

# UT

The Publication for The University of Tampa FALL 2018

# journal



CREATING  
TOMORROW

FOR UT AND OUR WORLD



THE CAMPAIGN FOR

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA

INVEST IN EXCELLENCE

**UT CELEBRATES  
END OF RECORD-  
SETTING \$160M+  
CAMPAIGN**

## A Hidden Habitat

**Illuminating research  
on a seahorse haven**





## Celebrating the Gifts and the Unexpected Outcomes



AS THEIR CAPSTONE PROJECT, TEAMS OF SENIOR BUSINESS majors compete to analyze a particular local or national company during their final semester and offer recommendations to improve the business.

This course, the Strategic Analysis Program, has performed more than 650 comprehensive consultations for local and national businesses since 1993, including College Hunks Hauling Junk, Target, OneTouch Direct, United Way Suncoast and Starbucks. The two top winning teams receive a small cash prize.

The program was endowed by Vince Naimoli, and functions within UT's Naimoli Institute for Business Strategy.

Last spring, the company chosen for the program was a local franchisee that owns eight Jersey Mike's Subs. When the top student teams delivered their recommendations after a semester of analysis, Peter Cancro, Jersey Mike's CEO, was so impressed that he increased the cash prizes by 2,300 percent — from \$1,500 to \$36,000.

So, instead of the winning team receiving \$1,000, it received \$8,000. The second place team, instead of winning \$500, won \$7,000. Plus, teams that placed third through eight won cash prizes too (third place = \$6,000, fourth place = \$5,000, etc.), when normally they would not have received a cash prize.

A member of one of the finalist teams posted to Facebook that "my college career could not have ended on a better note than it did today."

I offer this anecdote as we celebrate the closing of the successful capital campaign, in which we surpassed the goal and raised an unprecedented more than \$160 million (see page 34).

It reminds me that gifts like Vince Naimoli's — which was part of our first capital campaign — are what make programs like the Strategic Analysis Program possible, and what then makes impactful educational outcomes happen. The positive energy that comes from philanthropy flows and builds upon itself in so many ways — many of which are planned and expected, and others are unplanned and unexpected.

If Mr. Naimoli hadn't made that gift back in 1993, the Strategic Analysis Program may never have come to fruition, and our recent graduating business students may not have had the opportunity to work with a national company and not have had such a memorable and fulfilling educational experience.

It's hard to know all of the unexpected impacts of the numerous campaign gifts that many of you recently made. We know the gifts help build buildings, create new programs and fund new scholarships. But we may not know their full impact for many years. I can assure you, however, that each and every gift will make a difference in the lives of generations of students to come.

So, I want to thank everyone who gave to UT during the capital campaign and continues to give in so many ways. Your generosity and vision will be felt in perpetuity. We would not be the institution we have become without your unwavering support. Cheers to UT!

RONALD L. VAUGHN, PH.D.

*President and Max H. Hollingsworth Professor of American Enterprise*

## UTjournal

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Creating Tomorrow — The Campaign for UT has surpassed its goal, with more than \$160 million raised. A celebration of some of the people and programs made possible through the campaign.

About the cover: Here are just a couple of the more than 700 seahorses UT scientists documented over spring break in Sweetings Pond in the Bahamas. Photograph by Shane Gross

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE COURTESY OF CLIFF MCBRIDE

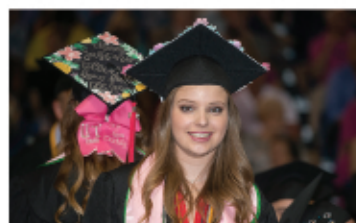
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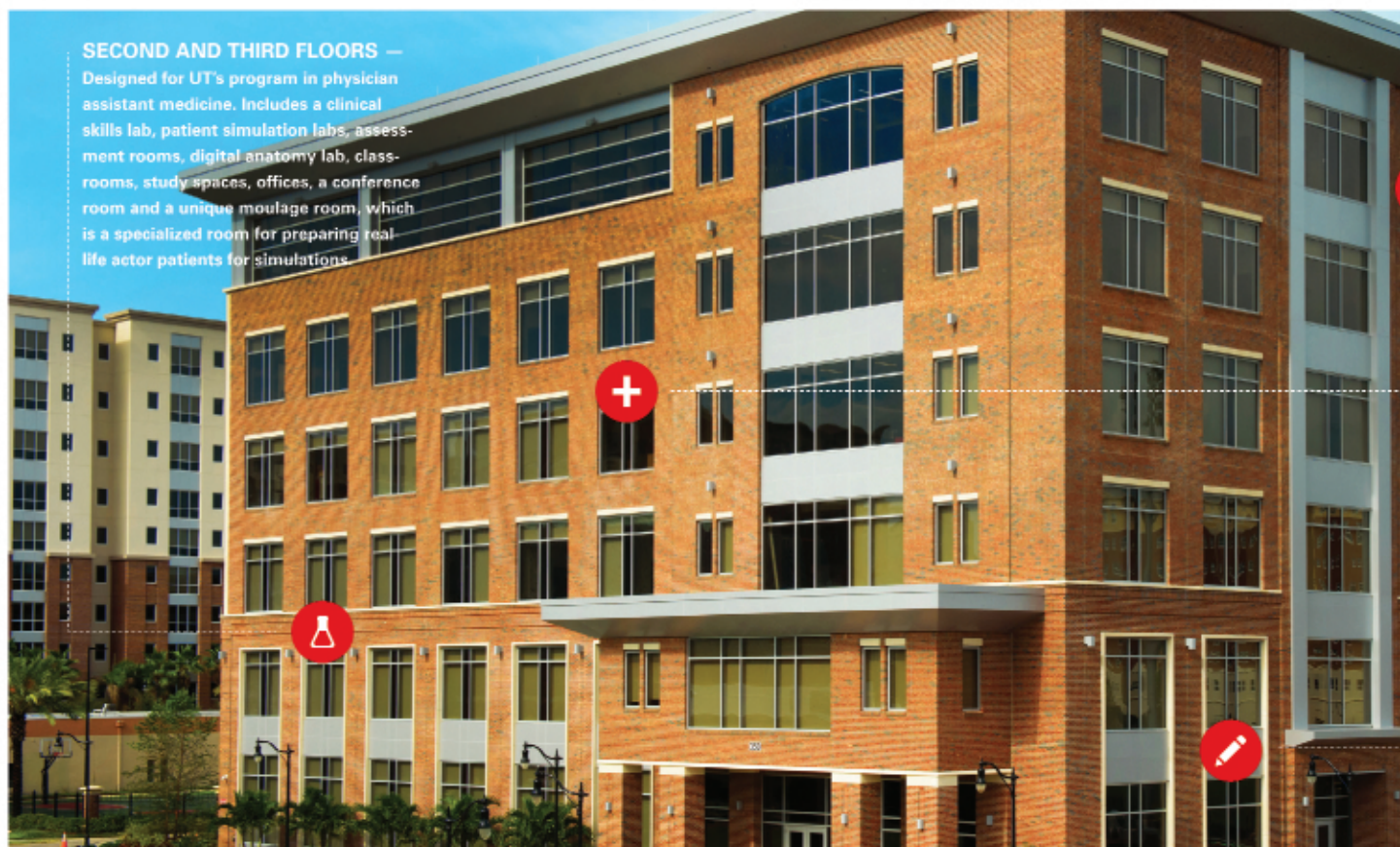
How Kennedy Boulevard got  
its name.

**Editor's Note:** For this issue, the Brick by Brick section will be used to provide a final report on the University's capital campaign, Creating Tomorrow, and a thank-you to donors. The Brick by Brick section will be reinstated in the Winter 2019 issue.



# news of note

**SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS —**  
Designed for UT's program in physician assistant medicine. Includes a clinical skills lab, patient simulation labs, assessment rooms, digital anatomy lab, classrooms, study spaces, offices, a conference room and a unique moulage room, which is a specialized room for preparing real-life actor patients for simulations.



## A "Healthy" Home

*Graduate and Health Studies Building strengthens health sciences, graduate programs*

ASK THE OCCUPANTS OF THE NEW Graduate and Health Studies Building for a tour of the space, and you will hear the words "state of the art" and "collaboration" again and again.

"This building was literally built around the equipment," says Marisa Belote, associate professor/director of simulation for the physician assistant program, which is housed on the second and third floors. In the Digital Anatomy Lab, Belote points out a water spigot and drain installed specifically to help maintain the program's

Anatmage synthetic cadaver. "The forethought in planning of this building is so incredible to me. And this is just one little piece of this."

Though faculty and staff have occupied the space since late July and classes have begun, the University officially dedicated the new building on Aug. 31, with a brief ceremony and tours.

At 91,000 square feet, it is UT's largest academic building.

"With this facility we hope to strengthen UT's health sciences programs with state-of-the-art spaces,

including simulation labs, a digital anatomy lab and all the latest health technology and equipment," UT President Ronald Vaughn said. "Plus, this building will enhance our graduate programs."

Carol Botwinski, chair/associate professor and director of nursing, is happy the nursing program has a dedicated home on the fourth and fifth floors. "It gives students more of an identity on campus," she says.

Botwinski also says having the physician assistant program in the same building will allow for inter-pro-



**"This building was literally built around the equipment. The forethought in planning of this building is so incredible to me."**  
— MARISA BELOTE, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR/DIRECTOR OF SIMULATION FOR THE PA PROGRAM, ON THE GRADUATE AND HEALTH STUDIES BUILDING



**SIXTH FLOOR** — Houses UT's Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies, as well as a temporary space for the physics program until a new science building is built.

**FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS** — Dedicated home of UT's nursing program. Includes a reception area, a large patient care center, ICU simulation rooms, health assessment clinical spaces, a student lounge and study spaces, faculty and staff offices, a large conference room and classrooms.

**FIRST FLOOR** — General classroom space along with student gathering areas and study spaces.

fessional collaboration, similar to what nursing students will experience in a real hospital.

On the sixth floor, Josh Stagner, director of admissions for graduate and continuing studies, says the new space is easier to find and more accessible for prospective graduate students.

"Our goal when a prospective student comes in is to introduce them to members of the program they are interested in," he says. "Being in such close proximity to three of the programs we recruit for makes that much easier."

## UT LAUNCHES FIRST DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Beginning in Fall 2019, UT will offer a doctor of nursing practice degree (DNP) — the University's first doctoral program.

