difference and help develop students who are equipped to make our world a better place.





UT parents Mike '82 and Amy Southard

MODELING SUCCESS

> "The campaign is important to alumni, because success breeds success. As the University grows and prospers, it is advantageous to alumni that their alma mater is thriving and highly respected."
> —MIKE SOUTHARD '82

For Mike Southard '82, the campaign is an investment in the people who make UT great.

"You may think it is about plans for new programs, buildings and the latest technology, but it is not. It is about the benefits behind those initiatives," said Southard, a member of UT's Board of Trustees and vice president of international sales for Kichler Lighting.

Southard and his daughter, Ashley '12, are UT alumni. He and his wife, Amy, who also attended UT, met at the University, where they were introduced by John Lowth '82, a classmate and now fellow Board of Trustees member. The Southards were happy to have their daughter follow in their footsteps and to visit the campus on a regular basis.

$850 MILLION
UT'S ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE AREA

The campus was almost unrecognizable to them, and they were surprised to learn about the University's economic impact on the area, which is now $850 million annually.

Seeing what had been accomplished, plans that were underway and the benefit to future generations, including their daughter, the Southards were motivated to give and get involved. Southard has volunteered to lead the alumni and parent appeals for the capital campaign.

"The campaign is important to alumni, because success breeds success. As the University grows and prospers, it is advantageous to alumni that their alma mater is thriving and highly respected," said Southard.

He recognizes it is equally important for parents to invest in their student's university. When his daughter attended UT, she benefitted from the generous support of alumni and philanthropists, and Southard hopes his family's support will do the same for future UT students.

"The University's success story is an amazing example of the vision the University instills in its students. The University was created during the Great Depression, and after the economic challenges that lasted into the mid-1990s, it has not only survived but thrived," said Southard.

For him, it is about the investment of his time, talents and treasures that will foster an environment where achievement is modeled for students and impact the future of UT and the next generation.

"The capital campaign offers expansion and a new vision for UT," Southard said. "Record numbers of students are seeking admission, and we need to make every effort to help them realize their dreams."

THE POWER OF CARE

Suzanne Collins '87 believes when you invest in UT, you make an investment in humankind that benefits generations.

"UT nurses make a long-term impact on their patients' health," said Collins, professor of nursing and interim BSN program director. "The mentoring they receive is passed on for many years to many families in Tampa Bay and beyond. It is care with a lasting legacy."

> "UT nurses make a long-term impact on their patients' health ... The mentoring they receive is passed on for many years to many families in Tampa Bay and beyond. It is care with a lasting legacy."
> —SUZANNE COLLINS '87

Collins explains this reaches beyond standard patient care to being an advocate for a patient's rights, maintaining a caring demeanor, being an early warning system to alert doctors to subtle changes and empowering patients to achieve their highest levels of wellness. The name of the scholarship Collins' has established at UT — the Suzanne Collins Endowed Scholarship for a Caring Nurse — emphasizes this type of care.

Collins herself was the recipient of a UT scholarship, which made it possible for her to complete her bachelor's degree in nursing in 1987. One course in particular hooked her — a nursing law course. She went on to earn her master's degree in public health at the University of South Florida (USF), her law degree at Stetson University College of Law and her doctorate at USF.

Working as a nurse and then a lawyer while pursuing her degrees, Collins understands the demands of juggling a career and education.

(continued on next page)

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

whose campaign gifts are transforming the UT educational experience and creating a lasting legacy of excellence. These generous alumni and friends have paved the way for the accomplishments of the Creating Tomorrow campaign.

