

UT

CREATING TOMORROW

FOR UT AND OUR WORLD



THE CAMPAIGN FOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

INVEST IN EXCELLENCE

**\$150 MILLION
CAMPAIGN WILL
HELP SHAPE
UT'S FUTURE**



The Publication for The University of Tampa WINTER 2016

Journal

Ideas Start Here

New space puts students on
the road to entrepreneurship

Meeting New Challenges



IN SEPTEMBER, MY WIFE, RENÉE, AND I ATTENDED THE FINALS of the Clinton Global Initiative's Hult Prize competition in New York City. We were there to cheer on a group of UT students that was one of six finalist teams vying for \$1 million of seed money. Out of more than 20,000 teams throughout the world, the UT team was the only U.S. team and the idea, which is based on using cellular technology to educate children in urban slums, was hatched by the students a year earlier in UT entrepreneurship workshops and business classes.

The team — which calls itself Tembo — didn't win, but the connections the students made and the things they learned will serve them well for the rest of their lives as they continue their business, or when they create new ones. Renée and I are very proud of them, and especially of how they represented UT.

These are the kind of students and experiences UT has the capability of fostering. These students could not have had that kind of success without having excellent faculty, excellent facilities, excellent classmates and excellent support. This is exactly why I am pleased to announce UT's second-ever capital campaign, in which we're planning to raise at least \$150 million.

The campaign focuses on all those things that will provide for student success and a rich total educational experience. For instance, three of the five student members of Tembo received institutional financial aid. This can't be done without building UT's endowment and institutional scholarships. The team is currently working on its business plan in the Community Incubator in the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center in our new Innovation and Collaboration Building. This facility's construction wouldn't have been possible without the help of committed donors. And, the team has been guided throughout their journey by top UT professors. This, of course, wouldn't be possible without the funding of professorships and chairs.

The campaign has been titled "Creating Tomorrow — The Campaign for The University of Tampa" since our priority is both securing UT's future and helping students secure their own futures and reach their own dreams. During the just-completed silent phase of the campaign, we were fortunate to realize amazing support from our donors, alumni, parents and community members. We've built buildings, added faculty members, increased our enrollment and added new programs — in short, we've made UT a model, metropolitan institution of higher learning, and have already achieved more than 85 percent of our goal.

But we can't rest on our past achievements. We need to move forward and finish the campaign that has been started. I invite everyone to participate and be a part of UT's ongoing transformation.

When I was named president in 1995, I immediately started preparing for UT's first capital campaign to ensure our survival and success. By the time the campaign ended in 2004, we had raised \$84 million. The UT community believed in UT, and look at where we've gone since then.

It's up to us to meet new challenges, and, if we're successful, imagine where we might be in another 10 or 20 years. The possibilities are endless, and I'm confident of the progress we're making. You should be, too. With your support we can change lives, help create tomorrow and change the world.

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\$150 million campaign will continue UT's transformation.

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news of note



Clockwise from left: A shaded lanai was added off the common area, affording a comfortable view of the sand volleyball court. An enhanced, defined front entrance leads into a new student community room.



McKay Makeover

Renovations put McKay Hall on the same level as other UT residence halls.

SAY GOODBYE TO WALKING DOWN THE hall to shower.

One of UT's original residence halls — the last one with “old school” communal showers — got a complete makeover this summer. And those rooms with end-of-the-hall showers were replaced with suite-style rooms with private accommodations.

Andrew McAlister '87 lived in McKay for two years as an undergraduate in the wing that faces Plant Hall. He recalls that the wing with communal showers was referred to as the “animal wing” and had a very particular smell.

Today McKay Hall, which opened in 1959 as a men's-only residence hall and is set on the banks of the Hillsborough River, has the sort of amenities

and comforts — and smells — typical of UT's modern, multi-floor living spaces.

The most visible improvement is an enhanced, defined front entrance that leads into a new student community room with conference and study areas, offices for resident assistants, new restrooms and an upgraded common room. The existing laundry room was renovated, and a second laundry room added.

All of the interior finishes, bathrooms, bathroom fixtures, windows, ceilings, doors, plumbing, mechanical/electrical systems, roofing and flooring has been replaced.

In addition, a shaded lanai was added to the west side of the common area, affording a comfortable

view of the sand volleyball court and the river. The center courtyard was also landscaped with seating areas and barbecue grills.

“I'm glad they didn't tear it down,” McAlister said. “Not only because I feel nostalgic about it, but I also think the building works well with the river.” Now an associate professor of communication at UT, McAlister said McKay is unique in that residents can sit outside their door and watch passersby in front of Plant Hall or view the river.

The original construction of McKay Hall began in 1958, along with Smiley Hall, which was a women's-only dormitory. Prior to those projects, UT residential students lived in rooms in Plant Hall, then known as the Tampa Bay Hotel.

"The whole experience has opened up countless doors for them. Tembo is moving forward at full steam ahead."

— ERIC LIGUORI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Full Steam Ahead for Tembo

ON SEPT. 26, ALL EYES WERE ON TEMBO, UT's team of student entrepreneurs, as they competed for \$1 million in the Hult Prize finals in New York City.

Tembo was one of six finalists in the competition, which began with 21,000 students in teams around the world, and the only team from the U.S. to make it to the finals. Tembo uses mobile phones to help distribute an early childhood curriculum for at-home instruction to children living in urban slums.

More than 150 UT students, faculty and staff, and members of the Tampa community filled the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center to watch them pitch via live streaming video. Members of the Tembo team Skyped with the crowd just minutes before presenting.

The Hult Prize, in partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), is a startup accelerator for social entrepreneurship, which brings together college and university students from

around the globe to solve the world's most pressing issues. The theme for 2015, selected by President Bill Clinton, was Early Childhood Education in the Urban Slum and Beyond.

Though Tembo did not win the prize in the end, the experience and exposure they received are invaluable, said Eric Liguori, assistant professor of entrepreneurship, who helped organize the watch party.

"The whole experience has opened up countless doors for them," said Liguori. "Tembo is moving forward at full steam ahead. They have been generating revenue since July 1 and are poised to start scaling up."

Students who were watching from the sidelines this year are preparing to take their shot at the Hult Prize when UT hosts a local preliminary round of the 2016 competition on Friday, Dec. 11. One of the 15 teams who have signed up will be chosen from that competition to go straight to the regional competition in Boston in the spring.

THE LAST DAYS OF RESCOM

ResCom's current residents will be its last, as the University will demolish the remaining two wings of the residence hall after May Commencement to make way for the second phase of Palm Apartments.

The overall footprint will be similar to the original ResCom configuration, with a courtyard within the three wings. Once the entire project is completed, the Palm Apartments complex will house approximately 660 students, compared to ResCom's original 234 total occupancy.

ResCom was built in 1986, and was a highly successful and popular residence hall, according to President Ronald Vaughn. "But time and wear and tear has called for its demolition," he said.

The new wings, which will join with the existing Palm Apartments phase I building that was completed in January 2015, will be similar in style to the current Palm Apartments. Each room will be suite-style with a common living room, kitchen, bathroom and four single rooms. Completion is set for August 2017.

Editor's Note: In the Fall 2015 issue, the publisher for Professor of Education Hunter O'Hara's new book, *Transcendent Teacher Learner Relationships: The Way of the Shamanic Teacher*, was identified incorrectly. The book was published by Sense.



Team Tembo: Phil Michaels '10, MBA '15, M.S. '15, Ulixes Hawili '17, Samantha Taranto '15, Sercan Topcu M.S. '14 and Brent Caramanica '16.

The Root of Media Bias

THE MEDIA. SOME COMPLAIN CERTAIN news outlets are too liberal, others too conservative. Regardless of which way a news outlet leans, is it the media themselves that drive bias or is it the demands of their audience?

"I frequently hear people complain about how biased the media is, and I have always wondered why the news outlets that are perceived to be the most biased also enjoy the largest viewership/readership," said Cagdas Agirdas, assistant professor of economics.

Could it be, Agirdas wondered, that people enjoy receiving their news from a source that agrees with their own views? And if that is true, wouldn't media companies maximize profits by appealing to their readers' political preferences?

These were the questions Agirdas explored in his study "What Drives Media Bias? New Evidence from Recent Newspaper Closures," which was published in the *Journal of Media Economics*.

Aware that since the advent of the Internet many newspapers have been forced to close due to declines in revenue, Agirdas chose to look at the behavior of surviving newspapers.

"I thought that media bias should not change if the bias was driven by the political preferences of the owners/editors of these newspapers," he said.

On the other hand, if media bias is demand-driven, a surviving newspaper could expand its reader base by moderating its bias to reach out to the readers of the closed rival newspaper.

What did he find?

"I found significant moderation of bias after the closure of a rival newspa-

per," said Agirdas. "This is interesting because many people blame media outlets for their bias, instead of the appetite for bias among readers."

For the study, Agirdas used a large panel data set of newspaper archives for 99 newspapers from 1990–2009, which included 24 newspaper closures.

To measure bias, he looked at the amount of reporting on unemployment news for two reasons. First, studies have found that a change in the unemployment rate is a strong predictor of the success of an incumbent president's political party. And second, there is a correlation between a newspaper's partisan endorsement pattern and its reporting of unemployment news.

He found that conservative newspapers reported 17.4 percent more unemployment news when the president was a Democrat before the closure of a rival newspaper in the same media market. This effect was 12.8 percent for liberal newspapers. After the closure, these numbers were 3.5 percent and 1.1 percent respectively. (Moderate newspapers did not display statistically significant bias either before or after closure.)

Agirdas said these findings support the idea that media bias is demand-driven, as the surviving newspapers appeared to temper their bias to gain the readers of a closed newspaper.

"From time to time, there are calls to split up ownership of media outlets to avoid monopolization," said Agirdas. "However, if the media outlets are simply serving the preferences of their viewers, such an approach would not create better outcomes. Two newspapers owned by the same company might disseminate completely different political views if they are trying to appeal to readers of opposing views."



THE CLASS OF 2019

21,361

Applications received

1,801

Freshmen enrolled

17% of students are international

TOP COUNTRIES:

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, India, Bahamas

NEW COUNTRIES

South Sudan, Eritrea, West Bank Palestine, Togo, Kyrgyzstan

20.5% qualify for the UT Honors Program

MOST POPULAR MAJORS:

Biology, Management, Finance, Nursing, Psychology, Criminology, Allied Health

NOTABLE NAMES:

Ricardo Vega — appeared on *The Voice* (2013)

Joshua and Celeste

Nascimento — legendary soccer player Pele's twin son and daughter





A (Not so) Hidden Gem

EIGHT PLANT SCULPTURES, LIKE THE one pictured here, are just one of the features of UT's newest greenspace, Agliano Park, which borders UT's new Innovation and Collaboration Building to the south and east. The park was named to honor the Agliano family, who previously owned the property (which included the iconic Valencia Gardens restaurant) for more than eight decades.

Among the park's features are five fountains, an outdoor fireplace, a small stage area for entertainment, multicolor lighting and seating.

spartan sports



Thompson was goalkeeper for the Jamaican National Team at the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

One to Tell the Grandkids

Ryan Thompson '10 shares his "euphoric" experience at the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

ON JULY 26, 2015, RYAN THOMPSON '10 found himself in the most important soccer match in his career so far.

Standing on the field as goalkeeper for the Jamaican National Team during the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Gold Cup final and representing his home country on a world stage, Thompson was living a dream. It was an experience he said stands as the No. 1 moment in his career, with years of hard work coming

to fruition in a final showdown against Mexico.

Three days prior, his team beat the United States in the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals.

"It was a historic moment for our nation with that victory on American soil. No Caribbean team has ever done it before. That is something I will forever cherish and share with my kids and grandkids," Thompson said.

The final game brought Thompson and his teammates against Mexico for

the championship. The team walked away with a silver medal that day, but he called the experience "euphoric."

Thompson took over as goalkeeper in the final group stage match due to the other goalkeeper getting injured. He went on to start in every game of the tournament, playing in four of the six games. He was instrumental in his country's historic performances throughout the tournament.

In the quarterfinals, Thompson found himself playing against a familiar

face. Fellow Spartan Pascal Milien '10 is a midfielder for the Haitian national team, who Jamaica defeated 1-0 on July 18 to move on to the semifinals.

Thompson was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in an extended family household where his mother played an instrumental role in his upbringing. He has been playing soccer for as long as he can remember, and most of his training took place in Jamaica.

He took on his current position of goalkeeper when he was 13 after first beginning as a field player. In this role, he started playing at Harbour View Football Club before accepting a scholarship at UT. While with the Spartans, he played for the IMG Academy during the summer.

After graduation, he joined the Portland Phoenix before signing his first official pro contract for the Irish champion team, the Shamrock Rovers, based out of Dublin. Thompson has also played for Vasby United in Sweden and the Tampa Bay Rowdies. In addition to the Jamaican national team, he now plays for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds.

The passion for the sport and the desire to play are ever-present and deeply rooted within Thompson.

"My love for the sport came when I realized that soccer could and can change my life in a positive way. With this sport, I could travel, receive an education, meet people from all over the world and of various walks of life, and explore many different cultures," Thompson explained.

The exposure to various cultures was something Thompson appreciated

the second he walked on UT's campus.

"By being exposed to the diversity at UT, it has helped me in my professional career tremendously. I'm equipped with the skills to fit in in any type of environment," he said.

In addition to playing in the Gold Cup, Thompson has had several other memorable moments in the course of his career. He notes losing against Lynn University in Boca Raton, FL, in his first game freshman year, and then defeating them his senior year. Winning the league and cup with the Shamrock Rovers, being a part of the first Irish team to qualify for a European tournament group stage, being the first Jamaican to play in the Champions League, winning the Caribbean cup, and playing against Japan last year in Niigata for the national team and having a "man of the match" performance will all rank as some of the best times of his career.

Thompson plans to play as long as he can and eventually get involved with college coaching. He hopes to get picked up by another European team or maybe play for a Major League Soccer team in the near future. He said his dream to play at a high level stems from the drive to be an inspiration to many, especially the underdogs who do not think they will ever make it to that level.

No matter where he is in his career he will never forget his roots as a Spartan.

"I made friendships and had experiences that I will cherish for life," Thompson said. "UT is my home away from home."

— EMILY STOOPS



NEW PLATE DESIGN UNVEILED

After 10 years on the road, the UT specialty license plate has been redesigned to have a stronger adherence to the University brand.


The new plate is available for purchase from the State of Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. You can switch to the new UT plate for an additional \$27 the next time you renew your car registration.

If you currently have a UT tag, you can either wait until your 10-year tag replacement to get the new plate for no additional cost or pay \$28 to get the new plate immediately.

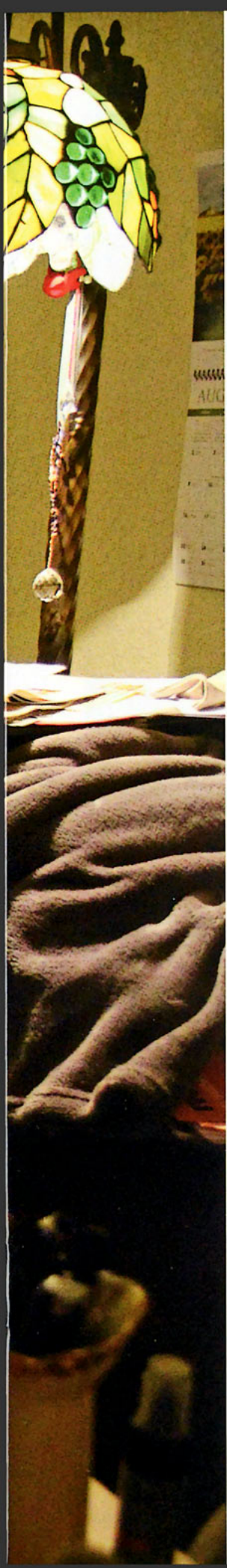
For each plate purchased, \$25 goes to UT to help fund scholarships and academic improvements.