The program prepares DNP students to design, implement and evaluate evidence-based disease management care and to coordinate acute and chronic illness care for individuals and populations. It is targeted at advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) living in Florida.

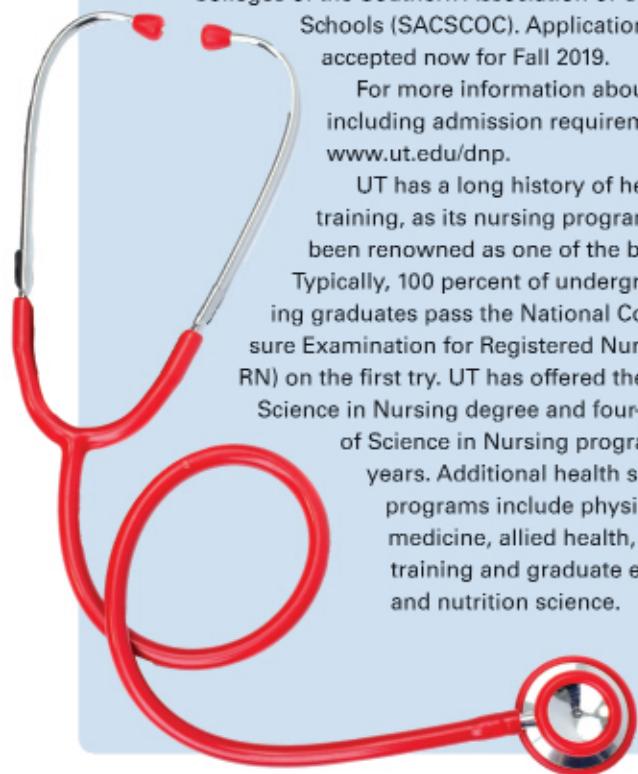
Carol Botwinski, director of the nursing program, said the DNP program was designed with the student experience as the priority. "We understand the busy schedule that actively practicing clinicians have," Botwinski said. "Every detail of the DNP student experience has been designed so that the student can focus on completing the degree, not being frustrated by the technology or unnecessary requirements."

The program's online format, with only three required visits to campus, allows students to continue their full-time careers in their clinical practice. The program consists of 30 credit hours spread over six semesters.

The program is pending approval by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC). Applications are being accepted now for Fall 2019.

For more information about the program, including admission requirements, visit [www.ut.edu/dnp](http://www.ut.edu/dnp).

UT has a long history of health care training, as its nursing program has long been renowned as one of the best in Florida. Typically, 100 percent of undergraduate nursing graduates pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) on the first try. UT has offered the Master of Science in Nursing degree and four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing programs for many years. Additional health science programs include physician assistant medicine, allied health, athletic training and graduate exercise and nutrition science.







## New Institute to Hone Students' Selling Skills

*University establishes Institute for Sales Excellence in the Sykes College of Business*

THERE'S A NEW INSTITUTE ON CAMPUS, with the primary mission of educating interested students of all majors in sales methodologies and preparing them for careers in sales.

The Institute for Sales Excellence, based in UT's Sykes College of Business, will have four specific functions: (1) prepare students for careers in professional business-to-business (B2B) sales, (2) encourage networking between students and businesses, (3) serve as a staffing resource for regional, national and global firms and (4) provide learning resources for local and regional businesses.

The institute, formally founded on June 1, will provide world-class sales education and training through relevant B2B sales methodologies and research to enhance the sales curriculum in the Sykes College of Business.

"Industry demand for students with an educational background in sales continues to grow, as top sales program graduates have an average job placement rate of 92 percent, and more than 50 percent of college graduates will hold their initial job in sales," said Stacey Schetzle, associate professor of marketing and director of the institute. "The sales institute will offer UT students from any major the opportunity to develop the professional skills to meet this need, providing students with business readiness skills that will prepare them for the realities of a professional business environment."

The institute will feature a curriculum focused on the application of professional selling skills in an experiential learning environment, which allows students to encounter entry-level sales positions through role-playing and real sales experience.

Schetzle said that a wide range of businesses in varied fields would have a strong interest in hiring UT graduates with a sales education. "Many of these businesses are eager to participate in the development and operations of the institute, including guest speaking, sponsoring events and providing training and seminars," she said.

The institute staff will also offer programming opportunities for regional businesses to educate and train their sales staff. These events reinforce the collaboration between academic programs and corporate recruitment/sponsorship. This will be accomplished through seminars, workshops, certificate programs, as well as various networking events.

Lastly, the institute will offer UT faculty and staff learning opportunities, collaborative research ventures and industry connections.



## UT Grad Awarded Fulbright

VICTORIA SUNSERI '18 HAS BEEN awarded a 2018 Fulbright U.S. Student Research Award to Italy. She will represent the U.S. as a cultural ambassador while overseas, helping to enhance mutual understanding between Americans and the people in Italy.

Sunseri is one of 12 UT students who have been awarded Fulbrights since 2006.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide.

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Sunseri was an honors student who double majored in public health and psychology, with a concentration in behavioral health. In 2017 she trav-



Victoria Sunseri '18 is one of 12 UT students who have been awarded Fulbrights since 2006.

elled to Sri Lanka to volunteer with a nonprofit social service organization as the recipient of the Timothy M. Smith Inspiration Through Exploration Award, an annual grant given to stimulate international travel and writing among UT Honors Program students.

"Victoria is an excellent ambassador for the U.S. as a UT graduate, which she's exemplified through her time at the University," said Marca Bear, associate dean of international programs.

Sunseri's international academic experiences include a four-week travel course on community development to

Ghana with UT's Kevin Fridy, associate professor of political science. She was a President's Leadership Fellow and Diversity Advisory Fellow, and worked with mental health promotion on campus, including as co-coordinator of Active Minds and working toward creating a mental health education video for first-year students.

For additional program background, facts and statistics, consult the program one-pagers from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Fulbright website: <https://eca.state.gov/fulbright>.



## PLOTUS VISITS UT

Tracy K. Smith, poet laureate of the United States (center), visited UT on June 17 to read from her work as part of the MFA in Creative Writing's Lectores series. Smith, whose new book, *Wade in the Water*, was published in April, also gave a seminar during the MFA's June residency.





## Riverside Center Renewal

*Project will add additional space for Career Services and transform mail services*

THE RIVERSIDE CENTER, WHICH WAS built in 1962 on the Hillsborough River and has supported various administrative and academic functions over the years, is undergoing major improvements. The project will significantly increase space for Career Services, add additional classrooms and conference rooms and includes a transformed space for Mail Services.

The building, which was a mix of

single-story, story-and-a-half and two-story spaces, will become two-story throughout, but will retain approximately the same footprint. The project will add nearly 20,000 square feet for a total of 54,000 square feet. The project began in early May and is expected to be fully completed in the Spring 2019 semester.

The new building will also include space for faculty offices to help keep

pace with the rapid addition of new employee hires. The Office of Admissions' presentation room will be expanded, as will Admissions' logistics space for managing mailings to prospective students. Development and University Relations, Human Resources and Public Information and Publications will also benefit from redesigned and expanded spaces.

"The new Riverside Center will benefit the UT community in many ways," said UT President Ronald Vaughn. "I believe students will especially benefit from the expansion of Career Services and the addition of classrooms and study spaces, and I think they will particularly enjoy modernized, functional mail services."

When it opened, the Riverside Center was known as the Student Center and included a bookstore, dining center, library and student lounges. It was built soon after the completion of the McKay and Smiley residence halls, when UT was attempting to build out a more complete campus, as well as manage its post-war enrollment increase. It was expanded in 1969, and the building last received a facelift in 2009.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**Career Services**, which helps students transition from college to career, will have an additional 5,000 square feet of space for placement services, including interviewing, corporate recruiter meetings, receptions, employer programs and numerous student programs to aid career exploration and job search.

**Classrooms and conference spaces** account for an additional 4,500 square feet. The new building will feature 10 classrooms and conference rooms, which include two state-of-the-art language labs.

**Mail Services** will be totally redesigned and modernized in light of current trends in student use, in which students do not receive significant amounts of first class mail, but do receive numerous packages via Amazon, USPS, FedEx, UPS, etc. In fact, last year post office staff handled 10,000 packages the first week of fall semester, and more than 100,000 during the academic year.

# Ten Years, Ten Stories

Tampa Review's Danahy Fiction Prize marks first decade

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA PRESS reached a milestone in 2017, when the Danahy Fiction Prize turned 10.

The prize, which includes an award of \$1,000 and publication in *Tampa Review*, was first presented in 2007 to Douglas Danoff for his story "The Trader Thief." That story, along with the other nine Danahy Prize winners from the first decade, were published by The University of Tampa Press in a new collection, *The Danahy Fiction Prize: Ten Years, Ten Stories, 2007-2017*.

Though *Tampa Review* had been publishing stories and essays since 1987 (the journal began as *UT Poetry Review* many years previously), it only offered a prize for poetry.

Longtime readers Judge Paul W. Danahy Jr. '51, of the Second District

Court of Appeals in Tampa, and his wife, Georgia '52, contacted *Tampa Review* in 2005 with the idea of setting up a similar prize for fiction.

"The Danahys liked the stories, and they felt that we might raise awareness about the new fiction on our pages if we could establish an annual prize for short stories," writes Richard Mathews, director of *Tampa Review*, in the book's introduction.

The couple set up a fund through the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay to do just that, and the first winner was chosen by *Tampa Review's* fiction editors in 2007.

It turns out the Danahys were right. According to Mathews, both the quan-

tity and quality of fiction submissions increased, and *Tampa Review* became better known for the variety and range of its stories.

"This collection of the first Danahy Prize stories seems to be one of the most appropriate ways to observe the milestone," said Mathews. "It is a chance to showcase 10 talented writers who deserve to be even more widely known. And it is a chance to recognize and thank Paul and Georgia Danahy for their generosity, cultural awareness and commitment to literature and community."

For more information or to support the UT Press, contact Mathews at [rmathews@ut.edu](mailto:rmathews@ut.edu).



The group at Höfði house in Reykjavik, where Presidents Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbatsjov marked the end of the Cold War.