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100 PERCENT

THE PASS RATE UT STUDENTS HAVE ACHIEVED ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE BOARDS OF NURSING LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

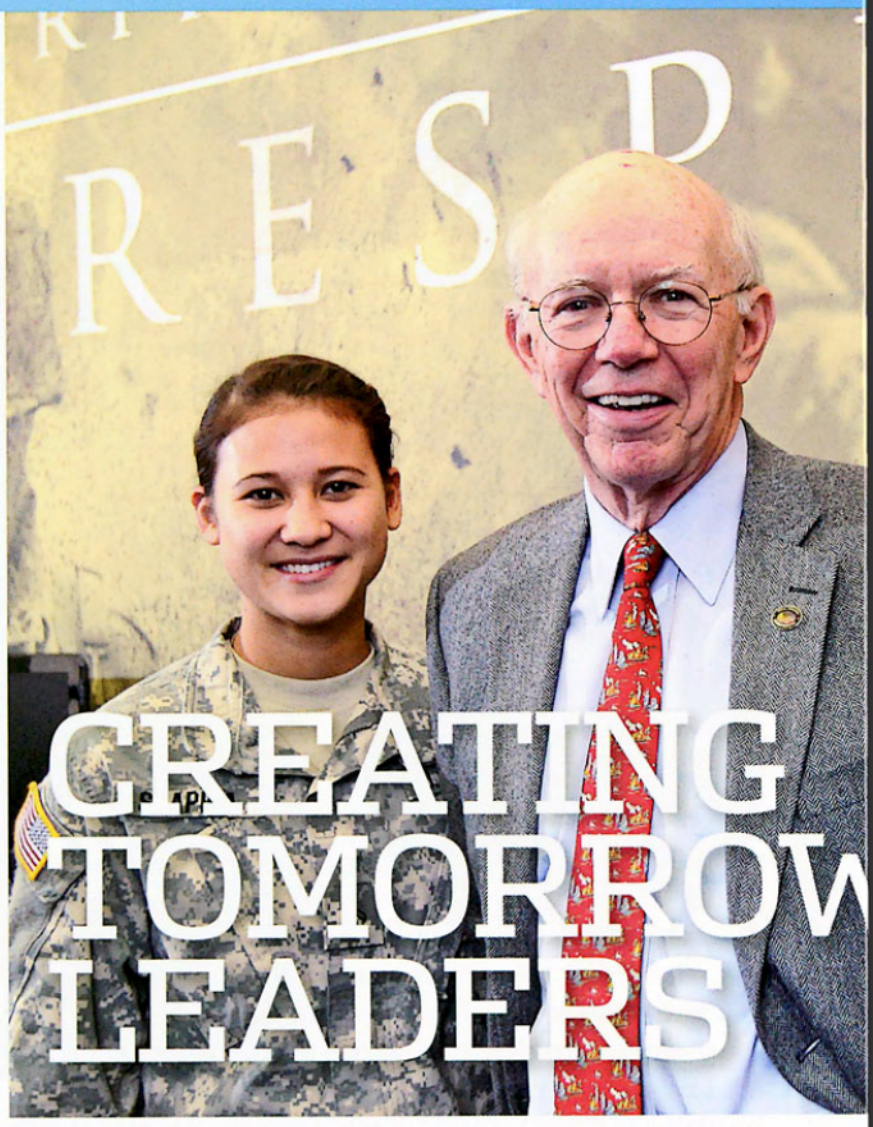
(continued from previous page)
Additionally, she was a single mom. The scholarship she received impacted her life as well as the lives of her patients and students.

"Our nurses are visible in the community from bedside nurses in hospitals to primary care providers in physician offices," said Collins. "The teamwork of our department has produced program growth and positive results."

For three consecutive years, Collins explained, UT students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination.

"Many students return to UT for graduate school and to teach clinicals, serve as adjunct professors and become preceptors to transition students from nursing school to hospitals," said Collins.

With a reputation as a tough professor, Collins' reward comes from knowing that she and her colleagues make a difference in the lives of students today and in the lives of patients and their families for many tomorrows.



CREATING TOMORROW LEADERS

While Tom Arthur was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his lack of academic achievement made him question his future. As a senior, he visited an Army recruitment office to enlist after graduation. His decision was a turning point.