To learn more about the new UT license plate, call the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (813) 253-6209 or alumni@ut.edu.

One of the Best UT's intramural sports program was recently named by BestColleges.com as one of the top 50 intramural programs in the nation. Several factors were considered for the ranking, including efficient team/activity organization, number/frequency of programs offered, facilities and leadership. UT is the only Florida school on the list.



Audrey Guyton has found a home in Cypress Landing, an apartment complex that provides affordable housing to the homeless.



UT study shows providing stable housing
for chronically homeless saves
money and changes lives.

A Safe Place to Land

BARBARA GREEN NEVER IMAGINED SHE WOULD SINK TO SUCH depths. But there she was, sleeping behind gas stations and drinking herself senseless, when a caseworker from a social service agency approached her. ¶ “I just remember this soft voice asking me if stable housing would make a difference in my life,” recalls Green, 61. “Really, it was like an angel out of the darkness. And everything changed for the better.”

BY MICHELLE BEARDEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

"WITH STABILITY, THEY HAVE HOPE. AND WITH HOPE, THEY FEEL THEY HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES." — J.E. SUMERAU, UT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

This encounter in 2012 would lead to a 180-degree turnaround in Green's life. Today, she lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Cypress Landing, a federally funded project that provides affordable housing to the homeless. She takes a bus to her job at the University of South Florida, where she works in food services.

Green, a widow, is back on good terms with her five grown children. She's quit drinking and now is a regular church-goer.

"I'm clean, I'm happy and I'm with the Lord now," she says. "I know the first step was this apartment, a place where I feel safe. I know I could have died so many times, because I put myself in bad situations. All that is behind me now."

Green's personal testimony to the rapidly growing national movement of "housing first" to curb the plight of the homeless is strong — but it's not enough when it comes to securing funding. Government agencies and foundations want to see verified data before doling out tightly contested dollars for such projects.

Two professors and a college dean at UT have done just that.

Late summer, Norma Winston, professor of sociology, J.E. Sumerau, assistant professor of sociology, and Jack Geller, dean of the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education, released *Cypress Landing Cost-Benefit Analysis Report*, focused on the financial upside of providing stable housing to people deemed "chronically homeless."

The study was launched at the request of Steps Forward, a non-profit corporation comprised of local business and civic leaders dedicated to seeking long-term solutions to helping the homeless. Needing an academic team to tackle the data, they approached UT President Ronald Vaughn, who enthusiastically endorsed the project.

"It fit perfectly with the vision of

this University," Geller says. "We're part of this community, and should be part of solutions to make it better. And given that we're located right downtown, we're pretty much joined at the hip. If we can provide the research that states a case, then it gives the advocates a legitimate tool to move things forward."

The trio built its case around Cypress Landing, a 24-unit apartment complex in north Tampa for this population. Steps Forward spearheaded the venture, which utilized \$2.1 million in federal funding to buy the apartments and renovate them, and private and corporate donations for furnishing the units.

If they are able, residents pay a small percentage of their income, whether it's from a job or a benefit check, to live at Cypress Landing. In addition, the Tampa Housing Authority kicks in an additional subsidy, which is available to anyone who is eligible for housing assistance. To stay on course, residents work with a case manager from Gracepoint Mental Health Care and have access to individual and group therapy, provided by county funding.

While some residents will never have the capacity to be solely self-sufficient, others will find their footing, get vocational training or a degree, build up a nest egg and eventually move on.

Homeless advocates have long maintained that this model of investing in "housing first" pays off because it leads to cutting other costs. But until the UT study, there were no actual numbers on the local level to back up that claim.

Seventeen residents took part in the study. The findings showed that getting them off the streets and into Cypress Landing saved taxpayers nearly \$500,000 in just over a year and a half.

"We found pretty much what we expected," says Sumerau, who conducted the interviews with the residents. "What probably hit home the most is the necessity of stability. With stability,



Above: UT professors Norma Winston and J.E. Sumerau conducted a cost-benefit analysis on Cypress Landing, which focused on the financial upside of providing stable housing to people deemed "chronically homeless." Right: Jonathan Offerman told *The Tampa Tribune* one of the biggest advantages of living at Cypress Landing is safety.

they have hope. And with hope, they feel they have more opportunities."

Among the findings:

- Prior to moving into the apartments, residents had visited the emergency room a total of 62 times at a cost of nearly \$197,000. That number shrunk to 12 total trips — costing just over \$38,000 — after moving in.
- The participants had a total of 148 visits for detox services at a cost of more than \$27,000. After they moved in: zero visits.
- Jail time reduced dramatically as well. Residents in the study had spent 1,240 nights behind bars in the county jail, costing taxpayers \$82,000. The number dropped to 196 nights at a cost just over \$14,000.

"Let's face it," Sumerau says.

"We're supposed to care for our fellow humans, but in this world, budgets matter. There's competition for available funds. This study gives useful



information that demonstrates it's a worthwhile expenditure."

Winston brought extensive experience to the table. She previously worked with Hyde Park United Methodist Church in downtown Tampa on its homeless outreach, and on several projects with UT students focused on raising awareness of the homeless. She, too, wasn't surprised by the results of their work.

"You get them into permanent housing, and then you can begin the work on the psychological and emotional healing," she says. "What I've learned is that the stereotype of the homeless — that they're all alcoholics, drug addicts or just lazy — isn't true. Many of them end up on the streets, because they're victim of circumstances. If I faced some of those same circumstances, I could end up in the same position. It's rather alarming."

Though the "housing first" model is gaining acceptance nationally, there

are still naysayers who haven't bought into the concept — mainly because of the investment that must be made on the front end. Having the UT study will show the cost-savings outcomes to committing to more projects like Cypress Landing, says Antoinette Hayes-Triplett, executive director of the Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative.

"We always want to make data-driven decisions," she says. "Now we have concrete evidence from a local level of the impact of providing stable housing. We now can demonstrate how it's a win-win proposition for the community and the homeless."

Using the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition of homeless — those in an emergency shelter, transitional housing or sleeping in places not meant for human habitation — there are just over 1,900 homeless in Hillsborough County. Hayes-Triplett says about 10 to 12 percent of that figure would be

considered chronically homeless.

"It's true that we'll always have homeless people among us. But the ultimate goal is to develop strategies and plans to keep that number as low as possible," says Hayes-Triplett. "You want it to be rare and non-occurring."

Steps Forward is moving ahead with its goal of using public and private funding to have about 500 housing units available to this population in the next five years. Along with Cypress Landing, there's the 20-unit Orchid Cove on Busch Boulevard, dedicated solely to homeless veterans. A third project, Southland, located south of Gandy Boulevard, is now under renovation.

David Reed, one of the principle members of Steps Forward, traveled the country with his father, Calvin, to look at housing models that could be implemented here. They found other like-minded business people in the community to join their efforts in finding concrete ways to solve a problem that needed to be addressed.

"We targeted the population that was the most difficult and most visible — the chronically homeless. If we're able to house them for \$12,000 to \$15,000 a year and provide them with the services they need, that's going to be far less expensive in the long run," he says. "We went to Dr. Vaughn because of our respect for The University of Tampa and the bright people they have working there. They put a lot of work into this and they delivered."

The study has given Steps Forward the validation it needed. And now, Reed says, there's hope in the foreseeable future for a group of people who once had nowhere to go or access to health and social services they need to survive.

"The only solution to homelessness is having a home," Reed says. "We didn't invent this. We saw the solution, and we're finally making it happen in this community." **UT**



OPEN FOR

The new ICB is a place where students come together to solve problems,

BY MARY ELLEN COLLINS

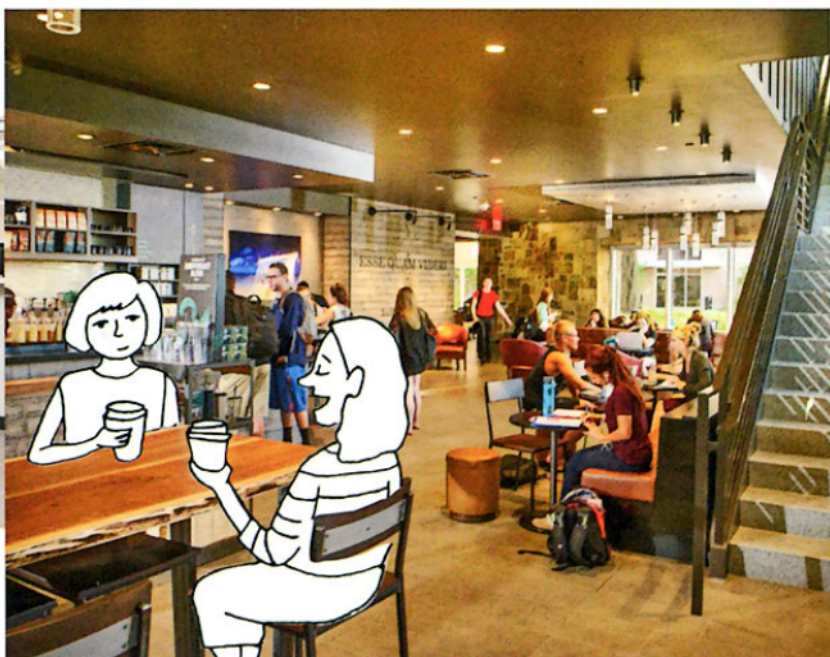
ILLUSTRATIONS BY DRUE WAGNER

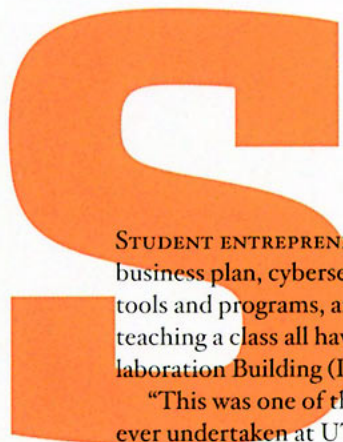




BUSINESS

learn, answer questions, relax, interact, teach and be taught.





STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS WHO ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO WORK ON THEIR business plan, cybersecurity majors who need hands-on experience with security tools and programs, and faculty members who want to park and grab a latte before teaching a class all have a new destination on campus — the Innovation and Collaboration Building (ICB).

"This was one of the most complex and thoughtful building projects we have ever undertaken at UT," said UT President Ronald Vaughn about the ICB, which is located at the corner of Kennedy and North Boulevards.

When planning the ICB, Vaughn said the challenge was to address academic, administrative and student needs in a single building, and build within it unique spaces that would support students in their academic and co-curricular endeavors.

"Each area had their own space and functionality requirements, which required a lot of strategic thought and design," said Vaughn. "We spent a good deal of time studying model examples of design and function in higher education and industry, and tried to improve on those. There are designs, spaces and amenities for learning in this building that simply do not exist anywhere else in the world."

FLOORS ONE TO SEVEN

The first floor of the ICB is home to the Sykes College of Business' new cybersecurity program. In a classroom, lab and technical support area, students learn how to protect organizations' information and information systems by using industry standard tools. A dedicated server network with sophisticated software provides hands-on practice in a real cyber network.

The Campus Safety Center, which is also housed on the first floor, includes meeting and interview rooms, video monitoring and training rooms, evidence processing space, a walk-up window and a 24-hour dispatch center.

Perhaps the most popular occupant of the first floor is a Starbucks, which offers Starbucks Reserve®, a collection of unique coffees from farms all over the world. The Starbucks, with its comfortable indoor and patio seating and adjacent meeting and study areas, has already become a regular gathering spot for UT community members.

One floor up, visitors will find 22 faculty offices and several classrooms.

Though not glamorous, a much-needed expansion of the Rick Thomas Parking Garage occupies floors three through seven and adds 386 parking spaces to the garage's original 725 spaces.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP ON EIGHT

The John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center occupies the entire eighth floor, providing aspiring entrepreneurs with a unique space that encourages introspection, creativity and innovation.

"I was blessed to be involved (in the design process) from the beginning, and I visited many different entrepreneurship centers in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East," said Rebecca White, director of the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center. "We decided we wanted a very different kind of space, and it was designed with a focus on learning and the development of an entrepreneurial mindset."

The new space was built with the expectation that the number of entrepreneurship majors and minors will double in coming years, while an increasing number of students from other disci-



plines will also be inspired to explore their own entrepreneurial ideas.

Unique features of the center include a Collaboration Kitchen to facilitate informal interaction, Think Pods for private thought or conversations, and a Contemplation Loft for reflection and creative play.

EFFICIENCY AND FIT

Achieving a physical design that blended with the rest of the campus was a challenge, mainly due to the fact that four floors of the ICB are parking decks, according to Vaughn. "Despite that, we were still able to maintain our campus' architectural style of glass and red brick, while adding nice touches, including the chiseled arch over North A Street."

Vaughn also said one of the most visually attractive elements of the project is Agliano Park, with its fountains and unique landscaping. "This undoubtedly will become one of our students' most favorite outdoor hangouts, for both studying and socializing," said Vaughn.