## GAP Visits the Land of Fire and Ice

THE SKYES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS Global Access Partnership (GAP) is an educational travel program designed to provide a platform for University community partners to experience the nuances of global markets and cultures firsthand so that they can confidently navigate the global business landscape. The June 2018 program visited Reykjavik, Iceland. The group included members of the Board of Trustees, Deans Advisory Council and University leadership including President Ronald Vaughn and Dean Frank Ghannadian. The group of 23 executives experienced the culture and business environment within the land of fire and ice.

Highlights of the trip included a visit to the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant, presentations on renewable energy and climate change by Dean Daði Már Kristófersson and Professor Guðfinna Aðalgeirsdóttir at the University of Iceland, and a tour of the Golden Circle, where the group experienced the black lava landscapes, waterfalls and natural hot springs of Iceland. The GAP delegation also visited a sustainable community and Ocean Cluster House, a company offering networking, incubation and consulting to entrepreneurs of the Icelandic marine industry.



# Economics Through Film

*Boyz and Scarface Shed Light on Economic Theory in May Term Course*

DANIEL DIAZ VIDAL LOVES ECONOMIC theory but understands that things like aggregate demand and aggregate supply models are kind of dry and mathematical. So he helps students think of the concepts through examples in film and video games.

"The ultimate goal is for them to understand that it's technology, it's capital, it's human capital — our talent as individuals and our training and our skills — natural resources and the tools we have; those are the important things for economic growth," said Vidal. "I also get them to realize that games and movies use reality and economic models to make the virtual or the game environment more interesting."

During the two-week May Term, the UT assistant professor of economics used films like *Scarface* and *The Big Short*, and the Netflix series *Ozark* to help students better understand economic theory and several subfields like economics of crime, economic history and game theory.

"This is not a class in which you learn an incredible amount of economic concepts, but this is a class in which from minute one until you leave, you're constantly thinking about economics, about theory and about society and how it's structured," said Vidal, an avid film enthusiast who loves spaghetti westerns. "You're thinking about the films, you're questioning what is this

guy trying to tell me and what agenda is the guy trying to push, which is also something we try to teach in college — critical thinking."

The students met eight hours a day May 7–18, discussing theory in the mornings, watching movie clips or TV shows after lunch (stopping now and then to discuss what's happening in the moment, modeling analytical skills) and then reflecting on the topic after.

They watched *Cocaine Cowboys*, a documentary about the drug trade that built Miami in the 1980s, and *Boyz n the Hood*, discussing the theory of rational choice, an economic principle based on the assumption that individuals choose a course of action that is most in line with their personal preferences.

"There's a kid who wants to go on to college, he's going to have a scholarship, and ultimately gets shot buying milk in South Central Los Angeles. It is a reality that people get shot when they're going to buy milk. So when you talk about the American dream and how do people

succeed, it's not all about how hard you work. The thresholds are different," Vidal explained. "There are two variables. Indeed, one of them is how hard you work, but another one is your environment. The problem is not that it's one or the other, it's one and the other. So if your hurdle is super high, no matter how strong you are maybe you can't jump over it in your lifetime."

After watching *Cocaine Cowboys*, Karim ElGuindi '18 said he was surprised to learn about how crime markets and illegal activity shaped Miami and promoted its economic growth and prosperity.

"We also learned about why a person might make a rational decision to commit a crime in the society we live in today," said ElGuindi, an international business and management major with a minor in economics. "Most importantly we learned about the underlying causes of unemployment and crime, what's to come based on current social and technological changes, and the real issues to focus on when trying to work on social problems effectively."

That's exactly what Vidal was aiming for.

"The most important thing is to get students to think like an economist," Vidal said. "That is, to view the complexity of the world and be able to disentangle the relationship between variables in a clear way."



## MAJOR CHANGES IN THE ARTS

New offerings in the arts this fall include a Bachelor of Arts in Museum Studies, which replaces and upgrades the previous major in art history; a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Media Arts; a Bachelor of Fine Arts in New Media; and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Animation, which replaces and expands the major in digital arts.



The militarization of police is one topic Hall Blanco explores in her new book, *Tyranny Comes Home*.



## Foreign Tactics, Used Domestically

IT'S AUGUST 2014, AND YOU'VE TURNED on the news to get the latest information on the protests in Ferguson, MO. An image fills the screen of a police officer in full military gear perched atop a tactical operations vehicle pointing a rifle with a high-powered scope at the protestors.

"These and other images from Ferguson could easily have come from U.S. military operations in Afghanistan or Iraq," writes Abigail Hall Blanco, assistant professor of economics, in her latest book, *Tyranny Comes Home: The Domestic Fate of U.S. Militarism*, co-authored with Christopher Coyne, associate professor of economics at George Mason University.

In the book, Hall Blanco and Coyne argue that the tools of foreign intervention can and do come to be used domestically.

"We identify the mechanisms through which these tools are imported back into the U.S.," she said.

Hall Blanco, whose research is primarily in the area of defense and national security, said the project came out of several others that she

and her co-author had worked on looking at issues like police militarization, the economics of drone warfare and surveillance.

From these projects, the two began to wonder how it is that these foreign interventions are imported back home.

Hall Blanco and Coyne employed a research methodology known as an analytical narrative.

"We developed this framework for understanding the channels through which the methods and tools of foreign intervention come to be used domestically," said Hall Blanco. "After developing that framework, we apply it to case studies looking to see how well it does at explaining what we've seen."

One of the cases they looked at, as part of the larger trend of the militarization of police, was the origin of SWAT teams.

Hall Blanco said in the 1980s, SWAT teams were deployed at a relatively low rate, just a few thousand a year, whereas in recent years deployments range above 50,000-60,000 a year. The number of police departments in relatively small towns also

skyrocketed from a small percentage in the 1980s to 90 percent.

"People look at things like the protests in Ferguson, MO, where we have police officers wearing heavy Kevlar, carrying heavy duty military weapons. It's becoming progressively more difficult to distinguish between police and military," she said.

Hall Blanco said the first SWAT team was created in 1967 by a former Marine named John Nelson, who had been a part of an elite Marine reconnaissance force in Vietnam. When Nelson returned from Vietnam, he joined the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), right about the time the Watts riots broke out.

"The LAPD is in a situation where they feel really unprepared," said Hall Blanco. "So Nelson suggests the implementation of a unit that acts like the unit he was a part of in Vietnam. He is quite literally taking his military training and applying it domestically."

Hall Blanco explained that the SWAT team became a permanent fixture of the LAPD relatively quickly and then with the War on Drugs and the War on Terror, these units began to expand to other areas in order to fight both of those wars domestically.

Other topics Hall Blanco and Coyne explore in the book are surveillance, drones and torture.

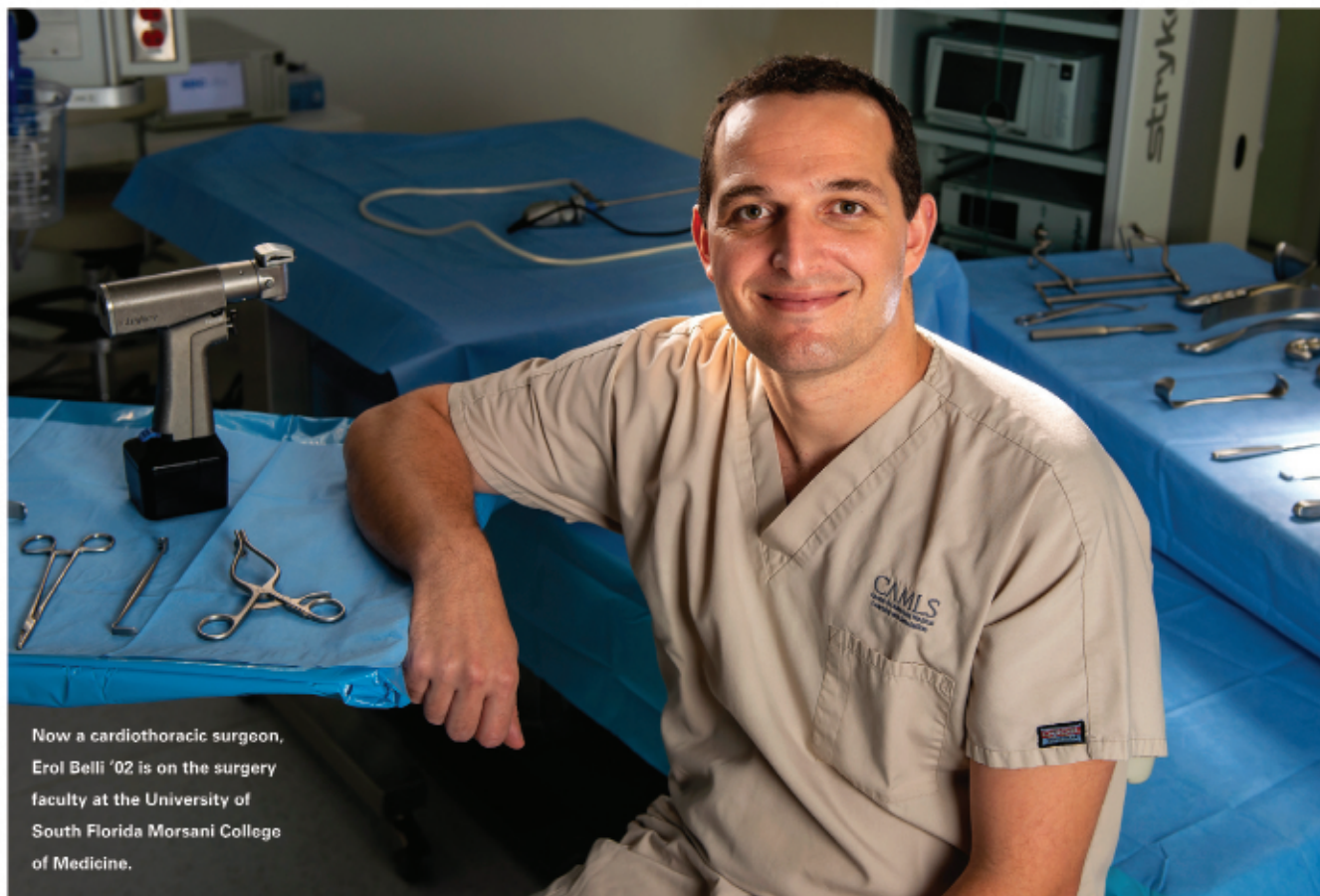
While Hall Blanco said the importing of these tools isn't necessarily bad, she and Coyne definitely look at this as being concerning if not very problematic.