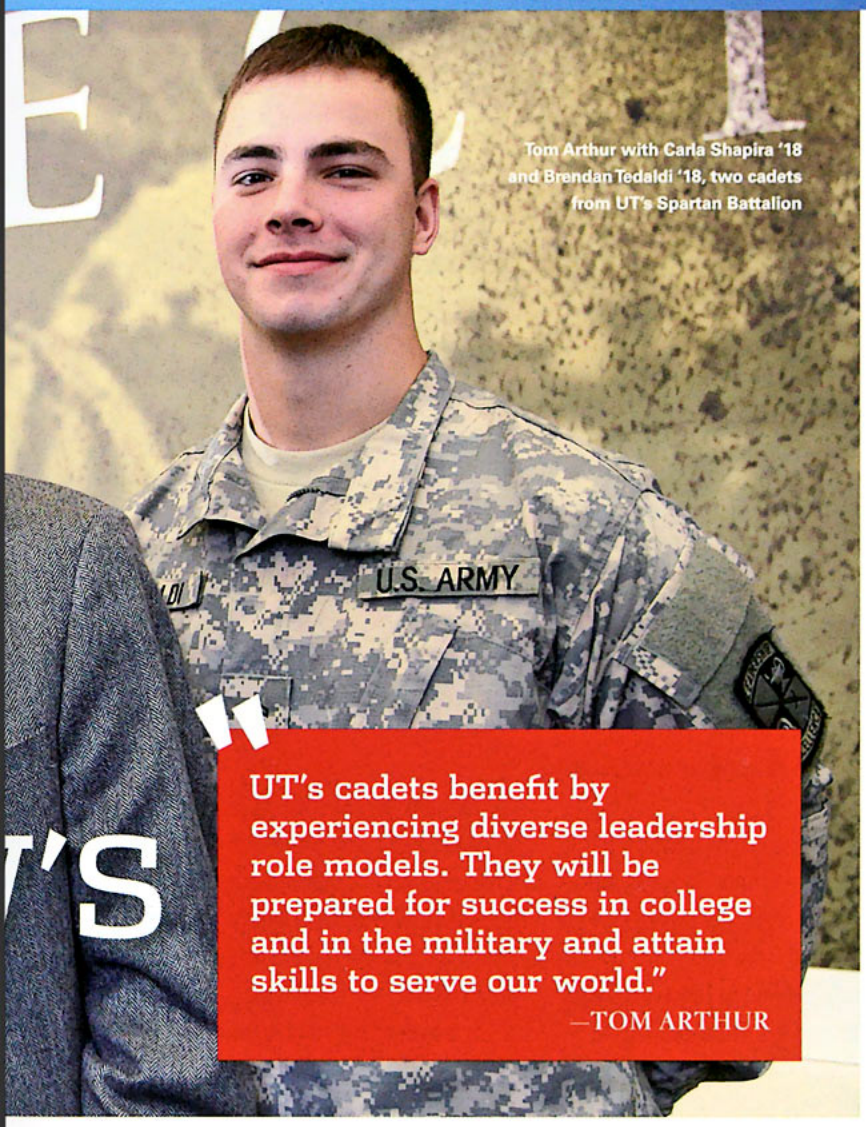
"The training I received, discipline I learned and leadership I observed made me a better, more focused person," said Arthur. After serving in the Army, he went on to earn his MBA and to a successful business career.

Knowing Arthur credits the Army for his success, in 2012 President Ronald Vaughn asked him to support the efforts to fund construction of the General Peter J. Schoomaker ROTC and Athletics Building.

"My life changed because of the same training being afforded to UT's ROTC cadets," Arthur said. "UT's cadets benefit by experiencing diverse leadership role models. They will be prepared for success in college and in the military and attain skills to serve our world."

Lt. Col. Scott Greco, director of Army ROTC and professor of military science, sees the investments in the program reflected in the cadets.

"They appreciate and take pride in their training facilities, and it is evident in their performance," said Greco.