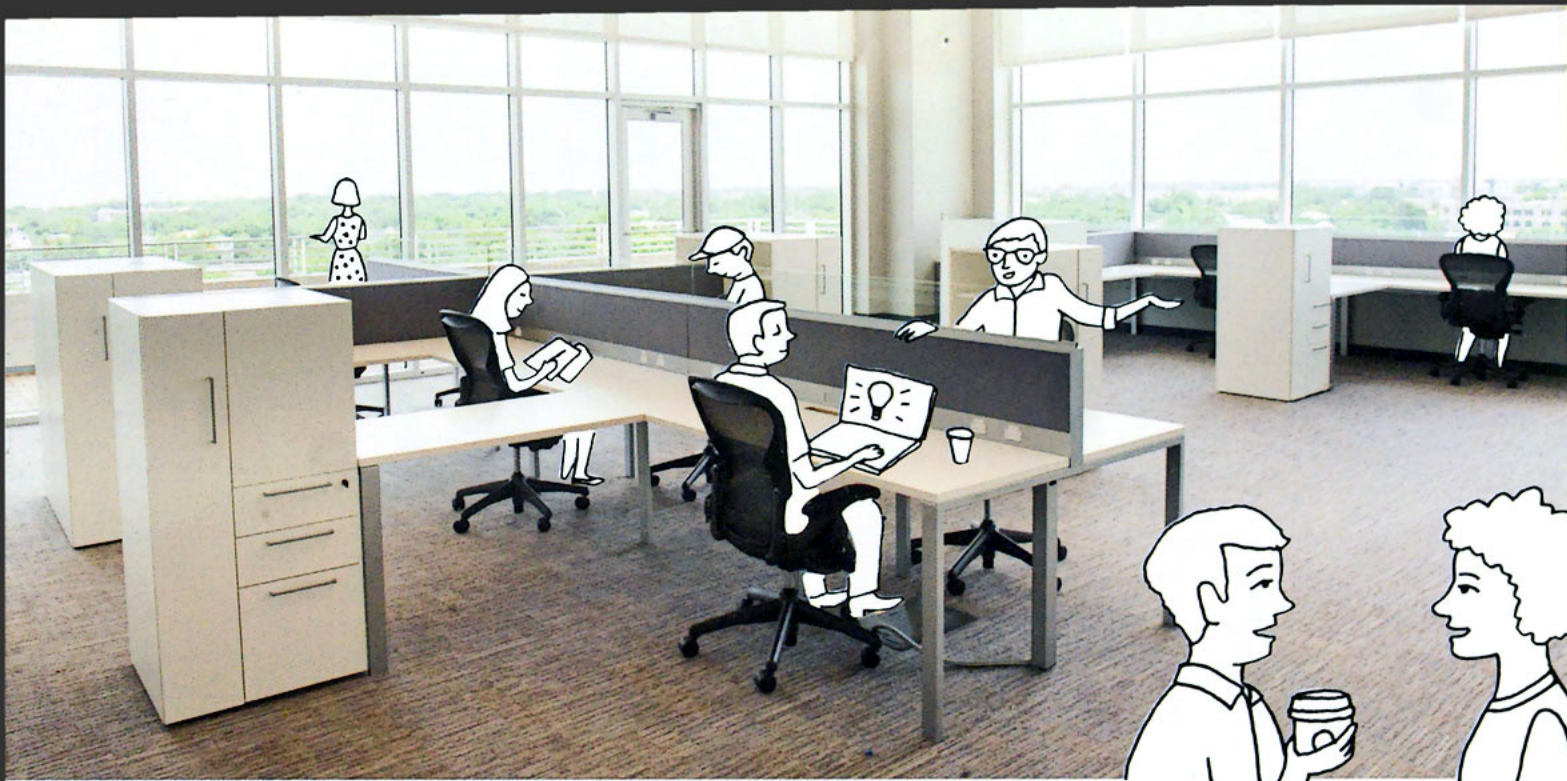
It was also important the building demonstrate the University's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship. The ICB has been designed to be a candidate for the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

In addition to the fact that 30 percent of building materials were sourced locally, the ICB's connection to the campus' high-efficiency chiller plant results in significant energy cost savings. The building's lighting controls facilitate the use of natural light whenever possible, and low voltage lighting promotes energy efficiency.

From its creative design to its cutting-edge academic programs, the Innovation and Collaboration Building provides a stimulating environment for students to explore, discover and work together while carving out their own paths to success. **UT**

Previous spread; top row: The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center includes spaces that encourage introspection, creativity and innovation, including (from left) the Inspiration Center, a covered reception deck, a Pitch Room and the Contemplation Loft (viewed from below). Bottom row: The first and second floors are home to (from left) dedicated computer labs for the cybersecurity program, study and meeting areas, a Campus Safety center and a Starbucks Reserve®.





A CREATIVE HAVEN

WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT, EXPANSIVE VIEWS OF TAMPA BAY AND walls featuring displays of inspirational and educational graphics, the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center provides an environment where creativity thrives. It is a place where current and aspiring entrepreneurs can find camaraderie, advice and support.

According to the center's director, Rebecca White, the design for the space was based on an experiential education learning model that has five modalities: collaboration; coaching and mentoring; reflection; apprenticeship; and multiple practice. This has resulted in a design that incorporates designated spaces for every aspect of the entrepreneurial experience, from conducting daily business operations to practicing the art of the pitch.

ALUMNI INCUBATE NEW BUSINESSES

Nestled in the southwest corner of the center, the Community Incubator hosts up to nine community businesses in the early stages of development for 14 weeks as their owners work to move their business to the next level. Although the first six individuals to be accepted into the incubator are UT alumni, anyone can apply.

In addition to having physical space in the incubator, participants have access to experts in the entrepreneurship field. At any time, they can walk down the hall to meet with faculty who have offices on site, including the center's first visiting scholar, Colin Jones, from the University of Tasmania. Jones is

a leading contributor to the field of entrepreneurship education. There are also opportunities to interact with visiting entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

"Whether it's the community of fellow entrepreneurs or professors or Tampa Bay business professionals, there's always someone there to provide support and feedback. I love the open office area that allows us to connect with other businesses. The incubator really fuels the entrepreneurial spirit," said Phil Michaels '10, MBA '15, M.S. '15, co-founder and CEO of Tembo, a current incubator resident. Tembo, a finalist in the 2015 Hult Prize competition, uses mobile phones to distribute an early childhood

curriculum for at-home instruction to children living in urban slums.

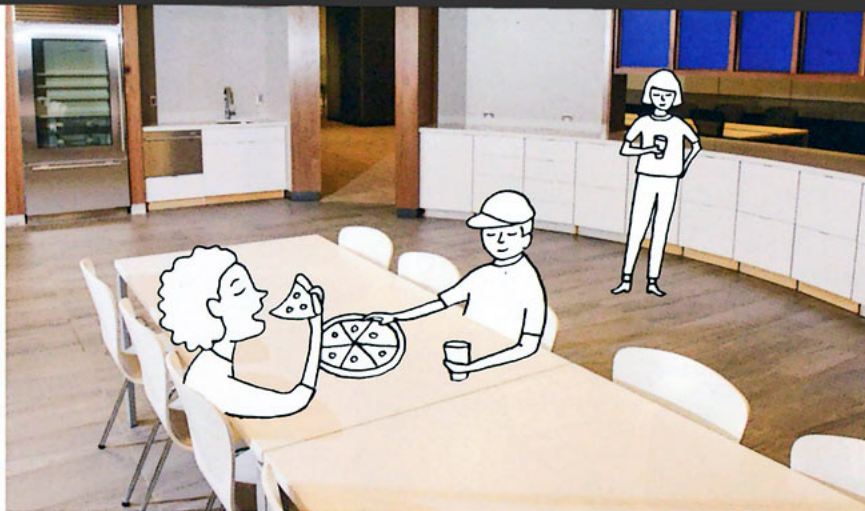
STUDENT STARTUPS ACCELERATED

Current UT students benefit from the center in several ways. Those in the Executive MBA program are working directly with the incubator entrepreneurs in a live case study arrangement, a relationship that has benefits on both sides.

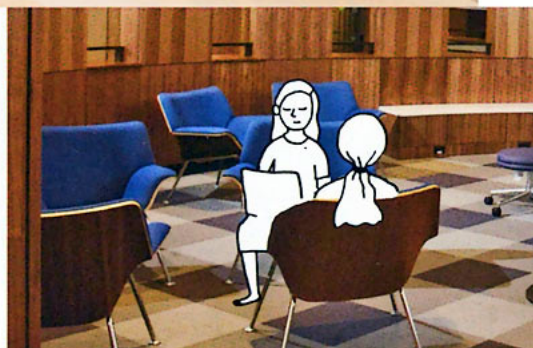
Bryan Galan '15, founder, owner and sole employee of Midnight Waxers, an overnight mobile auto detailing company, goes to the incubator daily, where he has five EMBA students doing research for him.

"My end goal is to turn it into a franchise opportunity," he said. "The students are figuring out what a franchising plan would look like. It's a very hands-on experience for them; and for me to have free access to a whole research team is pretty amazing."

All undergraduate and graduate students who are already running their own businesses can work in the Spartan Accelerator spaces, which, like the Community Incubator, gives them access to the center's resources.



The Collaboration Kitchen (above) is a space for discussing business ideas around the kitchen table. The Contemplation Loft (right) gives students a place to reflect on what they're learning.



One Spartan Accelerator participant is senior Andrew Visnick, who started Cool College Cleaners in Fall 2014 and currently has 100 customers who take advantage of his weekly cleaning service. He particularly appreciates the chance to be surrounded by people who are knowledgeable about every aspect of starting and running a business.

"It's a nice community where you can reach out to anyone. There are always a few entrepreneurship professors hanging out, or entrepreneurs who come in and donate their time. Or you can always turn to people in the incubator," he said.

Visnick said having instant access to people who can help is far more attrac-

tive than having to make an appointment with someone. "A lot of times you have an idea, and you can take that to the next level pretty quickly by talking to people who've been there, done that," he said.

CONTEMPLATION PART OF THE PROCESS

While the Community Incubator and Spartan Accelerator foster the coaching and mentoring, and apprenticeship learning modalities, the Entrepreneurship Center includes a number of areas that incorporate the collaboration, reflection and practice aspects.

"For the Collaboration Kitchen, the idea was that a lot of business ideas are hatched around the kitchen table," said White. "Just like the kitchen is the heart of the home, it's the heart of our space." The welcoming room includes a refrigerator, microwave and large table, along with displays of businesses that were started by alumni.

Entrepreneurs need to perfect their ability to explain their business in a way that will attract the interest of potential investors. "They have to practice their pitch over and over again, so we created a unique room designed especially for pitching," said White. The space includes an audiovisual booth for recording and reviewing pitches.

Those who appreciate the lively and collaborative environment of the center also make good use of the spaces designed for quiet time.

"People here are learning a lot, and you need the opportunity to reflect on what you're learning," said White. For that, individuals can head to the Contemplation Loft on the mezzanine level or one of two egg-shaped Think Pods. These unique, freestanding magenta and purple pods have bench seating inside along curved walls and offer the perfect place to brainstorm, problem-solve, or, as Michaels does, center oneself.

"I meditate in there every day," he said. "It's great for getting yourself out of the day-to-day (activity)."

IT'S A WINNING FORMULA

Although the center just opened in September, it is already garnering rave reviews, especially from the Community Incubator participants, like Matt Rutkovitz '13.

"We get unbelievable mentorship from faculty, and we have state-of-the-art everything at our fingertips," he said. "Not only is the incubator going to have a major impact on the community, it's also a great place for students to learn, and to live and breathe what it's like to start a company. It's 50,000 times more beneficial than what you can learn in a classroom."

Rutkovitz launched Outeraction, a digital marketing firm in 2014 and is in the incubator with his current venture, SurgeCurve, a company that will enable people to save money, make money and learn how to start their own business in less than two days.

The thoughtful design of the center, the breadth of available resources and the valuable input and support from faculty and fellow entrepreneurs has resulted in a one-of-a-kind creative haven for anyone at any stage of turning a business dream into reality. **UT**

CURRENT COMMUNITY INCUBATOR PARTICIPANTS

- Andrew Favicchio '13, Sauce Digital
- Brian Galan '15, Midnight Waxers
- Ricardo Garcia Stenftenagel '14, ClassSuite
- Phil Michaels '10, MBA '15, M.S. '15, Tembo
- Matt Rutkovitz '13, SurgeCurve
- David Wistocki '13, DJ Dayve & Associates

BY KILEY MALLARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY DRUE WAGNER



Jake and Cassie Grestens,
CASS Contemporary Art Space

PASSION. SACRIFICE. CREATIVITY.

A few young UT alumni entrepreneurs
share what it takes to start up your own business.





ASK THE QUESTION, "WHAT TAMPA BAY BUSINESSES HAVE BEEN STARTED BY YOUNG UT alumni?" and the list you will get will go on for pages. From services to restaurants, retail stores and websites to new products and beyond — the list is as varied as the people who started them.

We sat down with handful of our young alumni entrepreneurs to learn a little more about their businesses, why they chose to base them in the Tampa Bay area and what advice they have for the next generation of entrepreneurs.

JAKE '11 AND CASSIE '10, M. ED. '12 GREATENS

Business: Co-founders and co-owners of CASS Contemporary Art Space and Studio

Other job: parents of four children, ages 2 to 13

Though Jake and Cassie Greatens have been partners in life for many years, it was only recently they took the plunge into being business partners.

"Jake and I, we both have an adventurous streak, though nowadays that's tamed down a bit," said Cassie with a laugh. "We never wanted that 9-to-5, clock out, go home kind of life."

Originally from the Tampa Bay area, a couple of years ago they spent three and a half weeks soaking up the art scene in Paris, London and Berlin. After they returned to Tampa, the pair decided the timing was right to open their own gallery. "We wanted to open a gallery, but we wanted to do something different," said Cassie. "We didn't want a small space that would limit what artists could do."

After finding and renovating a space off MacDill Avenue in South Tampa, the Greatens opened CASS Contemporary Art Space and Studio, which specializes in contemporary art from local, regional, national and international artists. In addition, they provide consulting services to collectors and businesses.

"We like to mix local, national and international artists so we travel a lot. We almost see it as recruiting," said Cassie. "We feel it is important to support local artists, but it's also equally important to infuse the area with international artists."

Jake said they bring in a lot of edgy work from places like L.A. and Berlin. "We always wonder how it's going to be received. So far the response has been unreal," he said.

The latest addition to the gallery is a print shop, where they produce limited edition prints of works in the gallery. The prints, Jake said, are great for young collectors who are just starting out.

"There is this image of owning a gallery where you sit behind a desk and wait for people to wander in," said Cassie. "We don't want to do that. We want to get involved in the community so we're teaming up with other brands, like opening a satellite location at the Epicurian Hotel."

The first exhibition in that partnership is *Keep it Simple* featuring works by Brazilian multimedia artist Mateu Velasco. They are involved with a mural project in Hyde Park Village, also featuring Velasco. As part of that they organized an outreach project with seventh and first graders at St. Mary's School to watch Velasco in action.

While Cassie said her favorite moments are landing a coveted artist or nailing an opening, for Jake, it's all about the art. His favorite times are when they get new artwork in. "I'm like a kid on Christmas," he said. "Before an opening I'll be here until 3 a.m. every night because if I don't do it, it's not getting done. But when I'm here alone at midnight hanging a show, I have this epiphany that I have the coolest job in the world."

Their advice for aspiring entrepreneurs is threefold. First, they said take the leap, but make sure you do something different that makes you stand out. Second, hire well. And third, "Realize you're going to be working 90 percent of your life," said Cassie. "But you will love it."

Q-AND-A WITH LISA VODOLA '05, M.ED. '10

Business: Founder and Owner, Preschool Readers LLC, an accelerated early literacy program

How did you get Preschool Readers off the ground?

For one year, I taught in the classroom during the day and then worked after school with clients. This helped ease the transition from teacher to entrepreneur and gave me the confidence I needed to take the leap.

What lessons have you learned as a business owner?

I've learned the importance of cultivating my creativity, which

often includes making down time a priority. Our brains foster creativity when we're having fun and relaxing. When I'm stressed, I close myself off to new ideas. This has been huge for me as I never used to allow myself down time, but this practice of slowing down has been so beneficial!

What is the best part of owning your own business? Most challenging?

The best part is the ability to be creative with my work, as well as the freedom, from writing all of my own curricula to being able to make my own schedule. The most challenging would be trying to be "in the know"

JOE ORSINO '06, M.S. '07

Company: CEO of Caledon Concepts, parent company of Ceviche Tapas and Rococo Steak

From: Toronto, Ontario, Canada; came to Tampa to attend UT and decided to make the city his home

When Joe Orsino graduated, he thought he'd be in finance forever. But in 2007, when his investment group was approached with the concept for Ceviche, his interest was piqued. He soon found himself forming Caledon Concepts and taking on a majority role in the restaurant.

"I was suddenly tasked with learning the restaurant business," he said. The concept behind Ceviche is tapas, which can be a wide variety of hot or cold appetizers. Orsino liked that tapas are sharable and thus social and felt the concept "had legs."