"The point that we're making here is that even a government acting within its constraints domestically, when it intervenes abroad, those constraints are often relaxed or, in some cases, altogether absent," she said. "That provides a sort of testing ground for new methods of social control, and the development of those new methods can and do wind up having a domestic impact."

The book is available on Amazon or through Stanford University Press.



# spartan sports



Now a cardiothoracic surgeon, Erol Belli '02 is on the surgery faculty at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine.

## Matters of the Heart

*Erol Belli pursues his passion, from the soccer field to the operating room*

THOUGH FAR REMOVED FROM THE SOCCER field, Erol Belli '02 found himself on familiar ground while in medical school, specifically during his third-year clerkship.

"I found surgery was the closest thing to a team," Belli explained. "I got to go to a locker room, put on a uniform, and mentally prepare to perform my best each and every day."

After his time at UT, Belli went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences in 2004 and a Doctor

of Medicine in 2009 at the University of South Florida.

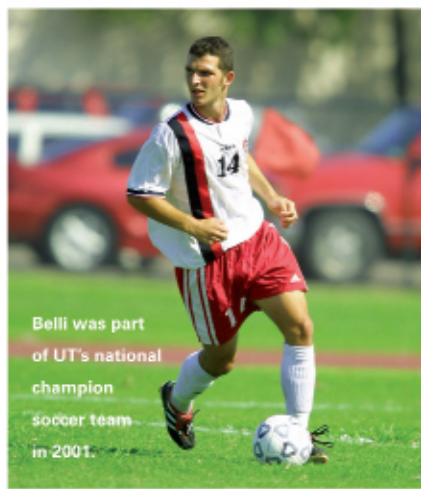
In 2013, he completed his general surgery residency at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, and in 2016, he completed a thoracic surgery residency at the University of Florida, where he served as an administrative chief resident.

Now a board certified cardiothoracic surgeon, Belli said the major priority and responsibility of his job is his patients.

"I work to make an immediate difference in their lives. I strive to be a man for others," he said.

His professional career is off to an impressive start. He was named a Mayo Clinic Scholar, an honor that is given to only 1 percent of physicians at Mayo. He conducts high-risk aortic procedures and heart and lung transplants.

In addition, Belli was appointed an assistant professor of surgery at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and



Belli was part of UT's national champion soccer team in 2001.

has been working as a senior associate consultant at the Mayo Clinic for the last three years.

His latest career move has brought him back to Tampa, his hometown. Belli has been recruited to help build upon the Cardiothoracic Surgery Division at the University of South Florida, with a practice location at Tampa General Hospital.

Being back in Tampa has brought Belli full circle to where his journey began. Belli was the middle of three boys. Shy around other children, when he was 5 years old his mom signed him up for soccer to help him become more sociable. While his shyness disappeared, soccer itself became an undeniable passion.

"Once I started playing, I never turned back," said Belli. "I tried other sports and always came back to soccer."

His talent on the field eventually landed him an athletic scholarship to UT. Belli said his time as a member of the Spartan soccer team was life changing and provided invaluable lessons that assisted him later on in life.

"It was great; the hardest I have ever worked on any team," Belli said. "The whole team learned the value of a good work ethic, how to navigate problems as a team, and it culminated with a national championship."

The experience of winning the

national championship in 2001 was a major highlight in Belli's life, and he said the entire year was filled with "too many stories to tell."

A championship win and education were not the only takeaways from his time as a Spartan. While at the University, Belli met his wife, Katie (Levins) '02, who was playing volleyball the same time he was playing soccer.

She completed her undergraduate degree in graphic design and earned a master's degree in interior design from the University of Florida while he was in medical school. The two have been married for 12 years and have three children — Ayden, 10, Owen, 8, and Emerson, 2.

Belli is still in contact with many of the friends he made at UT. He even remains in communication with his

coaches and will occasionally seek their advice.

"When I am tired, I can still hear my coach, Keith Fulk '89, encouraging me to 'sort it out,'" he said.

Belli is still involved with UT and desires to see the soccer team have the success he experienced as a Spartan. He is one of nine former soccer players on a committee that raises money for an annual scholarship to ensure the program thrives.

Belli's gratitude for his University experience is evident and inspiring, and his advice to current and future students is simple:

"Cherish your time at The University of Tampa. The friendships will last a lifetime, and the education you receive will prepare you for any future endeavor."

— Emily Stoops

## URSO JOINS SPORTS CLUB OF TAMPA BAY HALL OF FAME



Head baseball coach Joe Urso '92 was inducted into the Sports Club of Tampa Bay's Hall of Fame at an induction banquet in March. In addition, longtime UT supporter Vince Naimoli received a lifetime achievement award. The Sports Club of Tampa Bay also recognized UT women's golf player Kiira Riihijarvi '20 as UT's Female Student Athlete of the Year and baseball player David Lebron '18 as UT's Male Student Athlete of the Year.



Documenting an unprecedented, paradigm-shifting habitat

# A SEAHORSE SWEET SPOT

BY JAMIE PILARCZYK

MBA '13, M.S. '13

PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
SHANE GROSS









**I**T'S DARK, SOMEWHERE around 10 p.m. Fog rises off the still waters of Sweetings Pond, a landlocked lagoon on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas. The water temperature is below 70 degrees — unusual for March — and means the outside air temperature is much cooler.

Three figures hike down a steep grade to the pond, each with a 50-pound scuba tank, 15 pounds of lead weights, plus research gear. Once in the water, even their wet suits can't keep the chill at bay.

"It was one of the coldest weeks in the Bahamas," said Heather Masonjones, professor of biology, who lead a research trip to the pond during UT's spring break. But this was not your typical spring break trip to the Caribbean.

"It sounds like this fantastic spring break, and it *was*, but it was work. Just because when you're under water that long, you lose heat really fast. It was the most challenging field experience I think we've ever done," she said.

There was no current in Sweetings Pond to swim against, like there would be in the open ocean. Instead, the three divers hovered above the floor of the pond, barely moving.

"There was a point where I moved 5 meters over the course of an hour," said Emily Rose '07, visiting assistant professor of biology. "I probably moved an inch every few minutes."

They didn't have to move much to observe the creatures they came to see: seahorses.

Most people only ever see seahorses in photographs or at aquariums. Biologists who study syngnathids (seahorses and pipefish), might come across less than 50 in the wild in the span of their careers.

Masonjones, Rose and sophomore Jessica Elson found more than 700 of them during their spring break trip.



"From a career perspective, this was a discovery," said Masonjones.

According to Rose, there were more than 30 fish per 5 meters.

"I'd look up and shine my light, and there would easily be a dozen seahorses within my grasp. And I have really short arms!" Rose said laughing.

Masonjones is a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's specialist group for seahorse and pipefish. She hosted the chair of the group at Sweetings Pond in May 2017

to confirm her findings, and "within the first 15 minutes in the water she was like, 'This is unprecedented. This doesn't exist anywhere else in the world.'"

The data was so extreme, Masonjones presented to and is now working with Bahamian authorities to designate the pond as a national park. She is conducting the primary science toward this end, as well as spearheading the educational outreach to help move the conservation mission of this forward.





UT researchers documented more than 700 seahorses during a spring break trip to Sweetings Pond in the Bahamas.

of how important it was before we could really push forward with that.”

She reached out to Rose, and involved students from UT and Bahamian institutions, to focus on the pond’s population biology, examining exactly what was in the pond.

“It really was so cool just lying on the bottom of this pond and knowing that nothing’s going to bother you, and it’s quiet,” described Rose. “You can hear seahorses snapping their mouths to eat; that’s how quiet it is in the water. It’s this eerie, strange, Scussical-like location. It’s bizarre, and there’s nobody around.”

Because it’s the Caribbean, Rose said they expected to find other fish and lobster maybe, but instead there were different habitats with odd-looking fish.

“When you get in at one spot it might be covered in bright green fluffy algae and another spot might have really coarse yellow algae, and the fish look different too,” she said. “Our first publication highlighted how different these animals are from known lined seahorse populations from the Gulf of Mexico, and their body proportions may make them a unique subspecies. Our work from here will be to further this line of inquiry.”

The team had a good working idea that the pond was isolated from the outside ocean, which later genetic work and water flow models confirmed to be true.

“What’s happening is this is actually a system in the process of speciating. This is a system where the seahorses and the animals in there are changing from the outside ocean,” Masonjones said. “More than just having a pond full of seahorses, which is unique, this is potentially a Darwin’s finches story. This is an evolution story.”

The team of Masonjones, Rose and Elson returned during spring break,

### A SUESSICAL-LIKE LOCATION

Masonjones first learned about Sweetings Pond in 2013 from a friend who came across it and told her to get down to the Bahamas to check it out.

“I was underwater, and prior to this had only seen three seahorses in the Bahamas in hundreds of hours of work to that point,” she said. “I saw 16 in the first two hours of snorkeling. I wasn’t even diving.”

Soon after, a tourist’s post on TripAdvisor advertised the pond as a great

place to swim with these unique and unusual creatures, starting a ticking clock on the team’s research.

“The result was that all of a sudden we knew that we had to design a research project that was absolutely comprehensive just to get as much baseline data as possible, so that we could have scientific basis for good management decisions to be made,” said Masonjones. “We knew this was something that needed to be a park, but we needed to know the magnitude





supported by a research grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry, to dive during the day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then again at night, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Masonjones had completed casual nighttime surveys, but nothing official. What they saw this March blew their fins off.

"This trip was just a major, paradigm-busting trip," Masonjones said. "We had designed an experiment we thought would be possible based on looking at night, but not actually collecting any data at night. And the population size was 1,500 percent higher than worldwide seahorse densities during the night."

#### FROM STUDENTS TO SCHOLARS

Masonjones describes the last four years since discovering Sweetings Pond as remarkable, but the last few months since spring break have been equally as thrilling as a professor, mentor and female scientist.

Rose was an undergrad at UT, studying ecology under Masonjones. She went on to get her doctorate at Texas A&M

University, which is where Masonjones reached out to her to collaborate on the Sweetings Pond project. Now a visiting assistant professor at UT, she and Masonjones are both mentoring Elson, Masonjones' "academic grandkid."

"I think the opportunity to go in the field and co-mentor an undergrad, from a previous mentor-mentee relationship, that was an amazing opportunity," Masonjones said. "Then they go off and be completely independent and ask their own questions. That independence is an important part of the process in establishing who you are as a scholar on your own."