Tom Arthur with Carla Shapira '18 and Brendan Tedaldi '18, two cadets from UT's Spartan Battalion

> "UT's cadets benefit by experiencing diverse leadership role models. They will be prepared for success in college and in the military and attain skills to serve our world."
> —TOM ARTHUR

Indeed, UT's Army ROTC program is frequently ranked as one of the best in the nation. Alumni include three Medal of Honor recipients, and it is the only non-military college with multiple Raytheon Trophy winners awarded by the secretary of the Army.

When agreeing to help out with the campaign, Arthur made one request. He wanted the building to be named after his friend and Tampa resident, Pete Schoomaker.

A retired four-star Army general, Schoomaker was recalled to active duty from retirement to serve as the 35th chief of staff of the U.S. Army from 2003 to 2007. Arthur's goal was to recognize Schoomaker's superior leadership and service to our country, and he wanted Schoomaker's character and career to inspire students.

"Transformation has been a key theme in Pete's life and leadership roles," said Arthur. "He believes in and exemplifies the need to change to be relevant for the future. I cannot think of a more fitting way to honor the general than to invest in the young men and women who are answering the call to leadership and service to our country."

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DREAMS TO REALITY

As a child, Alexandra Rey '17, who grew up in nearby Brooksville, recalls driving by UT and calling it "the Tampa castle." Today, Rey calls that castle home, and it's where her dreams and vision for her future are becoming a reality.

"My scholarships make it possible for me to attend UT," said Rey. "Investing in me and other students is investing in the future." Her actions demonstrate she is committed to yielding a return on that investment.

For Rey, UT has opened doors of academic and personal development she hadn't anticipated. She appreciates the accessibility of opportunities in a private university setting and is taking advantage of them to the fullest.

Rey, who is earning a double major in government world affairs and communication, describes the size of the campus, classes and student body as a catalyst for her achievements.

"I became a Student Government freshman senator my first year, and I have worked my way up to the position of speaker of assembly on the executive board," she said.

In her freshman year, Rey was selected for the elite President's Leadership Fellows program. The four-year program helps students to expand their capacity to lead in a global society.

"We are planning a Special Olympics event, and it is a learning experience for a group of leaders to learn how to both lead and follow, and talk and listen," Rey said.

In addition, Rey is the recruitment operations vice president for the UT Panhellenic Council.

> "My scholarships make it possible for me to attend UT ... Investing in me and other students is investing in the future."
>
> —ALEXANDRA REY '17

Rey explains the council's goals are to create an environment where students engage in leadership, scholarship, integrity and social responsibility, and these align with her passion to help others and positively impact the University and the community.

To know she can have a positive influence is fulfilling to Rey.

"I now have a deeper connection to the city I call home," she said.

CREATING TOMORROW

SEIZE THE SPARTAN SPIRIT

With each generous gift, donors are enhancing the UT educational experience. An anonymous donor has pledged a transforming gift and challenge. For every $2 donated, a matching $1 gift up to $10 million will be donated to UT. All new and increased campaign gifts qualify for the match.