Caledon would go on to open Ceviche restaurants in multiple parts of Florida, and currently has locations in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Orlando.

The company has since evolved to

about all areas of my business, from the newest social media platforms to the most recent research-based methods for teaching reading.

Any advice for potential entrepreneurs waiting to take the plunge?

Take any steps you can toward what you want to do. Read, research, seek out mentors. Don't let those who don't understand the passion you have deter you. Similarly, don't allow your own fear to stop you. If you can, start the business on the side while holding your current position. This will make the transition seem much smoother as you'll have a client base and have hopefully worked out some of the kinks before making it your full-time job.



include a second concept with Rococo Steak in downtown St. Petersburg. Rococo Steak is named for the 18th century artistic movement.

"Rococo was a time in art that was rebellious, where they revolted against the strict guidelines of the Baroque," said Orsino. "It was an artistic ideal that represented what we wanted to achieve with the steakhouse. We wanted to break from tradition, have more artistic side dishes and appetizers and different steaks than you traditionally find."

Rococo specializes in sustainable fish and organic, free-range, grass-fed beef. In fact, he said they are particularly unique to the area in the number of selections of grass-fed beef on the menu. His favorite? The dry aged New York strip, medium rare.

The restaurant's wine cellar is a particular point of pride for Orsino, who holds a Certified Sommelier designation. When they opened Rococo Steak, Orsino said their goal was to win *Wine Spectator's* Best of Award of Excellence their first year — which they did. There are only 50 restaurants in Florida who have this designation.

Orsino said the best part of his job

is seeing happy customers. "What's great about this business is you get to see very immediately the results of the work you put in," he said. "Say we just added a new dish. I can be in the restaurant the first night and see a table enjoying it. That's something unique to this business."

As for lessons he's learned along the way, he said it's important to surround yourself with the right people. "Build your organization for where you want to be, which may not be where you are today. Prepare for growth," he said. "We built our office first, knowing we wanted to expand."

He also said don't be afraid to admit when you're wrong. "You might come out of college thinking every decision should be right, but don't let one failure or mistake hold you back," he said. "You're going to hit some home runs, and you're going to strike out."

Orsino explained how Caledon converted a restaurant space that wasn't doing as well as they wanted into a rental space that has been much more profitable. "Ask yourself how you can maximize your return on investment. Don't be tied to something when there may be better options."



Chris Findeisen,
Black & Denim

CHRIS FINDEISEN '06

Company: Co-founder and co-owner, Black & Denim, Blind Tiger Café and Cowork Ybor

Day job: Seasonal Design Manager at Majestic Athletic/VF Licensing Group

Chris Findeisen's entrepreneurial journey began with an unexpected knock on his door in 2008. Standing on his doorstep were Roberto Torres and Luis Montanez with an idea to start a clothing line and a need for a designer.

Together the three honed the concept for the line to a vintage Americana vibe and found a U.S. vendor willing to produce the clothing

at a reasonable price. The origin of the company's name comes from a photo of American actor James Dean.

"He looked so cool and all he had on was a black T-shirt and denim jeans," said Findeisen. Black & Denim was born. "We like to say we have a James Dean look with a Johnny Cash soundtrack."

Though they started by selling the clothing out of their trunks, these days Findeisen says they are no longer a "mom and pop" business. They have product in 80 boutiques up the east coast. Disney ordered 3,000 Black & Denim T-shirts to sell in stores in

Epcot's American Adventure.

"Black & Denim is skyrocketing into a brand people recognize," said Findeisen. Also taking off are the trio's latest ventures, The Blind Tiger Café (with locations in Ybor City and soon the Seminole Heights neighborhood of Tampa) and Cowork Ybor.

"A good entrepreneur doesn't focus on just one thing," said Findeisen. "He (or she) focuses on multiple things." Which is why when they were looking for a larger space for their Black & Denim storefront in Ybor City, they noticed there was no café in Ybor City and decided to open one themselves.

The Blind Tiger Café opened about a year ago and focuses on selling local coffee, tea and, of course, textiles. Findeisen said the idea of a café mixed with retail makes sense.

"A lot of coffee and tea drinks take a while to brew, and what do you do while you're waiting? You browse," he said.

Aware of Cowork Tampa, they decided to open a similar space in Ybor City, but with their own style. The space has a laid back, vintage vibe and can be rented out for as little as an hour or for weeks and molded to whatever the client's needs are.

For Findeisen, the best part of growing the business has been seeing customers appreciate not just the product, but the brand. There's also "the satisfaction of a yes" and seeing it all come together.

The worst parts of being an entrepreneur? "All the no's. And there's also a lot of sacrifice — sleep, time. Entrepreneurship is not a get rich quick thing — that's our culture's microwave thinking. This takes time," he said. "But you won't appreciate what you have until you've worked hard for it. It just keeps getting bigger. At this point all it's going to take is one big deal."

He also said you don't have to go to New York or Los Angeles to be successful. "We did it ourselves based out of my little apartment on Waters Avenue," he said. **UT**

For the three alumni profiled here, being involved in the process of bringing the Entrepreneurship Center to life was a no brainer. Each credits UT with nurturing their own entrepreneurial bent, and they wanted to give students the same edge, too, especially in a business world that is always looking for the next big thing.

THEY MADE IT HAPPEN

Lowth pictured
in the center that
bears his name

BY JEN A. MILLER '02
PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEX MCKINIGHT

"A CENTER LIKE THIS WILL HELP STUDENTS MAKE THOSE CONTACTS AND CONNECTIONS AND FIND THOSE MENTORS WHILE STILL IN A UNIVERSITY SETTING."

— JOHN P. LOWTH

JOHN P. LOWTH '82

SOME PEOPLE COME TO UT BECAUSE a family member went here first. For others, it's to play for a UT sports team. For John Lowth '82, it was snow. "The snowstorm of 1978," he said, to be exact. "I was going to go to college in western New York, and there was a huge snowstorm that redirected me to Florida."

He wanted a university in an urban environment, too, but the timing of the storm that turned him south was serendipitous. At UT, Lowth got his start on the road to the creation of Arnone, Lowth, Wilson, Leibowitz, Andriano & Greco LLC, where he is currently president.

He is also the Lowth behind the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center that occupies the eighth floor of the new Innovation and Collaboration Building (See page 12).

"A lot of people have the entrepreneurial spirit but don't find it until they leave college," he said. "I support the center, because it provides this opportunity for young people to develop mentors and develop real life experience before they leave the cocoon of college."

Lowth studied criminology at UT and was also a resident assistant and a founder and president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

"The small classes and the ability to communicate directly with professors — and adults — at that time in my life was very important," he said. "And then I had the added experience of being a resident advisor and solving problems. Being someone that was a trusted individual dealing with the administration, security and other departments within the University gave me a very well rounded and sure way of looking at the world."

Though he considered law school after graduation, he decided to work in the UT Office of Admissions for a year to "research and find out what I wanted to do in life, and that's what

I did," he said. It lead him to his first career move.

While working in the admissions office, Lowth met a few people who worked in finance and real estate.

"They mentioned life insurance," he said, which led him to his first job in that field — another change in his life he said was totally by chance.

"I loved the idea of being my own business, and that was the draw into the financial world," he said. He joined a firm that allowed him that flexibility and moved back to New York. There, he and a partner took over the company's Long Island offices.

That was the first step in becoming a top name in the field. Arnone, Lowth, Wilson, Leibowitz, Andriano & Greco LLC is a life insurance firm specializing in estate planning and business continuity planning for high net worth estates.

"I started the firm with a partner and a secretary," he said. The business grew to the point of going public and being part of the New York Stock Exchange. Recently, they took the business private again.

The firm has offices in Long Island and Manhattan, NY, and Palm Beach and Coral Springs, FL. He divides his time between both locations because of clients and, yes, the weather, but also because Lowth's son is a freshman at UT.

Lowth said the University has certainly changed since he was a student ("I was at Howell Hall, which isn't even on campus anymore," he said), but that the growth of the school has matched that of the city, and has been for the benefit of the University. He sees the Entrepreneurship Center as part of that growth, and a boon for students who might otherwise take longer to stumble into what they were really meant to do.

"When I first started, there was nothing like the Entrepreneurship Center at the University — or at any university as far as I know," he said. "A center like this will help students make those contacts and connections and find those mentors while still in a university setting. The Entrepreneurship Center can help students get a jump start."

RODNEY PIATT '74

WHEN ROD PIATT '74 WAS in high school, he split his time between Fort Lauderdale, FL, and his family's home in Pittsburgh. When it came time to pick a college, he had to choose between the two states and went south. He's glad he did. While at UT, he started on a path that would take him to leading a company that developed one of the most talked about commerce parks in Pennsylvania.

At UT, Piatt played for the school's golf team, served as president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and then



as president of the University's Interfraternity Council.

Through playing on the golf team, he met Bob Ford '76, now a professional golfer, who has become a lifelong friend. Working within the fraternity system nurtured leadership skills in him, too.

"You learn as a young person how to work with people in different situations, and you learn some of the basics of leadership and decision making," he said.

Piatt enrolled as a business major, then focused on accounting. That may seem a far leap from what he

does now, but he says the experience helped him become the businessman he is today.

That's because when he graduated, he went to Ernst & Ernst (now Ernst & Young). "Working as a CPA at a big national firm and the exposure I got to a lot of different industries helped me immensely as I went through my career," he said.

After his time in accounting, he worked for his family's business, and then, 15 years ago, started his own real estate development company, Horizon Properties. He's also the lead independent director and vice chairman of the board of directors of Mylan, a pharmaceutical company.

Horizon's crowning achievement has been Southpointe in Cecil Township, PA, a world-class commerce park that the company started working on in 1988 and began developing in the early 1990s. Since that time, it's become a mixed-use commerce park that includes 5 million square feet of office space and a championship golf course that has hosted PGA Championships. About 14,000 people work in the park, which also has more than 1,000 residential units.

"It's just a cool place, and we've been able and fortunate enough to develop it," said Piatt.

Piatt said his own entrepreneurial spirit lead him to be involved with the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center. "If you don't have entrepreneurship in a certain sector of America, you don't have America," he said.

"If you look at all the great companies that are here today and have been here, they all have been bred out of someone's vision and someone's entrepreneurship and someone's passion. What the University has tried to do and is doing is really creating an opportunity for all these young kids to collaborate together," he added.

BENSON RISEMAN '78

Benson Riseman '78 came to UT for two things: "to play sports and explore the wild frontier," he said.

Riseman, who is from Boston, is now a man about town in Las Vegas with a successful public company and an entrepreneurship incubator under his belt, but he started his career trying just about everything at UT: he played on the baseball team for four years, was a resident assistant, served as chief justice on the student judicial board, held roles in student government and yearbook, and was the student representative on a committee that was looking for a new university president (they selected Richard Cheshire, who served as president from 1977-1986).

"I was really pretty active," he joked.

He didn't stop after graduating, either. With no idea what he wanted to do with his business administration degree, he went to the Tampa library, checked out annual reports of various companies and wrote to the number one or two person at each company.

His strategy worked: he was hired by the Carnation Company to be a territory manager. That job didn't quite fit, so he moved back to the Boston area and got a job in radio advertising, which lead to a 20-year career in broadcasting.

That's where he met Steve Streit. At first, they were competitors at different media companies, but through radio consolidation they started working with instead of against each other.

"We would always talk, and one day he said he had this crazy idea for a product," Riseman said. By then, Riseman saw that the radio business was changing, and he was looking for a different kind of challenge. This seemed like a product that could be that challenge. "After about 45 minutes



on the phone, I said we can do this."

This conversation happened in the late 1990s, right when shopping online started to become popular. "The retail world had this question: how does a youth buy something online if they can't get a credit card?

They can't take a \$10 bill and shove it through a hard drive," Riseman said.

The solution was a card that acted as a credit card but would be loaded with money by parents — "a card that kids can use whenever they wanted, and parents would feel good about it," he said.

Green Dot became much more than that. Today, Green Dot products are available in more than 60,000 stores and the company issues pre-paid debit cards on behalf of Visa and MasterCard.

At that point, Riseman transitioned out of Green Dot and looked again for a new challenge. He found that in creating BENSEA Enterprises, an entrepreneurial think tank and consultancy that helps transform ideas into independent, free-standing businesses. BENSEA Enterprises specializes in strategy, branding, marketing, revenue generation and the distribution of supportive business resources to client companies.

"I've always had interest in startups and the entrepreneurial spirit," he said. BENSEA is a place to do that. "We're working towards developing full blown entities that will then go off on their own to develop their own businesses," he said.

He became involved in the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center, because his goals perfectly align with what the center hopes to do. "I feel really loyal to the University and want to be a part of it and participate," he said. "When I look at it now, it gives me so much pride, because it's just a great place." **UT**



alumni report

class acts

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

42 Joe Mills, a World War II U.S. Navy pilot, took flight once again when he flew a 1945 Boeing-Stearman biplane for his 95th birthday, according to the *Tallahassee Democrat*. Joe served in the Central Pacific during the war and was awarded the Silver Star. This biplane was similar to the one he trained in when he joined the Navy in the early 1940s. Joe plans to fly again in another five years at the age of 100. (See page 27.)

48 John Tinny published a spy novella, *The Briar Patch*, which draws on his years as a Foreign Service officer for the U.S. Department of State. The story involves counterespionage, international intrigue and terrorism. (See pages 28 and 36.)

51 Robbins Denham has been chairman of the Hillsborough High School (Tampa) class of 1945 reunion committee for eight different reunions. The 70th reunion was held on June 3, with 53 present. Fannie (Rosenberg) Zamore '50 has worked with Robbins, as secretary of the committee.

55 Robert Beach was part of the six-member swim team to complete a record-

breaking 22-mile relay across the Catalina Channel near San Diego on Aug. 20, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Robert's team is the oldest relay team to achieve this accomplishment, with all members between the ages of 80 and 85. Swimming in one-hour shifts, they completed the relay in just over 12 hours, 15 minutes. They broke the previous age record that was set by a group of 70 year olds and swam a mile longer route.

61 Hernie Vann was selected as the North Tampa Arts League's Artist of the Month for August, and a sample of his paintings were displayed at the New Tampa Regional Library. Hernie's work shows his passion for capturing Florida's natural beauty. He teaches adult art classes at Idlewild Baptist Church.

63 Emily Ashworth displayed her artwork in her first solo exhibition at Coos Art Museum (Oregon) this fall, according to *The World* (OR). Emily discovered art later in life, after serving in the Woman's Army Corps, working in medical laboratories, teaching school, raising children and leading an active political life, which included a run for governor of Oregon.

Dick O'Brien was recently joined by his grandson, Cullen O'Brien, on the sidelines of the Ida S. Baker High School football team (Cape Coral, FL). This addition marks three generations of the O'Brien family that coach Bulldog football. Dick, an expert in special teams, also coached at the University of Tennessee and Western Carolina University.

64 Dana (Bass) Chwan was a guest speaker at the July meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 966, Santa Fe. Dana, whose husband was MIA for 20 years in North Vietnam, has worked for years as a veterans' advocate and for public awareness of POW/MIAs.

71 Dan Boone was elected town commissioner of Huntersville, NC, according to *The Herald Weekly* (Huntersville, NC). Dan has been a town resident for 18 years and is active in the community, serving as vice chair of the town's Planning Board and Board of Adjustments, as treasurer for the Old Huntersville Historical Society and chairman for the restoration of the Arts and Science Building. He regularly volunteers with the Huntersville Police Department, North Mecklenburg Crime Stoppers and Angels and Sparrows.