Rose says Masonjones' influence has extended beyond the academic. The mother of three children, Masonjones has learned how to blend her academic research with family life, sometimes volunteering her kids as "field assistants."

"In the long run, having a mentor who does parenting and teaching and research makes you think as a female scientist — I could do this," Rose said. "There are so many overlaps. She wasn't just my mentor. I helped raise some of her kids a little bit. Some of

them have some really great traits from me," she joked.

"They do, actually," Masonjones added quickly, laughing.

During their spring break trip, they came back from their first night dive at 3 a.m. realizing their original plans weren't going to work. Instead of heading to bed, they redesigned the entire experiment while standing in the kitchen of the field station with their adrenaline fueling their pre-dawn brainstorm.

They've spent so many hours together — under the water and outside it — that it takes a special skill to keep up with the pace and scientific level of the conversation. This was just one criteria that made Elson's addition to the team unique. The fact that she was a second-year student was another.

Elson's very first semester at UT, she interviewed Rose for a Pathways to Honors (HON 101) assignment and walked away from the interview with data to start measuring seahorses.

"She had such good questions about the project. She seemed really organized, which is essential, and the





The research team consisted of UT biology professors Emily Rose '07 and Heather Masonjones along with current student Jessica Elson '19 (left, bottom). While spending spring break in the Bahamas might sound relaxing, the UT team spent at least eight hours a day in cold water, barely moving, while they counted the hundreds of seahorses in Sweetings Pond.

discussion about the project was so intense," said Rose, seahorse earrings swinging as she spoke. "She was asking about the analyses, when most of the students ask about the seahorses. They get excited about that angle of it. She was asking questions at the level of a senior student already during her freshman interview. I thought, let me show you how we do it."

Rose assigned Elson, a member of the Honors Program, to a senior student in a cohort that was being trained to analyze the seahorse data that was being collected (using photographs of seahorses to measure 600 of the 1,100 photos they had to analyze).

The next semester, Elson got permission to take a senior seminar course that was a comprehensive opportunity

for students to get involved in scholarship, preparing them to be a part of SyngBIO 2017, an international seahorse and pipefish conference hosted at UT in May 2017.

The students delved into the research of the international scientists — the celebrities of seahorse research — who would be presenting and then participated in and helped facilitate the week-long conference. Elson had also started an extensive literature review of syngnathid material to get her prepped for designing her own experiments.

Elson, a marine science biology major who has two minors in environmental science and leadership studies, is absorbing multiple facets of the inquiry experience, from watching how her professors are working in the field as scientists and professionals, to discovering a place for herself in the mix.

While Masonjones is focusing on population biology and looking at the feeding and mating ecology, and Rose is trying to answer questions of evolution and genetics, Elson, who has already taken a geographic information systems (GIS) course, saw a niche.

She noticed that the seahorses were spatially organized differently from daytime to nighttime, Masonjones said.

"She asked how we can we analyze that. You can just see her brain whizzing, and she's creating a scientific place for herself in that process," said Masonjones.

Elson, of Gurnee, IL, came back to UT from spring break and had a week to analyze the data, put together a poster and have it printed, then presented to the Board of Trustees as part of a campus-wide undergraduate research event.

"What I find most intriguing is that yes, what I do looks great on a poster and science nerds are excited about it," Elson said, "but it has real-world implications."

The team has submitted one paper that was published in November 2016 as the cover story in the *Journal of Heredity*, establishing the species they were finding in Sweetings Pond. They have just submitted a second paper documenting how dense the population is there, and they want to follow up with the nocturnal study later this year. **UT**



# AN UNEXP



"The best advice I can give is to not be afraid to re-invent yourself," says Charbo, who spoke at UT's spring commencement.



# SELECTED LIFE

Scott Charbo '86  
has embraced risk  
and reinvention  
to map a unique  
career path

BY MICHELLE BEARDEN  
PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MATT NAGER

THE INVITATION TO SPEAK TO THE 2018 graduating class came out of the blue. And Scott Charbo '86 was sure it was a mistake.

"When I got the call from Keith Todd (vice president of development and university relations), I asked him if he had the right person," recalls Charbo, vice president for information technology and digital services at Nutrien, the world's largest provider of crop inputs and services, and a critical player in helping growers increase food production in a sustainable manner.

Once assured he indeed had been chosen, Charbo went through a range of conflicting emotions. He was humbled, honored, slightly skeptical and terrified.

He wondered what he could possibly offer by way of advice. How could he be inspirational to an auditorium full of newly minted college graduates?

Turns out, all he had to do was tell his own story.

Despite his misgivings about being worthy of the selection, Charbo's impressive resume is testimony to an adventurous and successful life, embracing new opportunities in multiple states: Florida, Nevada, Michigan, Virginia, Tennessee and Colorado.

He's written software; developed policies with top government leaders; immersed himself in startups, some successful and others not; negotiated business deals with CEOs of many

Fortune 500 companies; wrestled projects that took him around the world; and discussed strategies with military leaders, astronauts and a Nobel Prize winner.

None of these achievements were what he imagined on his own graduation day in May 1986.

*"I sat there 32 years ago as you are today. I'm not sure how you are feeling, but I was uncertain of what my next steps were."*

"I guess I'm an example of how being open and flexible can lead to unexpected turns in life," says Charbo, who lives in Fort Collins, CO, with his wife, Tanya, and their two children, Emily and Josh. "If you put yourself in a box, you might end up stuck in it."



**"Those four years prepared me for the things, the experiences, which would happen to me over the next 32 years and hopefully more to come. I don't think I'm done."**

—SCOTT CHARBO '86 FROM HIS SPRING 2018 COMMENCEMENT SPEECH

He is quick to credit people in his life who were willing to take a chance on him, even when he was working in completely uncharted waters.

At first, the UT biology major envisioned a career working for the U.S. Forest Service at one of the national parks. After earning his master's degree in plant science at the University of Nevada Reno, he began thinking about research and development, and took a job as a county agriculture extension agent in Palm Beach County for the University of Florida.

That job led to multiple roles with ConAgra Food, supporting precision agriculture, crop modeling, data analytics and environmental and employee safety. Consumers were starting to demand more choices: organic, gluten-free, non-GMO products. In order to supply the demand, it takes more technology. And with less than 2 percent of the nation's population in farming, the diminishing number of growers have to be more productive, efficient and cost-effective.

Exploring those new frontiers both energized and challenged him. If he couldn't find the answers, he had to devise his own game plan.

His career path took a different turn in 2002 when then-U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman — who had worked with Charbo when she was in the private sector — reached out to him to be the chief information officer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). His knowledge of food science and the emerging world of technology had impressed her. In that job, Charbo led a massive effort to digitalize the USDA, offering the first electronic payment and filing systems for the nation's agricultural producers.

He was on the ground floor of bringing geographical information systems (designed to capture, store, analyze, manage and present all types of spatial or geographical data) to help American farmers regulate crop quality and production. Another undertak-

ing was the Environmental Quality Improvement program to get growers to lower the amount of nitrogen that goes into certain watersheds.

Word of his expertise eventually reached all the way to the White House.

In 2005, President George W. Bush appointed him chief information officer of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where he developed systems and services for a far-reaching range of departments: national security, emergency preparedness, disaster support, border protection and law enforcement. He also led the development of the National Cyber Security Strategy — a fledgling blueprint for sophisticated systems now critical to maintaining this country's security.

With the changing of the administration, Charbo returned to the private sector in 2009. As vice president for cybersecurity and telecommunication at Accenture Federal, he created the company's initiative that protected the systems for federal agencies, the Department of Defense, and state and local governments.

After five years, the itch to return to his home state of Colorado and work again in agriculture drew him to his current job.

"Probably one of the smartest guys I know," says Warren Hammerbeck, a former business associate and longtime mentor. He first met Charbo when they worked together at ConAgra. The young upstart was honest, straightforward and brilliant. That caught Hammerbeck's attention.

"Scott showed a lot of aptitude, so I moved him up. And he didn't disappoint me. He's always been way, way ahead of the game. He's one of those people who just gets it. I expect he'll still be shaking things up in the field in years to come."

No matter where the journey takes him, Charbo says he always circles back to where it began — on the campus at UT.

"I don't think I'm anything special," he says. "Most of the people I knew

back then went on to graduate school or medical school and did well in their lives. I think the smallness of our university gave us closer relationships with our professors and other students."

*"The things that I knew — the things that I had that day 32 years ago were, first, the lessons from my family. The strong work ethic they instilled in me to work hard and harder than the next person, to be honest, and to stand up for what you believe. Second, I had the education and experiences from the four years at this University — The University of Tampa! In those four years, this institution provided me the foundations and the confidence to experience life and take risks. It provided me with the confidence to reinvent myself if needed in the rapidly changing world. It gave me the confidence to just go 'do.'"*

UT wasn't on his radar screen when he was a high school senior and living with his family in Boca Raton, FL.

But when the school sent him a letter offering him a four-year scholarship that covered half his tuition, Charbo decided it was too good to pass up.

"My parents were of the mindset that once you graduated from high school, you were on your own. I really couldn't say no," he recalls.

So he packed up his belongings in a duffle bag and got on a bus heading north. He saw the campus for the first time when he arrived. From the beginning, he knew it was the right fit.

He loved the compact campus and the close-knit student community of about 2,000 students. Though his life has put so many miles and years between now and his younger self, those memories haven't dimmed: epic Frisbee matches on the intramural field, the visiting crew teams that came to row on the Hillsborough River, Gasparilla events, scuba lessons in the pool and winning the Freshman Chemistry Student of the Year award.

"I remember a day when walking to lab — because science majors always work harder than business majors — a van of friends pulled up next to me in





front of Plant Hall. They pulled me into it, and we headed to Clearwater. I was just kidnapped! I explained that I needed to get to lab, and my friends asked: 'What will you remember in 20 years — going to that lab or going to the beach with friends?' They were right. I remember that beach."

Rob Bovarnick '85 lived down the hall from Charbo in McKay Hall's "Animal Wing." The two hit it off right away and remain friends to this day.

"I know he's a science guy and all that, but he was also a very talented artist," says Bovarnick of Rob-Harris Productions Inc., a Tampa company he founded with now-retired UT professor Lew Harris that specializes in video production and commercial photography. "He used to think he was Spiderman. He liked him so much that he painted a huge mural of Spiderman looming over downtown on a wall in our study room."