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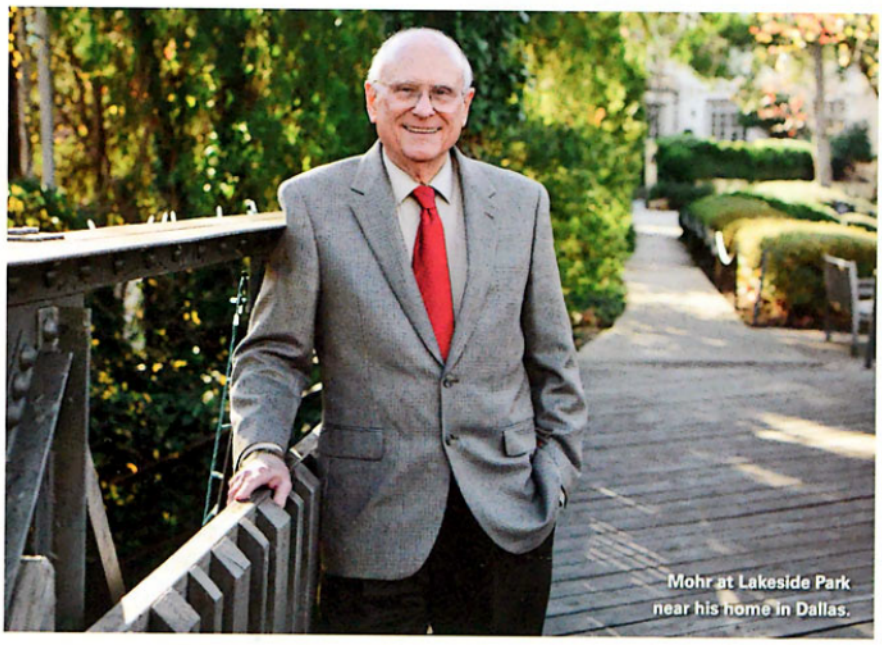
WHY I GIVE: Drew Mohr '63



Mohr at Lakeside Park near his home in Dallas.

Major: Industrial Arts and Mathematics
Profession: Retired from AT&T in 2010

Q: Your father taught at UT, correct?
A: Yes, my father was the late Dr. Robert L. Mohr, a professor of secondary education in the education department. He passed away in 1965. I was an only child and graduated from Plant High School. When I came to UT, we agreed to ignore each other if we ran into each other on campus.

Q: Do you have a favorite place on campus?
A: I would have to say Plant Hall, specifically the seats with Esmeralda. It was a favorite meeting place for everyone on campus, and good place for quick review with classmates before a test. On Fridays, you could always hear music — either violin or the piano — coming from the Music Room.

Q: Who was your most memorable professor?
A: In my junior year I decided to minor in math. A.J. Kainen was a wonderful mathematics professor. He prepared me so well and was a fantastic person. He encouraged me to pursue graduate studies.

Q: Tell me about your career.
A: Following my graduation from UT, I stayed on part-time at UT for a year to complete the requirements for a major in math. I earned my master's degree in statistics from Florida State University in 1965 and started working for GE in Louisville, KY. I returned to Tampa in 1969 joining GTE. During my career with GTE, I worked in systems, regulatory and marketing. In 1979, I transferred to Dallas with GTE. After retiring from GTE in 1995, I worked for AT&T, Cingular and then back to AT&T until I retired in 2010.

Q: How did UT prepare you for your career?
A: UT gave me a chance to discover my own capabilities. During my working career, I had to reinvent myself several times. My experience at UT contributed to my ability to take on new challenges.

Q: What are you up to nowadays?
A: I keep busy these days with my wife and family — we have three granddaughters — and going to the gym three or four days a week. I do volunteer work and serve as chair of Ark House, a local nonprofit that provides temporary housing to people from outside of Dallas requiring long term medical treatment.

Q: How do you continue to stay connected to UT?
A: I always make time to read the *UT Journal* to follow the exciting changes at UT, and faithfully send in my annual donation, which is matched by the Verizon Foundation, the successor to GTE. *(Editor's note: Mohr has made a gift to UT every year for the past 33 years.)*

Q: Why do you support UT?
A: I want to perpetuate the experiences I had at UT for other people. I get satisfaction knowing that I can do my little part to help. My father always said that "education is a lifelong process," and I think UT prepared me for that journey.

Pethe is one of many faculty and staff who give back to UT.

the annual fund

A Stake in UT's Success

Back in the '80s, when Marlyn Pethe was working as a reference librarian in the Macdonald Kelce Library, campus was abuzz with the library's latest acquisition — a fax machine.

"The library had the only fax machine on campus so everyone would come in to use it," she said. "And we applied for a grant just to purchase it! Now they are almost obsolete."