73 James Blake has been named the vice president and deputy general manager of integrated training solutions at Cubic Global Defense (CGD), which is part of the Cubic Corp. CGD provides realistic training systems and highly specialized support services for the U.S. and allied nations.

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

It was great to see so many alumni back on campus for homecoming in October.

One highlight of the weekend was the one-night reopening of the Rathskellar as a bar on Friday night. This event was a great opportunity for recent graduates to see this space in a different light and hear stories from our '70s and '80s alumni about the popularity of "the Rat" in their day.

Another highpoint was the induction of the class of 1965 into the Golden Spartans Society at a luncheon on Saturday. Joe Tomaino '65 shared stories about UT in the '60s, including how he met his wife, Joann Randazza Tomaino '63, at a University dance. We were also excited to have one member of the class of 1939 in attendance, Idelle McMillan Mathews, who just celebrated her 100th birthday.

Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2016, which will be held on Oct. 14-16!

alumni report

Dave Hornell published a book, *Seeing the Elephant: Vietnam 1968*, which recounts his experiences as an Air Force weatherman in the Vietnam War. (See page 28.)

74 Charles Booher retired from the U.S. Army and General Dynamics after 27 years of service. General Dynamics is an aerospace and defense company that delivers products and services to the military, as well as other government and commercial customers.

75 Harold Fritz, Ronald Ray '72 and James Taylor '72 are three of the 48 living recipients of the Medal of Honor featured on a limited edition Vietnam War Medal of Honor prestige folio forever stamp, released by the U.S. Postal Service in May. The folio, which lists the names of the recipients, is modeled after the World War II and Korean War Medal of Honor prestige folio stamp sheets issued in 2013 and 2014.

Audri Scott Williams participated in the Baltimore Beloved Community Awakening Walk for a Transformed City in September, according to *The Baltimore Times*.

80 Rusty Richardson spoke at the October meeting of the Gen. Andrew Jackson Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America in Lebanon, TN, according to the *Lebanon Democrat* (TN).

81 Marc Sarnoff took part in a swim relay race at Elizabeth Virrick Park in Coconut Grove (Miami) in July to raise money for a summer youth program, according to *The Miami Times*. The event raised \$5,000 to fund free use of Virrick Park pool during the summer. Marc is a city of Miami commissioner.

82 Alan Charles recently published *Walking Out the Other Side: An Addict's Journey from Loneliness to Life*, which details his adventurous life in professional sports (baseball and harness racing) and high profile career in sales against the backdrop of his 24-year cycle of cocaine addiction and recovery. (See page 28.)

Email: walkingouttheotherside@gmail.com

83 Kevin Maher resides in Hawaii and says he is enjoying all of the unique and exciting experiences offered by this island paradise.

84 Brian Hughes was the chairman for the fifth Southeastern Family Office Forum, held Sept. 16–18 in Atlanta. The program is a gathering of successful families and family enterprises who face critical issues of shared wealth.

87 Theresa Pietro, co-owner of The Oldsmar Tap

House in Oldsmar, FL, was featured in an *83 Degrees* article about the popularity of trivia nights at Tampa Bay area restaurants and bars.

89 Gregory Schmidt married Michael Surabian in October at the Lambs Club in New York City, according to *The New York Times*. Gregory is a staff editor on the business desk of *The New York Times*.

90 David Gee was honored by the Hillsborough County Bar Association at its annual Law Day luncheon on May 20, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. David, who is sheriff of Hillsborough County, received the association's Liberty Bell Award, which recognizes commitment to community service that strengthens the American justice system.

Tracy Stern has opened a new division of her lifestyle brand, Tracy Stern GypChic, A Wanderluxe Approach to Life, which features travel guides. The first features destinations in her own stomping grounds, New York City.

91 Ozzie Timmons was promoted to hitting coach for the Tampa Bay Rays Triple-A team, the Durham (NC) Bulls, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Ozzie has been a coach in the Rays system for nine seasons, working his way from short-season to Class A and then to the Double-A Montgomery (AL) Biscuits.

92 Alicia Walker accepted a visiting assistant professor position at Missouri State University. In May she earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Kentucky.

93 Stacy Rosende exhibited her work at Clayton Galleries in Tampa. The exhibition included a mixture of oil paintings from her Color and Rhythm series, small-scale sculptures and experimental printmaking.

95 Cathy (Brown) Gallagher and her husband, **Aaron Gallagher '97**, added a daughter, Sidney Foley, to their family on May 20. The Gallaghers also have a 6-year-old son, Seth, and the family resides in Loveland, OH.

01 Kristen Yerger was named Worldwide Branding's Professional of the Year in Financial Management. Kristen is the chief financial officer of AsponTECH Technology, a position she has held since 2008. AsponTECH Technology is a technical consultancy focused on finding the best technical solutions to complex problems.

03 Les Bernys was promoted to special agent in charge for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and will be based at the Pentagon. He was also named the Air Force Association Outstanding Civilian Program Manager of the Year.

A totally rad time. The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will host an '80s party on Saturday, April 23. The event will feature drinks and heavy appetizers, games and live entertainment. Costumes not required, but highly encouraged. To learn more, go to alumni.ut.edu.



Judith DeStasio MBA '06 was named the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 2015 BusinessWoman of the Year in the nonprofit/social services category. Judith is chief financial officer of the MacDonald Training Center.

Jaime (Ruffolo) Kulaga published a book, *The SuperWoman's Guide to Super Fulfillment: Step-by-Step Strategies to Create Work-Life Balance*. (See page 28.)

Gregg Schoppman MBA presented "The Project Manager's MBA, Part 1," as part of *Construction Business Owner* magazine's webinar series. Gregg is a principal with FMI, management consultants and investment bankers for the construction industry, where he specializes in the areas of productivity and project management.

04 Kella Swift and her husband, Curtis, added a baby boy, Dawson Isaac, to the family on Aug. 21.

05 Matt Gary, who moved to Nashville to pursue a music career, premiered his new country-pop song, "It's on You," on TheBoot.com. Gary cites country artists Tim McGraw and Keith Urban as well as pop musicians like Maroon 5, Jack Johnson and John Mayer as major influences on his sound.

06 Courtney Bueno recently joined Lansky Law Group in their new location in FishHawk, near Bloomingdale, FL. Lansky Law Group offers services such as family law, criminal law, traffic offenses, personal injury, paternity, child support and guardian advocacy.

Adam Gordon was named the assistant coach for men's basketball at Southeast Missouri State University, after serving the



spartan spotlight

Joe Mills '42

95 and Still Soaring

Joe Mills' '42 secret to a long life isn't much of one at all.

"Exercise," he says, taking a break from pulling weeds in his yard in Tallahassee. "That's one. Sleep is another. Diet is another."

Mills turned 95 years old in June, but he still works out in a gym three times a week.

To celebrate his birthday, he flew an airplane — a 1945 Boeing-Stearman biplane — handling all the duties but takeoff and landing.

"She was a beaut," Mills says.

A U.S. Navy pilot in World War II, Mills has fit enough into his life for several people. He started at guard for the UT football team at a whopping 178 pounds.

"And we played both offense and defense, so I was also a defensive end," Mills laughs. "In those days, kids were not as big as today."

To say Mills hasn't lost his sharp wit as he's aged would be selling him short. He can still rattle off the names of the halfbacks he blocked for during his time at UT, as well as the coaches he played under.

"We went to Gainesville once and almost

beat Florida," he says. "Lost that game 6-0."

In 1942, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he felt compelled to join the military.

He became a Navy pilot, eventually earning a Silver Star for his efforts after the USS Nashville was struck by a kamikaze pilot in 1944. More than 100 men died in the attack, and more would have if not for Mills and other men leading fire-fighting crews to put out blazes.

"It was a tragic time," Mills said of that day. "But you couldn't worry about any of that. We were just trying to put fires out."

After leaving the military, he went into education, beginning as an instructor at Brewster Technical School in Tampa. While he was there, he helped start a football and a crew team. He fixed up an old boat shell that was donated by UT so the young men at the school would have something to row.

Mills rose as high as state director of vocational, technical and adult education in Florida, before retiring in 1988.

But as anyone who talks with him can attest to, he's still going strong.



Michelle Kalnasy '07 and Charles Powell III '07

last three years as the director of basketball operations at Mississippi State University. He also was married in May.

Elizabeth (Rozman) Scott was appointed to the Leadership Clark County (WA) volunteer board of directors, according to the *Vancouver-Southwest Washington Business Journal*. Elizabeth is senior project manager with the Columbia River Economic Development Council.

07 Michelle Kalnasy married **Charles Powell III '07**, on June 27. The marriage was officiated by **Quincy Jenkins '04**. Michelle began working as a therapist for Centered Therapy

Chicago, after earning a doctorate in clinical psychology from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Frank Raccio is a physical therapist assistant at Quinnipiac Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine in New Haven, CT, after earning an associate's degree from Naugatuck Valley Community College in 2013. He's also a proud uncle to two nephews and a niece.

Gladys Santiago has joined the Community Foundation for Southern Michigan in Detroit as its new grants manager. In this position, she oversees grant processing, tracking and reporting. Gladys previously served as operations manager at the School of Business at the University of Detroit-Mercy.

08 Lindsay Brewer married **Nicholas Joos** on Aug. 1 in Winter Park, FL.

Margeaux Sinibaldi is the new head volleyball coach at Plant High School (Tampa), according to the *Tampa Tribune*. Plant has earned 10 state volleyball championships and ranks fourth in Florida High School Athletics Association girls' volleyball history.

Alysha Vogel earned a master's degree in wellness and lifestyle management from Rowan University. She was accepted into Alpha Epsilon Lambda, a graduate student honors society, in the spring of 2015.

09 David Ballesteros MBA was elected to the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists Board, Southwest Region. David has held leadership roles with Suncoast Hospice, Pharmacy Management Services Inc. and Express Scripts. He has also served as a pharmacist officer in the Army Reserves.

Shane Denny advanced to the rank of chief petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard, according to *The Columbian* (WA). Shane lives in Alaska with his wife, Mary; daughter, Jade; and son, Carson. He is attached to Coast Guard Station Valdez in Alaska.

Amanda (Gernazian) Doty MBA is the new director of social services at Good Samaritan Society in Selby, SD, according to the *Mobridge Tribune* (SD). In her new position, Amanda supervises admissions and discharges and works with residents and families to develop a plan of care that meets the residents' needs.

Katelyn (Chapman) Gendron is celebrating her first anniversary as leadership development program manager at WEX Inc., a global leader in payment solutions. She recently became a certified administrator of the Fundamental Interpersonal Relations Orientation-Behavior test, an instrument that helps people improve their personal relationships and professional performance.

Chris Huber joined BB&T Capital Markets Commercial & Industrial Group as an associate, according to *Richmond BizSense*

(VA). Previously, Chris worked with Peachtree Equity Partners in Atlanta.

Chris Scott has started a new job as a marine biologist with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He has also earned a master's degree in marine conservation and policy from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at Stony Brook University.

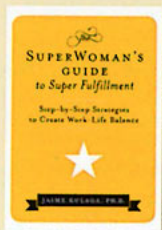
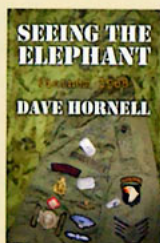
Averia Wright left her position as assistant curator at the National Art Gallery of The Bahamas to enroll in Ohio University's Master of Fine Arts in sculpture and expanded practice program. She was named a recipient of the Harry C. Moore Memorial Scholarship in the Arts provided by the Lyford Cay Foundation, awarded to exceptional practitioners in the fields of fine art, performing art, writing and arts education.

10 Andrew Argue M.S. '12 is the founder of Ten Key Heroes, a platform that connects freelance and full-time accountants with employers, and is the host of the accounting blog *The Bean Counter*. He was featured in a *Huffington Post Business* Q-and-A about his journey as an entrepreneur.

Daniel Bucheli graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a master's degree in public policy and political communication. He works as a press secretary for specialty media for the House Republican Conference in Washington D.C.

Ferdian Jap MBA, co-founder of Tampa's Big City Events, has joined forces with Atlanta-based Neutrino Media Group to bring Big City's festival concept to other cities around the country, according to the *Tampa Tribune*.

Amber (Eisenberg) Lautzenheiser graduated from Midwestern



Recently published books by alumni:

Walking Out the Other Side: An Addict's Journey from Loneliness to Life by Alan Charles '82; *Seeing the Elephant: Vietnam 1968* by Dave Hornell '74; *The SuperWoman's Guide to Super Fulfillment: Step-by-Step Strategies to Create Work-Life Balance* by Jaime (Ruffalo) Kulaga '03; and *The Briar Patch* by John Tinny '48



Clyde Eisenberg '80 and Amber (Eisenberg) Lautzenheiser '10

University's College of Medicine in Chicago in May. She is now a doctor in the internal medicine residency program at Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME. Amber's father, **Clyde Eisenberg '80**, is also a UT graduate.

John McMahan MBA is living in Nashville, TN, and is the events director for Running for Brews. Running for Brews is a free social running club that combines weekly runs with drinking beer. Founded in 2010, the club now has over 10,000 members in 16 locations nationwide.

Ryan Thompson, goalkeeper for Jamaica's national soccer team, helped the team to a place in the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Gold Cup championship in July. The team, which was ranked 76th in the world and the first Caribbean team to reach a Gold Cup final, lost to Mexico 1-3 in the final, but beat the U.S. national team 2-1 in the semifinals. (See page 6.)

11 Winslow "Gene" Coon is a business development associate at Moebius Technology Solutions in Connecticut. The company provides technical support services to businesses in the central Connecticut area.

Aaron Fagan participated in a Q-and-A session with *The Saratogian*. Aaron is a financial advisor with Fagan Associates in Troy, NY, where his duties include account maintenance/management, securities research and trade order execution.

Art Linares was honored by the Republican National Committee as part of its Hispanic History Month celebration. Art is serving his second term as Connecticut state senator for the 33rd district.

Mark McIntyre MBA has accepted the call to serve as pastor with St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, according to *Tampa Bay Newspapers*. He most recently served as developer and chaplain of pastoral/palliative care at Morton Plant Mease Hospital. Mark has experience with inner-city ministry and brings strong theological, interpersonal and leadership skills to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Gianna Messina joined the coaching staff at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, serving as the assistant coach for the women's basketball team, according to the *Daytona Beach News-Journal*.

Stephen Padgett has started a new job as an adjunct faculty

member in the UT music department, acting as the director of the Spartan Pep Band.

Stephen Shinsky earned a doctorate in biochemistry and molecular biology from the State University of New York Upstate Medical University.

12 Kirstin Coolman opened Tasty Roots Organic Grab n' Go Café on July 22. Located on Tampa's Davis Islands, the café specializes in vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free fare using locally sourced ingredients. Kirstin, a former personal chef, chose Davis Islands for its relaxed and laid back feel.

Daniel Feingold is a media critic for WWSB ABC 7 based in Sarasota, FL, according to MySuncoast.com. Daniel joined ABC 7 in 2013 and says he loves that he can incorporate his appreciation for the world of entertainment into his daily job duties.

Kaia Hampton is a doctoral graduate student in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine. She is studying insulin signaling in the brain, fat cells and cancer.