Alas, Charbo says his days as a muralist are behind him, though he still dabbles in woodworking and photography. As for Spiderman, his son shares the same interest in the Marvel Comics' superhero.

Charbo lives in Fort Collins, CO, with his wife, Tanya, and their two children, Emily and Josh.

Bovarnick remembers Charbo as "very smart and very fit, riding his bike from Tampa to Lake Worth several times." His classmates called him "Stoneface," because he usually didn't let on what he was thinking.

"We thought he'd end up a park ranger," Bovarnick says. "But really, he had the talent to do whatever he put his mind to. Whatever he's accomplished, none of it surprises me."

That sentiment is echoed by Paul Arcella, Charbo's best friend of nearly five decades. They played soccer together as kids, and celebrated high school graduation with a hiking trip out West. In their adult years, they've arranged vacations that include major sporting events.

His buddy's competitive spirit matches his thirst for knowledge and innovation, Arcella says.

"Scott was always a quick study. When the IBM computers first came out, he had them figured out way

before the rest of us," says Arcella, who runs a family construction business based in Deerfield Beach, FL.

The two men also have another deeply personal connection that Charbo cherishes.

"My wife and his wife were friends growing up," Arcella says. "We set her and Scott up on their first date, and the rest is history. It turned out to be some pretty good matchmaking."

Charbo agrees with that.

He's living the dream these days, back home in Colorado with a global company that gives him ample opportunity to find digital solutions to the challenges in the ever-changing world of agriculture. He's married to his best friend, and they are enjoying seeing their kids come into their own.

Daughter Emily, who graduated from the University of Colorado two years ago with a degree in marketing, now manages a retail store in Fort Collins. Son Josh has inherited his father's aptitude for science, majoring in chemistry at the University of Northern Colorado. The family is passionate about the Rocky Mountain state, taking ski trips, bike excursions and hiking expeditions whenever they can get their schedules in synch.

It's not what he planned for himself in his days on campus. It actually turned out much better.

"I took a lot of risks and made a lot of leaps," Charbo says. "And not all of them worked out. But the best advice I can give is to not be afraid to reinvent yourself. Sometimes you do it by choice, other times you're forced into it. Don't let fear hold you back."

*"Go to graduate school, go to medical school. Be a health care provider, start that business, be a CEO. Volunteer, write that book, start your military career. Marry that partner, raise that family, work from home, work abroad. Embrace your faith, travel the world, take some time off. Start your career, start a movement, change the world. But please go do. Go experience things, experience life and have a passion."* **UT**







# alumni report

## class acts

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

**57 Nanette Rodgers** received the Julie Pope Award from Girls Inc. at the 28th annual "She Knows Where She's Going" luncheon at Polk State College in June, according to *The Ledger* (Lakeland, FL).

**71 Dan Boone** was elected to his second term as a Huntsville, NC, Town Commissioner.

**77 Curt Rogers**, a retired Army major, is running for U.S. Representative for District 15 in Florida. Curt announced his candidacy from the old entrance-way to UT in March.

**Rick Stripling**, vice chancellor for student affairs at Arkansas State University, accepted a new set of academic and administrative challenges, focusing on the growing graduate program for college student personnel, and assisting with development of residential life at the university's Campus Queretaro.

**79 Joe Lamphier** was promoted to executive vice president and chief revenue officer of Crown Automotive Group. Joe has worked for Crown for 27 years, most recently serving as vice president of sales and marketing.

**Mark Testoni** is the CEO of SAP National Security Services, a

cybersecurity firm where he manages a team with more than 500 employees, according to CNBC. He oversees the company's sales, products and strategy, and coordinates with the U.S. government about national security.

**81 Jane Castor**, former chief of the Tampa Police Department, has entered the race for mayor of Tampa. Jane was Tampa's first female police chief, as well as the first openly LGBTQ person to serve in that office.

**Sharon McBryar** met fellow Spartan **Chrysta-Lyn Rodrigues '18** all the way down in Puerto Viejo, Costa Rica, in June.

**William Sullivan** retired from the Florida Department of Transportation after 35 years of service.

**84 Diane Senechal** was promoted to principal



Sharon McBryar '81 and Chrysta-Lyn Rodrigues '18

account delivery executive at Microsoft. Diane works with Microsoft's public sector team with a focus on the New Jersey State Government. She and her husband, Bob, live in Philadelphia.

**86 Judith Tilton** was hired by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the new position of director of cultural affairs, according to *The Observer News*.

**89 Sheila (Gilroy) Tahmin** was named director of human resources at LCS Facility Group in Poughkeepsie, NY. In her new role, Sheila supports the company's executive team on human resources-related issues and initiatives, and also oversees the development of HR policies and procedures.

**90 Richard Annunziata** opened a new law firm, ABN Law, in Naples, FL, in September 2017 with an entrepreneurial, client-first culture, according to *Business Observer*. Richard previously was a partner at Ohio-based Brennan Manna Diamond's Bonita Springs office for a decade, a job he left to battle stage IV stomach cancer in 2016.

**Lloyd Chatfield** joined Brentwood Advisory Group in the firm's legal practice, where he serves as outside general counsel to small and mid-size companies in the manufacturing, chemicals, real estate, retail and professional services industries.

**Tracy Stern** founded T&T Design & Development with her fiancé, Jerry Turco, in December 2017, according to *Avenue*

## FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

We are excited to bring a 5K race back to the homecoming schedule of events with the help of the Livefor24 Foundation.

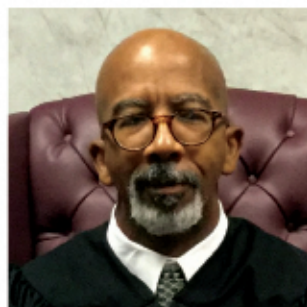
The foundation was formed in memory of Melissa Vanderhall '10, who wore the number 24, by a group of her former UT volleyball teammates. Proceeds from the race will benefit scholarships to UT through the foundation, which is dedicated to supporting youth community outreach and funding student scholarships.

The race will take place Saturday, Oct. 20. Participants are welcome to run or walk on a scenic 3.1 mile course through campus, with a portion of the race along the Hillsborough River.

A separate 1-mile fun run will also be offered for those interested in a shorter race or running with younger participants.

For more information, go to [www.livefor24.org](http://www.livefor24.org).





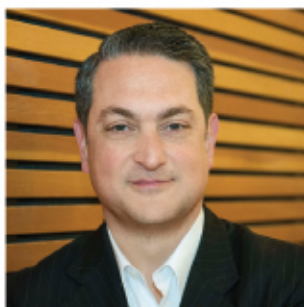
**Anthony Reeves '91**

magazine. The couple renovated six condos in a 1920s Palm Beach, FL, hotel, which they rent out through Airbnb, and are building Black Barn, a 600-acre mercantile general store in Andover, NJ.

**91 Kevin Johnson**, who is president and CEO of Suncoast Credit Union, was appointed to the board of directors of CUNA Mutual Group.

**Donna Lusczynski** was promoted to chief deputy of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in May, becoming the first woman to attain that rank in the HCSO. Donna joined the HCSO in 1991.

**Anthony Reeves** serves as an administrative law judge for the United States Social Security Administration in Dover, DE, where his primary responsibility is to issue decisions involving applications for disability benefits. Anthony has also written his first book, *What I Learned While Hanging Off the Back of an Ice Cream Truck: The Power of Self Appreciation, Self Realization and Your Personal Circle*.



**Rashid Skaf '92**

**92 Jim Berretta** has been a drum instructor for the last 20 years. Since November 2017 he has been the drummer for Mixed Signal, which is fronted by American Idol Season 5 finalist Melissa McGhee.

**Rashid Skaf** was appointed president, CEO and co-chairman of Biamp Systems. Headquartered in Beaver, OR, Biamp Systems is a leading provider of innovative, networked media systems that power the world's most sophisticated audio/video installations.

**93 Scott Jones**, a deputy with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), received the Medal of Valor, HCSO's highest award, for rescuing stranded boaters in Tampa Bay in April. (See next page.)

**Kelly Myers MBA** operates a tax consulting practice for complex tax planning, national tax seminars and tax controversy. Before he opened his practice in January 2018, he worked for more than 30 years at the IRS, with more than 20 years at the Washington, D.C.,



**Kelly Myers MBA '93**

headquarters as a senior technical advisor.

**94 Mike Fitzgerald MBA** was named chief operating officer of WestCMR, which has provided surgical supplies throughout Florida, the U.S. and the world for 22 years.

**95 Jessica Killin** married Rajeev Date on April 28 in the Riviera Maya of Mexico. Jessica is a financial services policy expert and government relations specialist in Washington, D.C.

**Shawn Vinson** was promoted to director of commercial learning and development at Quest Diagnostics.

**96 Allison De Meulder** became the manager of the Glen Rock Community School (Glen Rock, NJ) in July. She previously served as co-founder and independent business consultant at A&O Consulting, a boutique consulting firm based in Ridgewood.

**Tim Pratte** was named senior vice president of business develop-

ment at PrismHR, a leading HR software platform for human resource outsourcing service providers. Tim has spent more than 20 years in the HR outsourcing industry.

**97 Rashandia Johnson** was promoted to dependency case management supervisor in St. Lucie County, FL. Rashandia has 16 years of experience working in case management, including three years as a dependency case manager for Devereux Community Based Care.

**Johnnie Walker** attended the WAMI 20th Reunion at Sky Deck in South Beach, hosted on the rooftop of the same building in which WAMI-TV launched its USA Broadcasting flagship station and where he worked as the "WAMI Guy." In that position he was WAMI's first station/promotions runner, a production assistant and associate producer for on-air promotions.

**99 Russell Ducharme** is a senior code enforcement officer for the City of Rancho Cordova's Code Enforcement Division, and he recently joined the city's Homeless Outreach Team.

**00 Mark Blank** is the new pastor of Second Congregational Church in Bennington, VT, according to the *Bennington Banner*. Mark graduated from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and was ordained in Pittsburgh in March.



**It's Not a Re\_nion without U** Attention classes of 1968 and 1993: join your fellow Spartans at homecoming as the class of 1968 is inducted into UT's Golden Spartan Society, and the class of 1993 becomes the inaugural members of the Silver Spartan Society. Register at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu).



**01** **Danny Brigido**, customer solutions site manager in Miami for Israel-based website development company Wix.com, was a featured speaker at the second annual Innovation Fusion in Tampa in June.