Pethe spent the first 20 years of her career at UT as a reference librarian and was eventually named director of the library.

"It's been 40 years of awesomeness working with amazing faculty, staff, students and the wonderful people here in the library," said Pethe.

Since first coming to UT in 1972, Pethe has seen the library evolve from being almost all books, to having a wide variety of resources and information available at the click of a button.

"Physically, the footprint of the library has remained virtually unchanged, but technology has changed how we use the space," said Pethe. "Our objective has always been to help students and faculty find the resources they need. That remains the same, but the biggest change is how we do that."

Pethe is full of fun stories, like the time an alligator wandered into the parking lot that used to be by the pool, or visiting the Florida State Fair during lunch breaks when the fairgrounds were still adjacent to campus.

But she also speaks with pride about how much the University has changed in her time here.

She has seen enrollment blossom from a low of 1,400 to a record-breaking 8,037 this past fall. She has seen the campus grow from 66 acres to 105. And over the years she has worked with hundreds of "remarkably talented faculty."

"Often in the acknowledgements of a paper or book, there will be a thank you to the library, and I always feel good knowing that I contributed to their work, even if it is something little," she said.

Pethe said one reason UT has been able to keep up its continued growth is the support of faculty and staff.

"As faculty and staff, we are vital members of the UT family. We have a stake in the success of this University. Every day, we make a difference at UT by sharing our talents and wisdom," said Pethe. "Just as the students, parents and alumni invest in the future of UT, I too feel a sense of responsibility to invest in the future of this University."

Pethe is just one of many faculty, staff, adjunct professors and even part-time staff who give back to the University through the Annual Fund.

"I choose to support and give to UT, because it has the power to change lives, and I've seen how every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference," said Pethe.

Need more information? Contact Jennifer Tyler, Director of Annual Giving
jtyler@ut.edu
(813) 258-7401

Calling All Spartans Clara Budynsky '17, an allied health major from Chicago, is just one of the phenomenal student representatives who are calling alumni and parents this spring to ask for their support. But these students do more than secure contributions to the Annual Fund. They share information on campus life, local events and volunteer opportunities, update contact information and gather news on UT alumni. When you get your call from Clara or one of the other student callers, take a minute to answer the phone, share your stories about UT — and consider making a gift.

SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT ATHLETES, HONOR PARENTS

Driven by inspiration, passion and a desire to honor his parents, Rob Begelman '76 established the Begelman Family Scholarship, which will support UT student athletes in perpetuity.

With his gift, Begelman wanted to demonstrate his gratitude and appreciation for his life-changing experiences at UT and honor the lifelong friendships he established during his time at UT.

In addition, with the passing of his mother in December 2014, Begelman wanted to honor his mother and his father, who was a college professor, coach and member of three athletic halls of fame.

"My parents admired The University of Tampa and my father especially instilled in me a love of collegiate athletics," Begelman said. "I know my parents would be very humbled and proud of the establishment of this scholarship in our family's name."

Begelman's planned gift via his estate plan was created in partnership with Athletics Director Larry Marfise and the University's Office of Development and University Relations.

Those interested in exploring how they can leave a legacy and have a lasting impact on the future of UT students and faculty can contact the Office of Planned Giving at (813) 253-6220.

CEO OF STELLAR PARTNERS JOINS BOARD

Susan Stackhouse, president and CEO of Stellar Partners Inc., has joined the Board of Trustees. Stellar Partners is an award-winning chain of U.S. airport retail stores. Stackhouse started with one duty-free store at Tampa International Airport and has led the company to its current position as one of the country's leading airport retailers.

As a widely respected industry expert, Stackhouse serves in a number of leadership roles in the local and national level of economic development and airport concessionaire organizations such as the International Association of Airport Duty Free Stores, the Airports Council International, the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, SunTrust and UT's Sykes College of Business.