Garrett Hetrick is a human resources programs manager at FireEye, a cybersecurity company that provides real-time threat protection to enterprises and governments from the next generation of cyberattacks. He recently returned from a year-long assignment in Ireland.

Tessie Offner is a wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She specializes in the black-and-white, South American tegu lizards that have established populations in southern and west-central portions of Florida.

Alexandra Smith was promoted to accounting manager at King Engineering Associates. King Engineering Associates offers consulting services to the private industry and government sectors.

13 Moises Benhabib was featured by the U.S. Department of State during Hispanic Heritage Month. Moises is a government information specialist in the Office of Information Programs and Services. He started his service with the Department of State via the Pathways Internship Program.

Emily Cain is in the master's degree in applied behavior analysis program at Western Michigan University.

Joe Herbert has joined the Orlando Solar Bears as its director of season ticket and group ticket sales. The Solar Bears are an East Coast Hockey League affiliate of the National Hockey League's Toronto Maple Leafs. Joe spent the past three seasons with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Cathryn Martyn started a new job as the programming coordinator at One World Sports Network. The network broadcasts a wide variety of global sports,



Arr ye ready? Join the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter at the annual UT Gasparilla Brunch on Saturday, Jan. 30. Alumni and guests will enjoy a full breakfast buffet (including plenty of bacon this year) and parking on campus. Go to alumni.ut.edu for event details.

spartan spotlight

Melanie Moore '06

A Stain Proof Hit



Melanie Moore '06 first got the idea while she was touring a factory.

The manufacturer was making shirts that Moore designed and sold through her company, Elizabeth & Clarke.

While looking at the machinery pumping out her shirts, she was told the tools get a special finish that works on a molecular level to resist rust.

Like the entrepreneur she's been the past six years, Moore thought, "why not put that on clothing?"

And thus, the Unstainable® shirt was born.

There were steps in between, of course, from designing the cut, to meeting with a chemist. The finish uses fibers, like the outside of a peach but microscopic, to repel stains.

The end result can officially be called a hit. This past March, Moore received the Young Entrepreneur Award from the UT Entrepreneurship Center (above).

To fund production, Moore posted on Kickstarter. At the time the first orders were delivered, she'd garnered more than 2,900

backers pledging more than \$220,000.

A double-major in math and economics at UT, Moore realized within just a few years after graduating that the world of finance wasn't for her.

"I got disillusioned with it after the crash," she said. "There weren't any jobs. The whole landscape had changed."

She started her first company in 2009, eventually selling it in 2011 and starting over. She learned Web design and how to code, and in 2011, launched Elizabeth & Clarke, an online clothing subscription service.

She remembers a steep learning curve as she began production, mostly at first for just her friends and family.

"Once I had to email subscribers, because I didn't realize it was the Chinese New Year," she laughed. A Chinese factory she used had closed for an entire month for the holiday.

Elizabeth & Clarke now has more than 3,000 subscribers and churns out more than 30,000 pieces of clothing per year.

Only one, however, is stain proof.

such as soccer, basketball, golf and ice hockey.

Matt Nicholas M.S. was hired as a senior tax associate at CBIZ MHM, LLC's Tampa Bay office. Matt previously worked in the tax department with Clifton Larsen Allen LLP.

Stacy Piagno was part of the gold-medal winning U.S. women's baseball team at the Pan American Games in July, according to *The St. Augustine Record*. This was the first year the Pan American Games included women's baseball as an event. Stacy pitched a no-hitter against Puerto Rico in an early round of the games.

Kaushal Vaddiraj is working as an analyst for NERA Economic Consulting in San Francisco. He also earned a master's degree in international economics and finance from Brandeis University.

14 Alexis Bourdeau was promoted to administrative assistant for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

Marissa Calhoun has started a new job as a campaign account manager at Catalina Marketing.

Nicole Crance serves as a cultural intern at the Cayman National Cultural Foundation (CNCF), a nonprofit organization that offers support to local artists and provides arts education programs and internships, according to *Cayman iNews*. Nicole has worked on a number of programs and productions with CNCF where she handles physical and vocal warm-ups, preparing students for classes in music, dance and drama.

Michael Danner was promoted to the Winston-Salem Dash from Low-A Kannapolis, according to *Our Sports Central*. Michael hit .238 with 10 doubles, two triples and 17 RBIs with Kannapolis.

John Davis Jr. MFA is the poet laureate of Winter Haven, FL, and teaches creative writing at the Harrison School for the Arts in Lakeland, FL. His poetry has appeared in literary journals around the South as well as internationally.

Matthew Jones MBA was named marketing coordinator for Draka Elevator, which is part of Pysmian Group. He married Marlena Lawson on July 4 in Walnut Cove, NC.

Julia Morrow is the new pitching coach for Carrollwood Day School's varsity softball team. Julia was a two-time All American pitcher for UT.

Tiffany Novy is a financial reporting analyst at Lulu Avenue, a direct sales jewelry company offering high quality yet affordable fashion jewelry. She gives thanks to her amazing professors at UT for helping to make this job a reality for her.

Brian Petkash MFA made the shortlist for the Novella Award for his novella *Mistakes by the Lake*. The Novella Award, a collaboration between Liverpool John Moores University and Manchester Metropolitan University, considers previously unpublished works of fiction, between 20,000 and 40,000 words in length. Brian works as a high school teacher of literature and creative writing, as well as a marketing professional.

Undine Shorey joined R&B-based rock-and-roll band Koko Ray and the Keepers for a recent concert in Bradenton, FL, where she played electric violin, according to *The Bradenton Times*. Undine is working with famed music guru Del Cough to put out an EP in the near future.

Loran Tripp M.S. was named vice president of business development and strategy for United Landmark Associates in Tampa.

In her new role, Loran supervises community relations, social media services and assists with new business development.

Mike Zwijacz has taken over coaching the cross country team at Land O'Lakes High School, according to the *Tampa Tribune*.

15 Andrew Ellwanger M.S. was named the assistant coach of the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis men's and women's swimming and diving teams.

Kelly Fitzgerald was selected as the 2015 College Reading and Learning Association's International Mentor Training Program Certification Outstanding Mentor Award.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

James Whitehead '42
Bessie Juanita "Nita" Dean '50
Larry Rhodes '50
Giorlando Joseph "Jerry" Conte '55
Andrew Jackson "Jack" Miller '57
Vincent Tata '58
Oleta H. Vines '58
Howard Lawrence Sinsley '59
Barbara Joan English '60
Dorothy Robbins Fisher '60
Leonard Flynn Jr. '60
Richard C. Swirbul '60
Richard C. Edwards '62
Bobby Stevens '69
Sinavel "Sindi" Alvarez '70
Norman Kyle Geatz '71
Joseph R. Granger '72
Arthur Long "Art" Morley '77
Steven Michael Caine '84
Derek G. Coffman Sr. MBA '85
David A. Cowdrick MBA '87
Thomas M. McLaughlin '11

Faculty and Staff

Joseph E. McCann III
Dan Reimold
Richard Edward Sullivan
Bruce Conrad Winkler



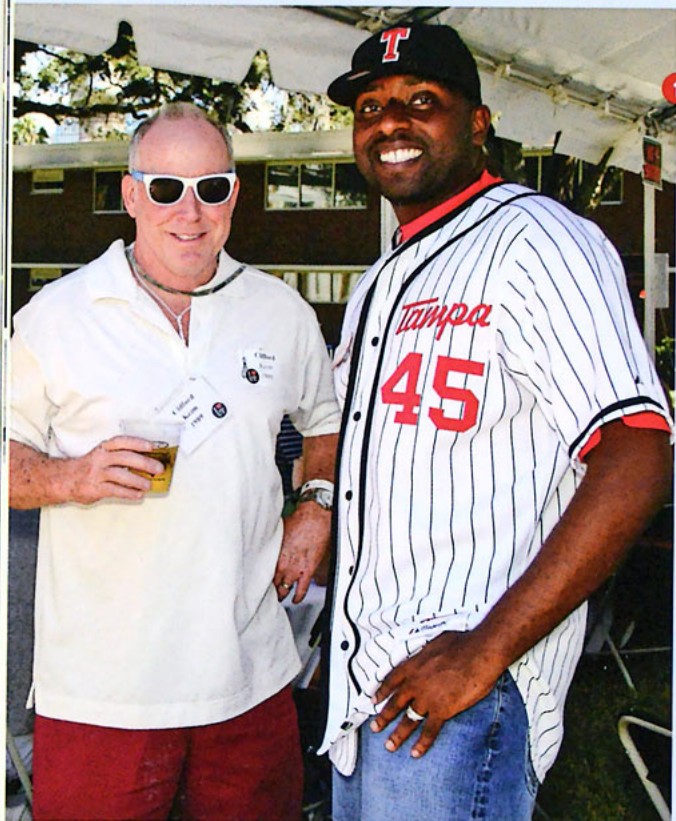
An enthusiastic crowd of **TAMPA BAY AREA** alumni gathered at Bar Louie in Tampa in September for the first in an annual series of networking events for local alumni.



The University hosted a reception for **LOS ANGELES AREA** parents and alumni on July 28. This event was part of the College of Arts and Letters' efforts to create opportunities for internships and employment in Los Angeles for UT students and graduates.



On Aug. 14, **NEW ENGLAND AREA** alumni and parents enjoyed a night at Fenway Park together to watch the Boston Red Sox take on the Seattle Mariners.



HOMECOMING & REUNIONS 2015



PHOTOS BY
CASEY BUDD '16,
MELANIE R. MUNGER '10
AND HANNAH ROGAN '18



Homecoming, held Oct. 23-25, began with the President's Reception on the Plant Hall verandah (7). Among the attendees were members of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority (5), who celebrated the 50th anniversary of the original founding of the chapter at UT. The crowds then continued the party downstairs in the Rathskeller (4). On Saturday, the class of 1965 was inducted into the Golden Spartan Society as part of its 50-year reunion and a big crowd came to the lunch, including Madge Kleinhammer LaVoy '51, who found herself in the 1950 yearbook (6). Also on Saturday was the Alumni Barbecue (1, 8), and throughout the day alumni toured campus and climbed one of UT's minarets (2). The day was capped off by the student tailgate, a soccer game and the crowning of the homecoming king and queen (3).



2015 FAMILY WEEKEND

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CASEY BUDD '16
AND HANNAH ROGAN '18



More than 350 families gathered for Family Weekend 2015 on Oct. 2-3. Throughout the weekend, attendees took in beautiful views of downtown Tampa from Plant Hall's minarets (4) and on Hillsborough River boat tours (2). Families enjoyed a campus barbecue Friday night at Morsani Hall (5). On Saturday, attendees had a laugh at the Dean of Students Brunch (1) and watched a Tampa Bay Rays game (3).



CREATING
TOMORROW
FOR UT AND OUR WORLD



The University has announced a \$150 million campaign to elevate the quality and breadth of education at UT. In this special section, learn more about what has been accomplished so far and how you can help us reach our goal.

CREATING TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UT

Health Sciences and Human
Performance Building
2012



Naimoli and Young Family
Tennis Complex
2013



Naimoli Family Athletic and
Intramural Complex
2013

Schoomaker ROTC and
Athletics Building
2013



Dickey Health and
Wellness Center
2010



Innovation and Collaboration
Building including the John P.
Lowth Entrepreneurship Center
2015



MacKechnie Building
2011



Palm Apartments Phase I
2015



Jenkins Hall
2013



Naimoli Family Softball Stadium
2013



Science Annex
2010



Martinez Athletics Center
2012

Nursing Skills Lab
2011



Morsani Hall
2007



Sykes Chapel and Center
for Faith and Values
2010



McKay Hall Renovation
2015



Support for the UT endowment
benefiting students, faculty
and programs

CAMPAIGN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DURING THE SILENT PHASE

A BOLD STEP FOR UT'S FUTURE

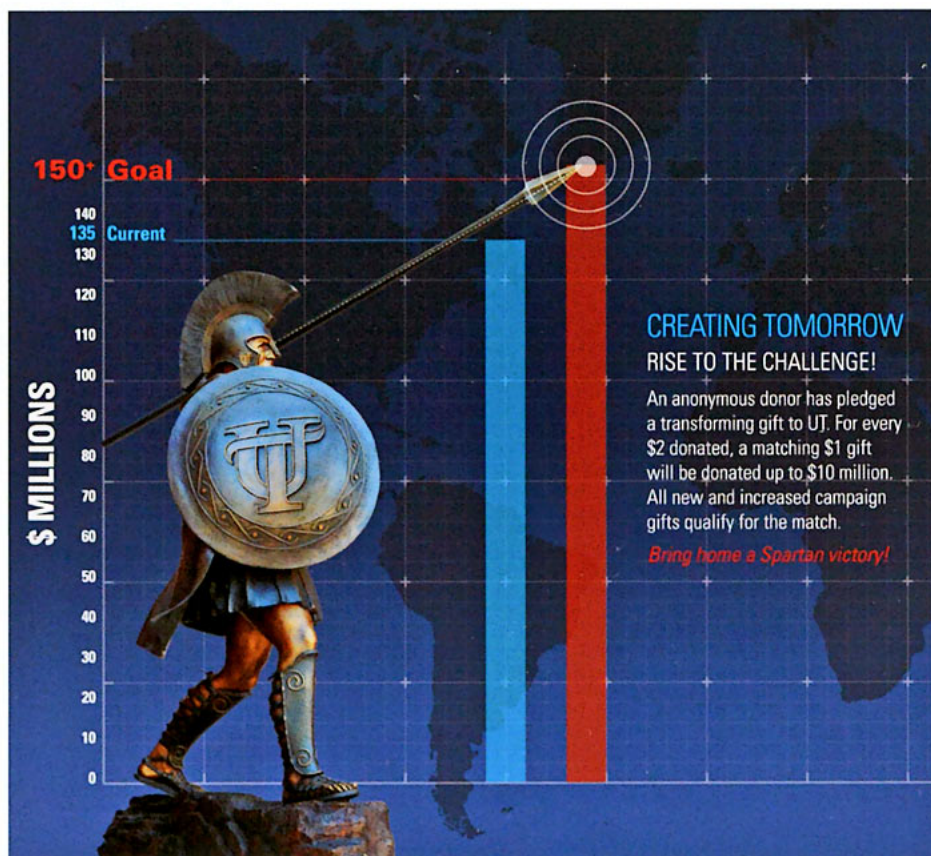
Always a memorable event, this year's Minaret Society Dinner on Nov. 6 became a momentous occasion when UT President Ronald L. Vaughn announced the University was well into a comprehensive capital campaign, Creating Tomorrow — The Campaign for The University of Tampa.

Creating Tomorrow is a bold step to raise the quality and breadth of education at UT. The campaign began with an initial goal of \$105 million, which Vaughn revealed has already been raised and surpassed during the first "silent" phase of the campaign. With the campaign now public and a total of \$135 million raised to date, Vaughn announced the University's new goal of \$150 million.

To ensure the success of the campaign, an anonymous

UT benefactor has issued the Spartan Challenge — a pledge to give \$1 for every \$2 raised, up to \$10 million. This means, for example, if you make a \$1,000 gift, it will be matched with an additional \$500 for a total of \$1,500. All gifts made during the public phase will qualify for the match.

UT began in 1931 with Frederic Spaulding's vision to give young people in the community access to higher education. More than 80 years later, UT is a metropolitan university that educates 8,037 students from all 50 states and 140 countries. University leaders have begun this ambitious effort to sustain what has already been achieved and build for the future by supporting the key initiatives outlined in these pages.