**Casey Freeman**, a wealth management advisor with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in Worcester, MA, was appointed the first vice chair of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts.

**René Potkay Moniz**, a litigation attorney at Partridge Snow & Hahn LLC, was recognized by SouthCoast Media Group and its partners as one of the 2018 SouthCoast Emerging Leaders.

**02** **Chelsie Marie Lamie**, a personal injury attorney, was the Florida Bar Solo & Small Firm Section member spotlight for March. Chelsie's firm has five employees who enjoy great benefits, including a trip to Thailand earlier this year for meeting their 2017 goal.

**Charlie Larner** continues to grow his restaurant portfolio under the Navy Yard Hospitality Group in Boston. His most recent addition, ReelHouse, located in East Boston, is connected to his Charlestown restaurant, Pier 6, via a complimentary ferry boat. Boston's first water service offered by a restaurant group.

**03** **John Capolino** has been officiating for the NCAA since 2012, according to *The Morning Call* (Allentown, PA). He officiates women's basketball for nine different conferences — including the ACC, Big East, American, Atlantic 10, Ivy League, Patriot League, MAC Northeast and Atlantic Sun — and just completed his fourth season at the Division I level.



#### spartan spotlight

## Scott Jones '93

### *Four Lives Saved*

On April 7, Scott Jones '93, a master sergeant with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO), jumped into Tampa Bay not once, but twice to save the lives of four boaters.

Facing seven-foot swells and 30-mph winds, Jones and the HCSO dive team responded to a call that a boat had sunk in the shipping channel just south of Davis Islands.

"It was just one of those storms. The wind and waves were terrible. We were surprised to hear that anybody was actually out on the water. It was that bad," says Jones.

Upon the team's arrival, Jones spotted three people — one a 10-year-old boy — clinging to a buoy. A fourth man was struggling in the water, and a fifth had already drowned.

"We went over to where the helicopter was hovering and saw a gentleman who was exhausted and about to drown. I already had my gun off, my equipment was off, and I was just in my uniform shorts and a T-shirt. I jumped off the boat and into the water. I grabbed the guy, put

him on his back and swam him over to the boat," says Jones. "Then I got back in the boat, and we went over to the channel marker where the other people were. The wind was blowing so hard we couldn't throw them life jackets. We couldn't even get close to them. I didn't have a choice, so I jumped back in."

To honor his heroic actions, Jones (right) was awarded the Medal of Valor by Sheriff Chad Chronister in a ceremony on June 13. It is the highest award given to deputies in Hillsborough County.

"It makes me feel honored that my peers saw what I did and felt that it was right to give me that award," says Jones. "It felt even better having my two sons there to see it."

The Florida native and veteran law enforcement officer credits his skills to a lifelong love of swimming and the support of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

"We train hard to do this, and the sheriff's office gives us the opportunity to do what we're good at. It matters," he says.





The University celebrated commencement on May 5 with two ceremonies at the Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall. (Counterclockwise from top left) At the morning ceremony, Thomas Graham '82, vice president, special projects (retired) at Pepco Holdings, gave a rousing speech for the main address, and Roman Cowan '10, MBA '14, M.S. '14, chief operating officer of College Hunks Hauling Junk, received the 2018 Young Alumnus Award. In the afternoon ceremony, Scott Charbo '86, vice president of information technology and digital services at Nutrien, was the speaker, and Billy Franchi '06, founder and managing partner of Franchi Law and founder of Pro Agent Sports Management, received the 2018 Alumni Achievement Award.

**Steven Chadwick** was selected to command the 3rd Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment of the U.S. Army at Fort Stewart, GA.

**Marlén Cortez Morris** was recently recognized as a 2018 Top Lawyer Under 40 by the Hispanic National Bar Association and a 2018 Franchise Legal Player by *1851 Franchise* magazine. The University of Illinois College of Law's Latina/Latino Law Students Association has also honored Marlén as its 2018 Alumnus of the Year.

**Jim Young** was promoted to director, digital/engineering at (add)ventures, a multidisciplinary brand culture and communications firm in Providence, RI. He previously served the company as web developer, engineering/digital.

**05 Katie Harding** is program manager, talent development for the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce and a sales consultant for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Earlier this year, she ran for Alpharetta city council.

**06 William Franchi** was the 2018 recipient of the UT Alumni Association Alumni Achievement Award. (See above.)

**Sara Hokin** married Jonah Rubin on April 15 at the Palmer House Chicago, according to *The New York Times*. Sara is the national director of operations for Game On! Sports 4 Girls, a Chicago-based organization that focuses on empowering girls through sports.

**Bethany Linderman** joined Reagan Warfield as co-host of *Mix Mornings* on Mix 106.5 (WWMX-

FM) in Baltimore, according to the *Carroll County Times*. Bethany was previously co-host of the morning program at WGNA-FM in Albany, NY.

**Brittany St. Sauveur MAT '07** relocated to Charleston, SC, and became a gift officer at the South Carolina Aquarium.

**Stephanie Virchaux** is a certified professional coach, motivational speaker, energy healer and founder of SV Empowerment LLC. Stephanie earned a coaching diploma from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching as



well as an MBA from the University of Miami.

**Jamal Wilburg M.S. '14** was named a *Tampa Bay Business Journal* 2018 Hero at Work. This award aims to recognize Tampa Bay area veterans who, through their professional and personal efforts, are making a positive impact throughout the community.

**07 Reed Adelson** is the owner of Virginia's in Manhattan, New York City, which he describes as "a casual neighborhood restaurant serving modern American food in a relaxed setting," according to the blog *Reserve*. The restaurant is named after his mother.

**Starr Brookins** was appointed by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners as a hearing officer, conducting hearings and rendering decisions regarding appeals. Starr earned a law degree from The George Washington University Law School, and is now an associate attorney at Smoak, Chistolini and Barnett.

**Trent Hadley M.S.** was named vice president and chief financial officer of Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance (BSWQA). Trent has been with BSWQA since 2013 as a financial manager and then director.

**Carina Santa Maria** is the new executive director of Shelter Inc., a nonprofit agency in Arling-

ton Heights, IL, that provides emergency housing for children and adolescents, according to the *Daily Herald*. Carina is a founding member of the Arlington Heights community group Voices of Community, Acceptance and Love.

**Colin Wensel** is the senior director, broadcast operations at Indianapolis Motor Speedway Productions. Colin earned a Master of Professional Studies in sports industry management from Georgetown University in 2017.

**08 Michael Martino** is engaged to be married and a new parent to Mila Rose Martino, who was born on Feb. 2.

**Tanner Matthews** started The Pacific Film Company LLC. The company's first feature film, *The American Dreamless*, began production in 2016 and will be completed this year. The film is the first production to use locations in all 50 U.S. states.

**Sally Seymour MBA** was appointed chief operating officer (COO) at the Medical Center of Trinity, an HCA West Florida Hospital. Sally most recently served as COO at HCA West Florida's Fawcett Memorial Hospital for the past two years.

**09 Nathan Brown M.S. '13** and his wife, Kim, welcomed Milly Madeline Brown to their



Milly Madeline Brown



Hoyt Prindle MBA '10

family on Feb. 7. The couple recently relocated to Greensboro, NC.

**Ben France MBA** was named vice president of economic development at the Little Rock Regional Chamber.

**Curtis Isele** is a special agent with the state of Kansas, where he conducts criminal and internal investigations involving inmates and staff. Curtis earned a master's degree in criminal justice from Arizona State University in 2015 and has worked as a correctional officer in both Louisiana and Tennessee.

**Chris Persaud** is director of business development for DIGIS-TOR, a leading provider of industrial and embedded flash storage products and secure digital video storage solutions. Chris previously served six years as an officer in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Afghanistan, then joined Dell Technologies as a federal account manager in 2016.

**10 Roman Cowan MBA '14, M.S. '14** was the 2018 recipient of the UT Alumni Association Young Alumni Award. (See previous page.)

**Jen Dean** is the deputy director for Chicago Votes, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that helps young Chicagoans, many from disaffected communities, become more politically aware, register to vote and get to the polls on elec-



Jason Raphael '10

tion days. Among her responsibilities are the citywide Parade to the Polls and Cook County Jail Votes. (See page 28.)

**Kimberly Duggan** married Kevin Day in August 2017 in Minneapolis.

**Lauren Marsicano** was named a Top 40 Young Lawyer in the nation by the American Bar Association. Lauren is a founding partner of the law firm Marsicano + Leyva PLLC in Miami.

**Chrissy Nieves MBA**, a realtor with Yellow Fin Realty, was honored with the Yellow Fin Realty Founders Award, according to the *Osprey Observer*. The award is given to someone who best represents the values of the company, balancing success at work with home life and being active in the community.

**Michael Patton** married Katie Gelnaw in Sayulita, Mexico, on March 17.

**Hoyt Prindle MBA** earned a law degree, graduating cum laude from the Stetson University College of Law.

**Jason Raphael** joined Bridge Connector, an integration platform as a service that delivers streamlined integration solutions for health care organizations, as vice president of client relations.

**Brennan Whitley** appeared in a *News-Press* (Fort Myers, FL) article about what it was like to enter the workforce during the Great Recession. Brennan is now the manager for Florida business operations for the Boston Red Sox.

**11 Harvey Chan** is a doctoral student at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, studying nuclear architecture with electron microscopy.

**Robert Coogan** is branch manager at Expeditors International in Shanghai, China. He first joined the global logistics and freight forwarding company while still a



spartan spotlight

## Jen Dean '10

*One Vote at a Time*



Jen Dean '10 has spent the last four years working to build a more inclusive, transformative democracy that is accessible to all communities.

As deputy director of policy, operations and culture for Chicago Votes, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization in Chicago, Dean fights to raise awareness about voting rights. Her aim is to build a better Chicago for the next generation.

"The kids in Chicago are superheroes — they have the most perseverance, intelligence and joy, unlike any place I have been," says Dean. "I want to make Chicago better for them."

Through the Chicago Votes initiative Parade to the Polls, Dean and her team educate high school students about voting rights and celebrate their first trip to the polls.

"We either have a parade to the polls with the cheerleaders or marching band and march directly to the polls, or we rent a fancy charter bus to make the students feel extra special. You can feel them feeling appreciated," says Dean.

The program caught the eye of one famous Chicago native.