BOARD OFFICERS BEGIN TWO-YEAR TERM

A new slate of officers began a two-year term on the Board of Trustees in Fall 2015. James L. Ferman Jr., president and CEO of Ferman Automotive Management, is serving as chair. Phillip E. Casey, retired chair of Gerdau, is serving as vice chair. James S. MacLeod '70, president and CEO of Coastal South Bankshares Inc., is serving as secretary. John B. West, CEO of Lion Asset Management, is serving as immediate past chair.

CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER RENEWED INDEFINITELY

On Dec. 18, 2015, President Obama signed legislation indefinitely extending the charitable Individual Retirement Account (IRA) rollover, making it retroactive to Jan. 1, 2015, with no expiration date.

This special provision allows donors 70 ½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 from their IRA directly to a charity, such at The University of Tampa. The gift would count toward their required minimum distribution, but exclude it from their taxable income.

Help UT students — and yourself — by considering an IRA rollover gift. For more information, contact the Office of Planned Giving at (813) 253-6220.

A New Home for a Beloved Instrument

When Fred and Aleta Fisher decided to move to a smaller residence, they needed to find a new home for their piano, which was still in like-new condition. As old friends of the University, they decided the best place for the piano was in the UT music department.

A well-maintained piano can cost almost as much as a comparable new piano. The upright piano the Fishers donated was made by Petrof, an old and venerable company that has built pianos in the Czech Republic since the mid-19th century.

The instrument now resides in a special practice room in the Fuhrman Music Center, a room reserved for music majors to practice. Adjunct faculty also use the piano to accompany student during voice lessons.

"It occupies a special category of very fine pianos available to those students doing the best and most advanced work in the art," said Haig Mardirosian, dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

Josh Cessna '16 practices on the Fishers' donated piano under the guidance of Grigorios Zamparas, associate professor of music.

GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

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Looking for a meaningful way to honor or remember someone special? Consider making a gift to UT in honor or in memoriam of your loved one. Your gift will make a lasting impact on the lives of students, just as your honoree made an impact on you.

You can make a gift of any size in honor or in memory of someone. Once you have made your gift, the University sends a special letter to the individual being honored or to the person you indicate should be notified of the memorial gift.

To make a gift in someone's name, you can use the comment section of the online giving form, or mail your gift directly to:

The University of Tampa
Office of Development and University Relations
401 W. Kennedy Blvd
Box H
Tampa, FL 33606-1490

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Join the Family!

The University of Tampa is family too.

As members of UT's Legacy Society, we have included UT in our estate plans through insurance, charitable gift annuities and retirement assets. Our gifts are as diverse as our own families — UT included!