PRIORITIES:

Through Creating Tomorrow, the University aims to enlarge the endowment to attract and support outstanding students and faculty, and significantly increase the amount of instructional and recreational space on campus.

UT ENDOWMENT

Undergraduate Scholarships

Undergraduate scholarships enable exceptional students to enroll in school full time, allowing them to fully focus on their studies and increase their academic success. Scholarships may also provide for a variety of needs in addition to tuition costs, including books. Funding for additional student scholarships will attract and help retain promising students who would otherwise be unable to attend UT.

Graduate Fellowships

Graduate fellowships will draw a greater number of students to UT's expanding master's programs, making the University competitive with other private institutions.

Chairs and Professorships

UT students benefit from outstanding faculty, many of whom have helped to shape the University. Support for faculty will attract additional outstanding scholars and professors who are experts in their fields.

Faculty Professional Development

Faculty development enhances an institution's role in the advancement of knowledge. Support from the campaign will encourage faculty achievement by funding increased opportunities for research and project development.

Special Programs

The University aims to expand academic programs that prepare students for the competitive environments of graduate school and the job market, while enhancing co-curricular programs that help develop the whole student socially, emotionally, creatively and physically.

Equipment

Advanced scientific instrumentation and information technologies, as well as new musical instruments and well-equipped studios for the visual and performing arts, will draw talented students and faculty and promote the expansion of UT's rich array of programs in all disciplines.

BUILDINGS FOR THE FUTURE

Like every great institution, UT must be able to adapt, grow and prepare for the future. To prepare students for promising careers in health care, the University is constructing the **Graduate and Health Studies Building**, a new home for programs and training opportunities in nursing and the health sciences and expanded graduate offerings.

The campus **Fitness Center** will be constructed in two phases. A two-story, 40,000-square-foot Phase I building is scheduled to open in 2016. It will be equipped with the latest equipment and will be a one-stop shop for exercise programs, personal training and evaluation, wellness and nutrition programs, and some exercise science research activities. The second building phase will add 20,000 square feet of classroom space.

The **Technology Building** is being designed to meet program innovation and expansion needs in information and communication technology. Students in mathematical programming, new media production, digital arts and information technology management will benefit from having centralized resources.

UT's new 60,000-square-foot **Science Building** will increase classroom, laboratory and research space for new courses in the fast-growing biology, chemistry and pre-professional programs in the College of Natural and Health Sciences. Additional specialized science equipment and an advanced technology infrastructure will provide enhanced support to offices, classrooms and instructional labs.

A VISION REALIZED

Investing in Innovation

Sarah Daniels '16 knows firsthand about the transformative power of philanthropy.

"At UT, I've seen vision become reality as the campus has experienced an incredible transformation," she said, referring to the extraordinary growth UT has experienced in recent years.

"This has inspired me to develop my own vision. One day I will create a company that builds master-planned residential communities," she said. "I want to impact lives by building more than homes — I want to design and build a community with services and amenities that foster healthy families, wellness as well as residents' professional careers."

As an entrepreneurship major, Daniels said she gained the confidence and push that she needed to step out of her comfort zone.

"It's taught me to be a go-getter, set a vision and not stop until I achieve it," she said. During her time at UT Daniels has participated in more than six business pitch competitions at local and national levels and earned top rankings. She is also Student Government president and a member of UT Entrepreneurs, Delta Sigma Pi, UT Investment Club and serves as a UT Diplomat.

Rebecca White, director of the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center, has also seen the impact of giving on the University and the Tampa Bay community as a whole. She feels that students are more likely to stay in Tampa Bay when they partner and build networks with each other and in the business community, something they can now do at the state-of-the-art center.

"Having innovative, creative and critical thinkers helping build our local economy is a benefit," said White. "The benefit is also far reaching and can help

"Students want to innovate and create something meaningful. It's about more than making money. It's about having a passion and making a difference."

— Rebecca White,
Lowth Entrepreneurship Center director

deliver solutions to economies, markets and social enterprises today and far into the future. We have an important role to play in our community and our world."

On a wall in the Innovation and Collaboration Building, where the Entrepreneurship Center is housed, are the words "Esse Quam Videri. To be, rather than to seem to be." White feels UT students represent this — they want to be true to themselves and their strengths.

"Students want to innovate and create something meaningful. It's about more than making money. It's about having a passion and making a difference," she said.

One group of students already making a difference are involved in the startup Tembo, which is managed from their base at the center. Tembo is a social enterprise, providing early childhood education to kids in urban slums. With a test pilot program successfully operating in Nigeria, Tembo is a fully functioning, revenue-generating business.

"There is a great ability to make a difference in our world, and there's a great sense of urgency to do so," said John West, the immediate past chair of the UT board of trustees and CEO of Lion Asset Management, who has created endowments at the University that support entrepreneurship and faith and values programming and scholarships.

Early in his career, West once asked a mentor why he was so generous. "He told me he wanted to make the world a better place, and all he asked was that I help others along the way. It's the concept of paying it forward," said West.



John and Michéal
West (standing) with
Sarah Daniels '16

His wife, Michéal, echoes his sentiments. "We've worked hard, are blessed with the opportunity to give back and want to provide others with opportunities they may not otherwise have," she said.

The Wests recently attended the Global Summit for the Society of International Business Fellows. There they discussed serious economic struggles taking place in Central Eurasia. With a keen awareness of the need for innovative problem solvers in our world, John West reflected on being a UT donor.

"You get a combination of benefits by being a donor," he said. "You get to help young people, and you also get to leverage that by providing them with the opportunity to be creative and innovative and help make our world a better place."

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

This campaign — Creating Tomorrow — is about the future of The University of Tampa. Over the past two decades, UT has grown in reputation, student selectivity and financial stability. Our responsibility is to build on these strengths and fuel compelling new initiatives that will prepare UT students to succeed in a complex, technologically advanced global society.

What will The University of Tampa be tomorrow and beyond? The opportunities for impact are many, and every gift, whether at the leadership level or a more modest level, can transform UT, especially when combined with gifts from other alumni, parents and friends. We invite you to invest in UT. Your participation in this campaign is crucial.

With unrestricted gifts to the campaign, you can support the core needs of the University. You can provide for students by sponsoring scholarships, fellowships and special programs. Faculty will feel the impact of the gifts you make to establish chairs or professorships or to increase access to professional development. The UT campus can be enhanced immensely by a gift that will launch academic or student life facilities. What is most important is that you support something that is meaningful to you.

We have been entrusted with a remarkable opportunity. There is no limit to the possibilities UT's future holds. Let's rise to the challenge together!

John West, Don DeFosset and Gene McNichols,
Campaign Co-Chairs



Front row, from left:
Dickey, Thomas and
Naimoli; Back row,
from left: McNichols,
West, Vaughn, Ferman
and MacLeod

Phillip E. Casey

Campaign Lead
Gifts Committee
Vice Chair, UT Board
of Trustees
Chairman, Gerdau (Retired)

Don DeFosset

Campaign Co-Chair
Chair, UT Board of Trustees
2011–2013
Chairman and CEO,
DJD Group

Stephen F. Dickey, M.D.

Co-Chair, Campaign Lead
Gifts Committee
Trustee Emeritus,
UT Board of Trustees
President, Dickey
Holdings Inc.

James L. Ferman Jr.

Co-Chair, Campaign Trustees
Committee
Chair, UT Board
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President and CEO, Ferman
Automotive Management

James S. MacLeod '70

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Regional Chairman,
Wachovia (Retired)

Eugene H. McNichols

Campaign Co-Chair
Chair Emeritus,
UT Board of Trustees
Chairman and CEO,
McNichols Company

James K. "Jack" Murray Jr.

Chair, Board
Development Committee
Member, UT Board
of Trustees
Chairman, Murray Corp.

Vincent J. Naimoli

Co-Chair, Campaign Lead
Gifts Committee
Chair Emeritus,
UT Board of Trustees
Chairman Emeritus,
Tampa Bay Rays

David A. Straz Jr.

Co-Chair, Campaign
Chairs' Council
Chair Emeritus, UT Board
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Ambassador-at-Large
and *Honorary Consul*
General, Republic
of Liberia

John H. Sykes

Co-Chair, Campaign
Chairs' Council
Chair Emeritus,
UT Board of Trustees
Chairman Emeritus,
Sykes Enterprises Inc.

Rick Thomas '72

Campaign Lead Gifts
Committee
Chair Emeritus,
UT Board of Trustees
President and CEO,
Thomas Financial Group

Ronald L. Vaughn

President,
The University of Tampa

John West

Campaign Co-Chair
Immediate Past Chair,
UT Board of Trustees
CEO, Lion Asset
Management



Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values

EVERY GIFT COUNTS!
Make your campaign contribution today using the envelope in this issue or at www.ut.edu/supportut.



Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex



Innovation and Collaboration Building including the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center



Nursing Skills Lab

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA
INVEST IN EXCELLENCE

brick by brick

common good

WHY I GIVE: Nancy Rabenold

Rabenold, seated in Agliano Park on campus, joined UT's board in 2014.



UT Board of Trustees member

Profession: CEO of Xcira Inc., a technology-based infrastructure supplier for the asset disposition industry

Q: What do you like best about UT?

A: I've had the chance to meet several deans and faculty members. Their spirit and their excitement is contagious. Match that spirit with the students' energy to learn and grow, and it's a great combination. UT has done a beautiful job with interlacing these two dynamics.

Q: Do you have a favorite place on campus?

A: Anywhere in front of students. I love speaking with students and find that growing and learning are best experienced through observation. It's a two-way street, because any time that I get to speak in the classroom and

interact with the students, it also gives me a chance to understand and learn from them.

Q: What are you involved in at UT?

A: Awhile back, I wanted to build a private high school in the Brandon area. Through that project, I met Rusty Rustogi, chair and Dana professor of marketing, and ultimately joined the Sykes College of Business Advisory Council. While on that board, I learned more about the specialness of this place. Spending time with others that believe in something bigger than ourselves, like the power of education, was eye-opening. When the timing worked out in 2014, I joined the board of trustees.

Q: Why did you decide to get involved with UT?

A: While on the College of Business

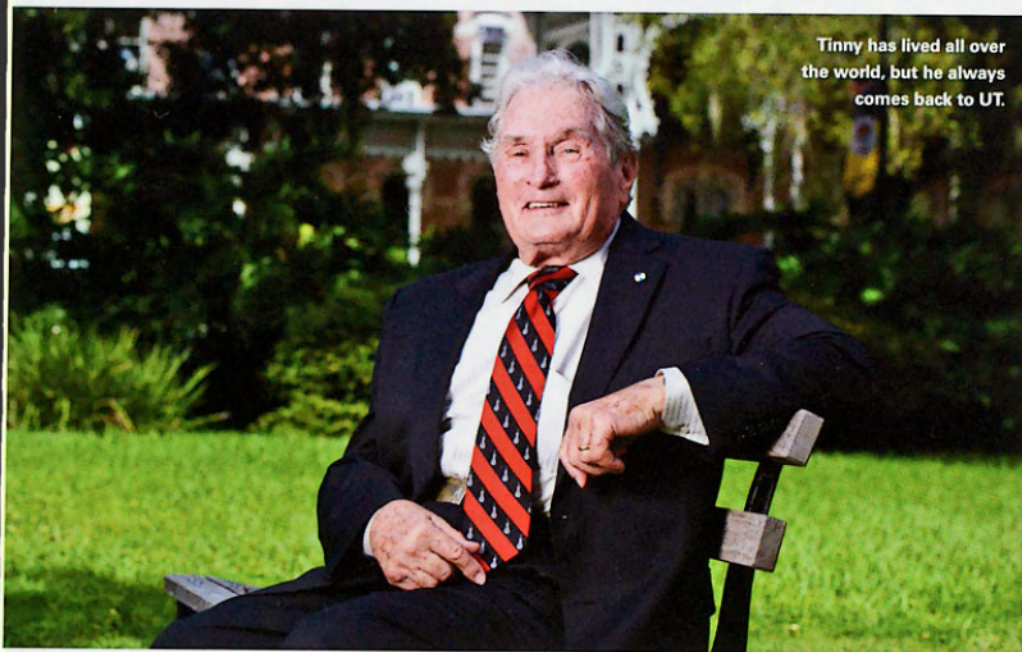
board, I enjoyed the specialized agenda. It was rewarding to meet and share with students and fellow business leaders. The intimacy of the group allowed us to focus on sharing ideas and building relationships. I also have to say that Ron (Vaughn) was a big part of getting involved for me. His charisma and passion for the University shines through every project he works on. When someone has that level of passion, it brings out the best in us to jump in and give back.

Q: Why do you support UT?

A: UT is on a forward trajectory. It's exhilarating to watch this institution grow and change. As someone in the business community, I've realized that aside from what you learn, it's the connections you make that prove to be worthwhile. The connectedness that students, faculty and those in the community share with UT is powerful.

Q: Why do you think it's important for others to support UT?

A: The community at UT provides an infusion of diversity, and freshness of youth and trends. I believe it's so critical for those, not only in the business community but all involved, to embrace this community and nurture it. From it comes great ideas and dynamic people and programs — so it's only right to reciprocate. It's such an advantage for the business community to come together for a common good and see that working together provides students with opportunities and a strong, connected faculty/staff. It is a win-win for everyone.



Tinny has lived all over the world, but he always comes back to UT.

leaving a legacy

From UT to Embassies

THOUGH HE IS 90, MOST OF US COULD only wish for the enthusiasm and energy of John Tinny '48.

Tinny has just published *The Briar Patch*, a spy novella that draws on his years as a Foreign Service officer for the U.S. Department of State. He spends his days promoting the book, making appearances and, as often as possible, visiting his beloved UT to reminisce and marvel at the new buildings mushrooming around Plant Hall.

"In 1943, all classes were in Plant Hall as it was the only building of any consequence. Now to step out the door is to enter a new academic world. The growth is truly amazing," he said.

Behind his intense brown eyes is the hint of a rogue and a life well-lived. Tinny's aura of adventure follows him like a specter hiding around every corner.

"My life has been exciting, and I owe it all to pure dumb luck," he said.

In 1942, Tinny and three friends and fellow high school seniors were anxious to apply for the Navy Reserve

Officer Training Corps program (V-1), but couldn't because applicants were required to be college students. Then they heard that UT would accept their high number of credits for enrollment.

They enrolled at UT in February 1943. Receipts in hand, they marched across Lafayette Street (now Kennedy Boulevard) to the Navy recruiting office and enrolled in the V-1 program. Until ordered to active duty, they commuted between classes at the University and Hillsborough High School. All in all Tinny completed a full year at UT. (He eventually finished his undergraduate degree elsewhere and earned two master's degrees in political science and library science.)

While in the U.S. in 1950, he met and married Harriette Josephine Hicks, who served in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). Both Tinny and his wife were descendants of Florida pioneers and Revolutionary War patriots. Josephine Tinny was active in the Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution for 60 years until her death in 2014, and John Tinny is a 50-year member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

His naval career eventually led to a career with the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service beginning in 1955, and he was posted to embassies in Cairo and Beirut, and to consulates in Honduras, Yemen and finally Libya, where he was the American consul.

Tinny's career catapulted him into the world of spies and espionage. In the Middle East, Tinny found himself embroiled in the growing Arab revolution. During his time as consul in Libya, Egyptian commandos infiltrated the country and bombed the Consular Residence. His three sons were at home and narrowly escaped being killed.

After leaving the Foreign Service in 1973, Tinny worked for Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Conoco Inc. oil company, then as a librarian from 1986 to 2008.

Although Tinny attended several universities to complete his education, his heart belongs to UT.

"UT has a definite sophistication and unique environment of learning," said Tinny. "My early days at UT fostered in me an attitude that all things are possible. That attitude has stayed with me all of my life."

Tinny recently created an endowed scholarship at UT, the H. Josephine Tinny Pioneer Memorial Endowed Scholarship, to honor his late wife of 63 years. In addition, he decided to add to his scholarship through his estate.

"Josephine was born in Tampa and shared my enthusiasm for UT, although she didn't study there," said Tinny. "I hope for many years to come students will benefit from her scholarship."



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

Board of Trustees Adds Seven

THE UT BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS added seven new members and five ex-officio members:

ANTHONY J. BORRELL JR.*

Borrell is president of the Borrell Family Foundation Inc., a private grant making foundation in Tampa. For decades, he ran the family businesses, Borrell Electric and Borrell Fire Systems, which he sold in 2004 and 2006 respectively. He then served as president of Wilbey Industrial Service Corp., a Tampa-based investment company. This will be Borrell's fourth term on the UT Board of Trustees.

MARIE CHINNICI-EVERETT

Chinnici-Everett has more than 25 years of marketing and communications experience in the financial services industry. Currently, she serves as managing director and chief marketing officer of Depository Trust and Clearing Corp., an American post-trade financial services company. She is responsible for DTCC's global marketing and corporate communications functions, as well as internal and external communications.

RICHARD DIMMITT

Dimmitt is CEO of Dimmitt Automotive Group. As a third generation Dimmitt family automobile dealer, he has owned and operated successful automobile dealerships for more than 38 years. Dimmitt has won numerous automotive industry awards in addition

to being recognized in the community for his charitable endeavors. Most recently, Dimmitt received the *Time* magazine Quality Dealer of the Year Award.

CARL LINDELL

Lindell is chairman and CEO of Lindell Investments, a privately owned property development and finance company. Highly regarded in the multifamily home building industry, the company is developing communities across southwest Florida, including Ft. Myers, Bradenton, Sarasota, Clearwater and Champions Gate. Previously, Lindell owned and operated a series of award-winning automobile dealerships in the Tampa area.

MIKE NURSEY

Nursey is TD Bank's market president for central Florida, responsible for overseeing TD Bank's commercial and business banking teams as well as coordinating community and charitable activities within the bank's central Florida market (Tampa, Orlando, Lakeland and Brevard County). Nursey has 27 years of experience in commercial, corporate, business and retail banking in Florida.

YVETTE SEGURA

Segura is vice president and general manager of USAA's southeast regional office in Tampa, providing leadership to the 2,600 USAA employees in Tampa and serving as the senior USAA

officer in Florida. Segura has worked in the insurance industry since 1984 and has been with USAA since 1989. During her tenure at USAA, she has held a variety of leadership positions, including vice president of claims service operations in USAA's home office in San Antonio from 2007 to early 2015.

LORNA TAYLOR

Taylor is the president and CEO of Premier Eye Care, a leading expert in managed eye care. Taylor was the winner of the 2013 *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Business Woman of the Year award in the health and wellness category and also received Angie's Award, given to the finalist who best exemplified commitment to community service. Premier Eye Care provides services and administration of everything from routine vision checkups to complex ocular surgical procedures. The company was named one of "Florida's Best Companies to Work For" in 2013 by *Florida Trend* magazine.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

New ex-officio members include Walt Bromfield, chair of the Board of Fellows; April Jones '04, president of the UT Alumni Association; Pat Keel, president of The Chiselers Inc.; Aakash Patel, chair of the Board of Counselors; and Kevin Shukur MBA '95, chair of the UT Family Association.

For a complete listing of trustees, go to www.ut.edu/trustees.



Marie Chinnici-Everett



Richard Dimmitt



Carl Lindell



Mike Nursey



Yvette Segura



Lorna Taylor



Even as UT grows, Milks sees the same supportive community he remembers.

the annual fund

Personal Touches

GOING INTO THE SUMMER BEFORE HIS senior year at UT, Travis Milks '00 was on the hunt for an internship in the finance field. At the same time, Stonehenge Capital had just opened an office in Tampa and was looking for promising candidates for an internship. A contact in the Sykes College of Business passed Milks' resume on to Stonehenge and the rest, as they say, is history.

"It was a pivotal point for me in terms of career progression," said Milks, who is now one of three partners at Tampa-based Stonehenge Growth Equity Partners. "That internship enabled me to get the job I wanted after college and to achieve several important career objectives."

Stonehenge invests in rapidly growing technology businesses located in Florida and the Southeast.

"We work with entrepreneurs who are pursuing their dreams of building great companies. Also, we work with technology, which is changing every day, so every day is different,"

said Milks. "I'm actually in a job today where I use, on a day-to-day basis, the things I was learning in class at UT."

His journey to UT began when his parents decided to move from Rochester, NY, to Florida after his senior year of high school. In order to stay near his family, Milks began investigating schools in the Southeast where he could pursue his interest in finance.

A cold call from an admissions counselor at UT led to a 45-minute conversation with the dean of the College of Business. It meant a lot to Milks to have the dean reach out to him personally. Impressed, he added UT to his list of schools to visit and eventually decided UT was the place for him.

During his time at UT, Milks said he always felt he was part of a very tightly knit, supportive community.

"We had access to the same resources as those at any top school in the country, but a greater ability to actually leverage those resources, whether it was professors or involvement in clubs,"

said Milks. As a student Milks was involved in several student organizations. He was president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and helped to establish the Honors Program's Honors Council (and then served as vice president).

Through being involved on campus, Milks observed a culture of support and encouragement.

"Whether it was someone who headed up student activities or a professor in the business school, or someone in Career Services, there was a broad sense of support and encouragement to help me succeed," he said. "I felt like as long as you're willing to put in the time and effort, there are so many things UT offers that people can benefit from."

It's a feeling Milks still has about UT, and one of the reasons he started to reconnect with the University in recent years. Milks serves on the Sykes College of Business Advisory Council, the UT Alumni Association Board of Directors, the Career Services Employer Advisory Board and occasionally is a guest lecturer in classes. He is also a regular contributor to the University's Annual Fund.

Milks is thrilled with the growth of the University over the last 15 years, noting that even though the community has grown exponentially, the University has been able to preserve things, such as the personal touch he received in that call from the dean, that make UT special.

"I feel like UT provided a lot for me. The University helped shape me personally and helped propel my career," said Milks. "As alumni, we should give back whether it's in the form of time or money, so students that are here today can have some of those same opportunities and benefits we were provided."



*Need more information?
Contact Joycelyn Mahone,
Assistant Director of
Annual Giving
annualfund@ut.edu
(813) 258-7353*

FORMER BOARD MEMBER DIES

John F. Germany, who served as chair of the UT Board of Trustees from 1982–1984, died Aug. 26, 2015. He was 92. Germany was a longtime, generous donor to the University and a member of UT's Legacy Society, which recognizes donors who have provided for UT in their estate plans.

Through his estate gift, Germany established the Sherrie Mueller Endowed Scholarship. Income from the endowment will be used to fund two or more UT scholarships to Plant City High School graduates with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Germany, who grew up in Plant City, FL, created the scholarship to honor Sherrie Mueller, a Plant City High School guidance counselor who worked with low-income students with high potential to help them achieve their dreams of a college education.

Germany was instrumental in the founding of several Tampa institutions, including the University of South Florida and the downtown library, which opened in 1968 and today bears his name. A World War II veteran, he was a circuit judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit of Florida and went on to serve as chief judge. He later became a partner in the law firm of Knight, Jones, Whitaker and Germany, which became Holland & Knight in 1968.

Germany and his late wife of 57 years, Mary Ellen, had four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENT

Bijen Patel '16 was the first student selected to receive the Benson Riseman Entrepreneurship Scholarship, which provides support to a current UT student who is actively involved in the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center.

A finance major from Plant City, FL, Patel was a member of one of two teams from UT that advanced in the \$1 million Hult Prize. Patel's group, BamBoost, proposed using bamboo-fabricated products to boost the quality of life for disadvantaged children. With the purchase of bamboo-fiber products, families would receive free, bamboo-based educational toys along with curriculum and instructions for their use.

The scholarship was established by Benson Riseman '78, who arrived on campus in the fall of 1974 from Chelsea, MA, and quickly became involved at the University. By the time he graduated, he had accrued a resume that included resident advisor, Student Government senator and Omicron Delta Kappa treasurer and

vice president. His degree in business provided him with the springboard to his own success. (See page 23 for full story on Riseman.)

REMEMBERING DICK SWIRBUL

Richard "Dick" Swirbul of Tampa died Sept. 23, 2015. A native of Duquesne, PA, Swirbul graduated from UT in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. During his time at UT, he was a member of Pi Kappa Phi, Circle K and Propeller Club.

His UT service included serving on the board of trustees, as president of the Alumni Association and as an active member of the Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter (now the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter). Swirbul was awarded the UT Medal for Service in 2004.

Swirbul's career at the Merchant's Association of Florida was truly a story of success. As a young man, he started working in the mail room at the Merchant's Association and through hard work and dedication, worked his way up to president of the company. He retired from the company in 2001.

The Merchant's Association, now Sherloq Solutions, created two scholarship endowments during Swirbul's tenure. These scholarships are given annually to business students.

GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

Gifts made from June 1 to Sept. 21, 2015

In Honor

BOB RUDAY

Sean Robert Ruday

In Memoriam

EVAN CHIPOURAS

Eric Freundt

O. REX DAMRON

Robert and Lorri Bruns

Barbara Holmes

Tom '81, MBA '83 and

Kathryn MBA '00

Meachum

JOHN F. GERMANY

Beverly Austin

G. BLAINE HOWELL JR.

Beverly Austin

CHARLOTTE LOGAN

Beverly Austin

DOROTHEA "DOT" BUTLER

MACNAMARA '40

Nadine Robbins

CURTIS MCINTYRE

Chris and Janet McIntyre

DAVID R. MURPHEY III

Beverly Austin

SHERRILL BELL O'NEAL

George and Barbara

Pennington

HOWARD SINSLEY '59

Paul W. '51 and Georgia '52

Danahy

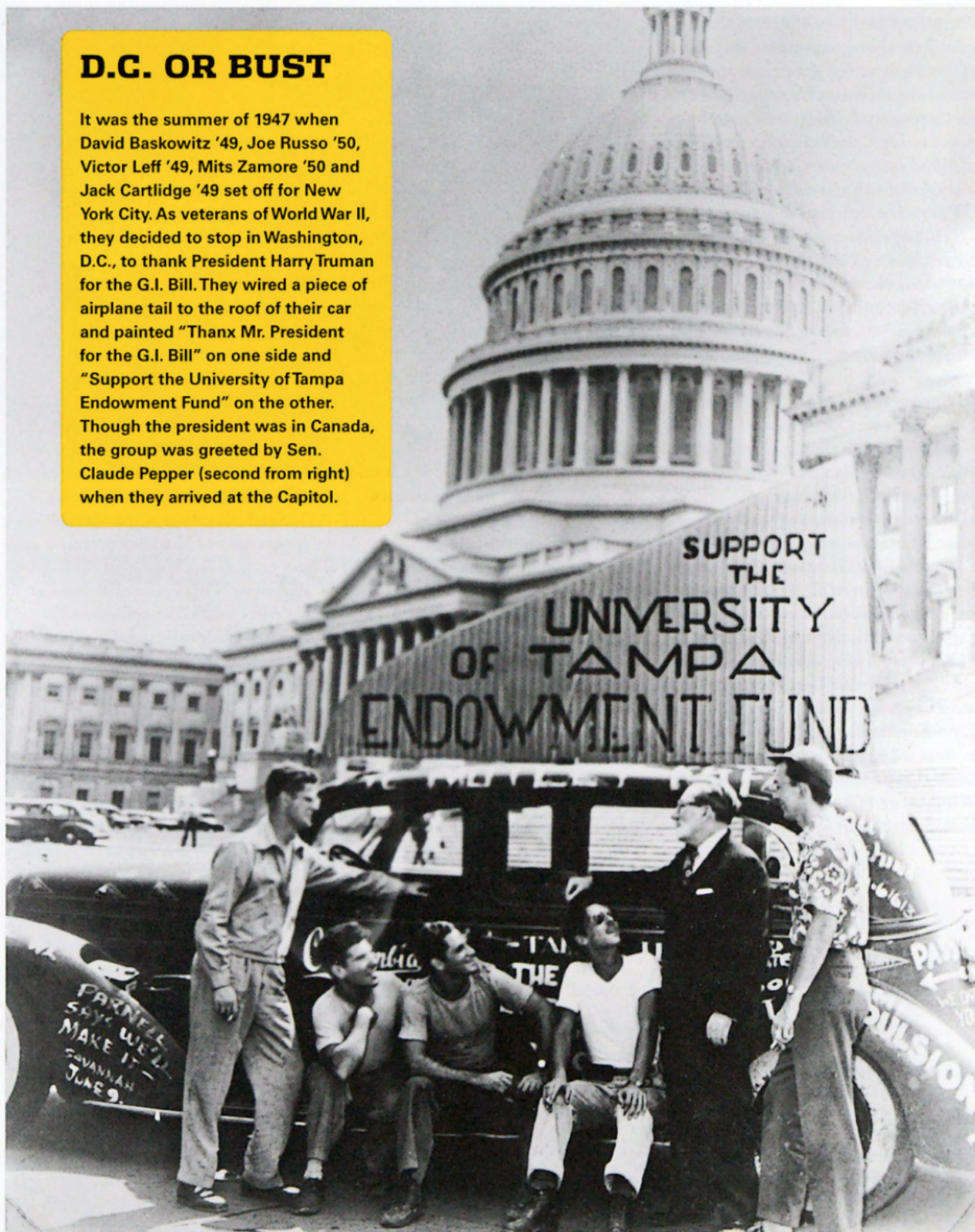
NEW ENDOWMENTS

Ducky's Endowed Scholarship

Clifford R. Mott and Mary Cribb Mott Marine Biology Research Fund

D.C. OR BUST

It was the summer of 1947 when David Baskowitz '49, Joe Russo '50, Victor Leff '49, Mits Zamore '50 and Jack Cartlidge '49 set off for New York City. As veterans of World War II, they decided to stop in Washington, D.C., to thank President Harry Truman for the G.I. Bill. They wired a piece of airplane tail to the roof of their car and painted "Thanx Mr. President for the G.I. Bill" on one side and "Support the University of Tampa Endowment Fund" on the other. Though the president was in Canada, the group was greeted by Sen. Claude Pepper (second from right) when they arrived at the Capitol.



ADD A **SPARTAN** TO YOUR CHARIOT!



Show your Spartan spirit and help support current and future UT students by switching to a **UT specialty license plate**. Plates can be purchased for an additional \$27 any time of the year, regardless of your plate renewal month. (Florida residents only.)

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About 650 students turned out for the University's first Color Burst 5K in September. As participants raced through campus, 58 student volunteers threw color at them, and each racer received a bottle of paint for their own squirting pleasure.