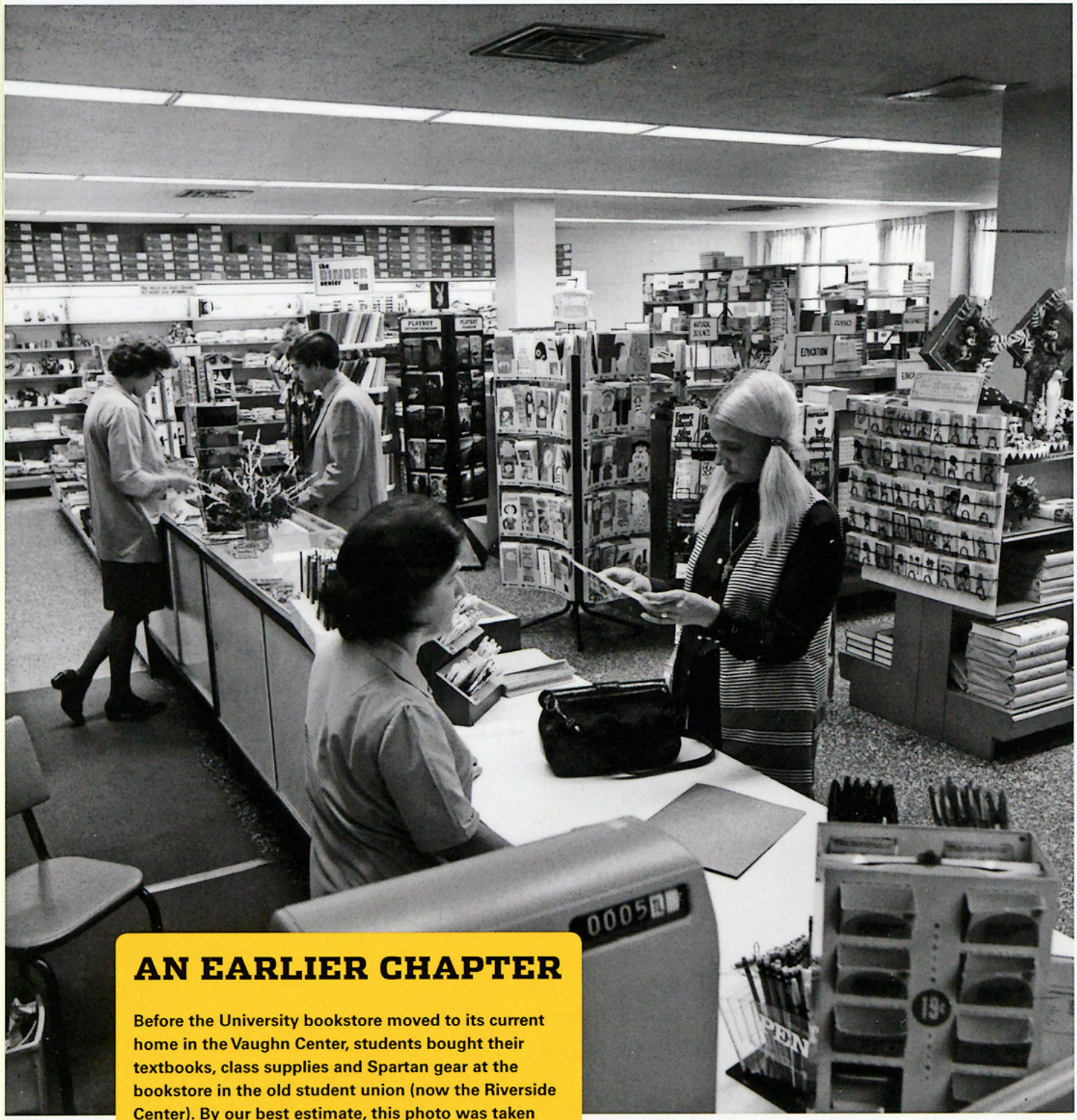
We believe The University of Tampa is an extension of our family, and that the time is now to ensure excellence in education for tomorrow's UT students. How? Through an estate gift.

Call the Office of Planned Giving for more information.

The University Of TAMPA

From left: Aakash M. Patel, Mary Wade Timonier, Richard Lee '58, Lauren Thomas Compton MBA '04, and David C. Isele, former UT faculty.

Office of Planned Giving (813) 258-7373 or (813) 258-7400



AN EARLIER CHAPTER

Before the University bookstore moved to its current home in the Vaughn Center, students bought their textbooks, class supplies and Spartan gear at the bookstore in the old student union (now the Riverside Center). By our best estimate, this photo was taken circa 1971. If you recognize anyone in the photo, or have memories to share of the old bookstore, we want to hear from you! Email publicinfo@ut.edu.

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By joining the Alumni Loyalty Program, you will receive a coupon code for 25 percent off one school logoed apparel item delivered to the email you used to sign up. Offer not valid on textbooks. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Coupon is not redeemable for cash. Exclusions may apply.

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Sigma Delta Tau sisters Devyn Fitzpatrick '19 (front) and Emily Crosmer '17 (with red plaid shirt around her waist) helped create a sidewalk chalk masterpiece on the walkway of the Vaughn Center Courtyard during UT's "Greekelodeon" themed Greek Week in February.