"Chance the Rapper saw what we were doing," explains Dean. "I had a dream to throw a massive concert in downtown Chicago and then, in a similar concept, walk to the polls after."

Apparently he had the same dream.

"We teamed up. He put on a free show in Grant Park, and then we walked 6,000 young people through downtown, directly to the polls," says Dean.

Dean also works with Cook County Jail inmates who are in pre-trial detention, ensuring they know that they're eligible to vote while awaiting trial.

Supporting these efforts, Dean co-authored legislation that requires every jail in Illinois to run election processes and provide voter registration forms to those being released.

"I don't think there is anything worse than sitting on the sidelines when you could be making a difference," she says. "I am in a place professionally where I have a seat at the table; I am there as a youth advocate first and foremost, no matter what issue or policy we are discussing."

student at UT, then worked in its New York City office for several years before transferring to Shanghai in September 2017.

**Mike Rabelo** is manager of Minor League Baseball's Lakeland Flying Tigers, the Class A Advanced affiliate of the Detroit Tigers based in Lakeland, FL, according to *The Ledger*.

**Austin Talley** is the co-founder of Veritam Corp., which offers national defense services and is a partner in an oil and gas brokerage firm, according to the *Austin American-Statesman*. Earlier this year, he ran for the Texas House District 45 seat.

**12 Bianca Burrows** is a mixed media artist based in the Tampa Bay area. Bianca appeared on WFLA-TV's *Daytime* in June to discuss her art.

**Ethan Crosson** is a regional sales manager for GIS Benefits for the Florida, Cincinnati and Louisville markets. He is also a signature event chair for the UT Board of Counselors and a co-owner of CroBros LLC, a real estate investment company he started with his brother.

**Jeremy Griffin** appeared on *The Daily Grind Business Podcast* to discuss his entrepreneurial journey. Jeremy is running four small businesses, including Grizzly Targets, Dropzone Gunner, Elite Realty and Startup Street Studios, a community podcasting center for Tampa-area entrepreneurs.

**Eric Kuczynski MBA '13** was promoted to vice president at First Home Bank in Tampa.

**Robyn Lett** married Erin Malone on June 2 at Babsby Ranch in Gallatin, TN. Robyn met Erin while attending the University of San Francisco School of Dentistry, where Robyn earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery.



**Mike Trobiano** is co-owner of Dash Creative Group, which provides small business owners a focused and affordable alternative for company branding, web development and visual merchandising services, according to the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*.

**Holly Weber** is co-founder of Limelight Stage Productions, which presented its debut show, *I Enjoy Being a Girl*, at Havana Harry's in Largo, FL, this summer, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Holly described the show as a musical "exploring different facets of femininity in a toe-tapping cabaret."

**13 Brennen Amann** is a founding member of FlowerHire, based in Venice, CA. FlowerHire partners with cannabis companies throughout California.

**Jessica Fernandez** finished medical school at the University of Central Florida, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Jessica will complete her residency at Jefferson Medical College's duPont Children's Hospital in Philadelphia, one of only three pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation positions in the U.S. that train doctors to care for children with movement disorders such as Jessica's condition, spinaelipiphyseal dysplasia congenita.

**Carly (Hartka) Gold**, a community health nurse, hospice, for Valley Home Care in Paramus, NJ, was recognized by the Valley Health System and The DAISY Foundation with The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in October 2017.

**Lucas Kuebler** is a certified marine chemist at Marine Inspections Services in Houston, TX.

**Stacy Piagno** was named to USA Baseball's national team roster, according to *The Florida Times-Union*. Stacy was one of 20 players selected from the team trials in June ahead of the Women's Baseball World Cup in August.

**Ashley Souza** married **Sam Gerb '11** on March 25 in Palm Harbor, FL.

**Alex Williams** is managing director and director of video for *Southeast Produce Weekly* (SPW), an online forum for those interested in produce trade, specifically in the southeastern U.S. Alex is also the founder of Mammoth Films, a production company based in Tampa.

**14 Connor Obrochta** was one of 28 contestants on Season 14 of *The Bachelorette* vying for the favor of Becca Kufrin. Connor is a fitness coach in St. Petersburg, FL.

**15 Jeaniel Image** is part of *Power to the People: The Bill of Rights*, an exhibition of veteran art, at the Straz Center in Tampa. The exhibition, on display through Sept. 3, contains 10 pieces by Tampa Bay-area veterans who were each assigned one article of the Bill of Rights to inspire an original work of art.

**Jacob Loken** is an associate at the law firm of Freeman Mathis Gary in Atlanta. He earned a law degree from Emory University



Carly (Hartka) Gold '13

School of Law in May 2018.

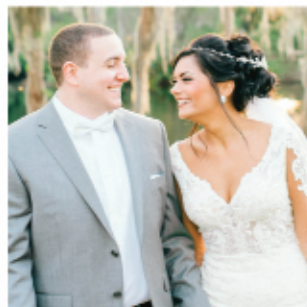
**Lianne McCarthy**, now in remission from acute myeloid leukemia, a rare blood cancer with a 25 percent survival rate, met Miles Moody, the man who saved her life through donating his bone marrow, at center court during a University of South Carolina basketball game in January. The two were connected through the nonprofit Be the Match.

**Briana Murphy** started a master's degree program in physician assistant studies at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in May 2018.

**Anne Myers MBA** was promoted to senior account executive at ChappellRoberts in Tampa.

**Lauren Amber Nielsen** made it to the final five and won the preliminary rounds in the swimsuit and talent categories at the Miss Florida Pageant in Lakeland, FL, in June. Lauren teaches at Sarasota Academy of the Arts, a musical theater charter school, and is an advocate for eating disorder patients.

**16 Peter Cesarski** graduated from the Army Ranger



Ashley Souza '13 and Sam Gerb '11

program in September 2017 and was promoted to first lieutenant in May 2018.

**Heather Chaudhry** is director of marketing and operations for the Taco Bus Franchise Group.

**Amber Kempermann** is coaching a competitive cheerleading team at North Fork Cheer in Cutchogue, NY, according to the *Riverhead News-Review*.

**Dana Kuchta** is engaged to Nick Lathrop, and the two are planning a September wedding to be held in Orland Park, IL, according to the *Orland Park Prairie*. Kuchta is a patient intake coordinator at an orthopedic office in Northwest Indiana.

**Karlton Meadows M.S.**, a professional fitness instructor and lifestyle/wellness coach, is a 2018 National Fitness Hall of Fame spokesperson. He has worked with Olympic and world-class athletes, and the Navy.

**Selene San Felice** shared her experience as a survivor of the newsroom shootings in Annapolis, MD, in a CNN interview with Anderson Cooper. Selene is a staff writer at the *Capital Gazette*, where the shooting took place.



**Ready to Run?** Lace up your sneakers and join us for a 5K race or 1-mile fun run on Saturday, Oct. 20, as part of homecoming. Proceeds will support student scholarships to UT through the Livefor24 Foundation. Go to [www.livefor24.org](http://www.livefor24.org) for more information.





Alyssa Duet '17 and Matthew Hartford '17

**17** Alyssa Duet, a second-grade teacher at Nativity Catholic School, invited **Matthew Hartford '16**, who is a Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputy, to share with her class his experiences in what it takes to become a deputy through training, fitness and riding with peers.

**Jennifer Kveglis** has been a multimedia journalist with Suncoast News Network in Sarasota, FL, since July 2017.

**18** Colter Lena joined the newly formed public relations team at Doubletake Marketing and PR. While a student, Colter interned as a broadcast

journalist for WSLR 96.5 FM and as a public relations and social media specialist for Press Marketing and NoMo Nausea.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### Alumni

Laura Mayor Davis '45  
Ralph Diaz '49  
Victor Fresh '52  
Joyce Wamble Glauser '54  
Alfred "Al" Berry '56  
Gloria Yglesias Nasrallah '56  
Charles Currie Patton '58  
Dolores Scales '59  
Peter Parrado '61  
Elyse C. Kuchenthal '63  
Gasper Frank Martino '63  
Ralph Lazzara III '64  
Richard Barry Cooper '67  
Joseph Fountain Jr. '69  
Dean Edwin Page '70  
Gregg C. Thomason '71, MBA '79  
Eugene "Chip" Schram III '73  
Leo Omernik '74  
Frank G. Lambertson '76  
Michael Cantor '79  
Cary Michael Bogue '90  
David Ernest Williamson MBA '95  
Brian McEwen '10  
Pedro Aguerreberry M.S. '15

#### Staff

Gloria Cecile Runton '44

## RECOGNIZING A UT FIRST

A relative of William Herbert Hoover Walker '62, who passed away in 2009, contacted the University via a friend to remind us that Walker was UT's first black graduate. From 1960-1986, UT offered classes at MacDill Air Force Base, and Walker received a UT degree through that program in 1962. He went on to receive a degree in theology and was ordained as a minister. He also worked with Anheuser Busch, and at the time of his retirement in 1986, he was the manager of quality control, the third highest ranked position at the Tampa plant. Walker also operated a neighborhood restaurant and was the sole proprietor of Walker's Lawn Care and Repairs.



## REGISTER ONLINE

Go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) for more detailed information on homecoming events and activities. You can also register and pay online. Please contact the alumni office at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu) or (813) 253-6209 with any questions about Homecoming 2018.



# ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2018

Thursday, Oct. 18–Saturday, Oct. 20

## THURSDAY, OCT. 18

### 6 p.m. *Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet*

The 2018 Hall of Fame class will be honored at a banquet, beginning with a 6 p.m. reception followed by a 7 p.m. dinner and ceremony. For more information, contact Hall of Fame chairman Tom Kolbe ([tkolbe@ut.edu](mailto:tkolbe@ut.edu)). Tickets are available for purchase and are limited on a first-come, first-served basis.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 19

### 6–8 p.m.

#### *President's Reception*

Join President Vaughn and Renée Vaughn on the historic verandah of Plant Hall for complimentary appetizers and cocktails.

### 8–10 p.m.

#### *A Night in the Rat*

Enjoy beer, wine and snacks during a one night re-opening of UT's very own bar.

### 8:30 p.m.

#### *Film Screening — Coraline*

Special screening of *Coraline* — [www.laika.com/our-films/coraline](http://www.laika.com/our-films/coraline). Q-and-A with film animator Brad Schiff '93 after the screening.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 20

### 8 a.m.

#### *Livefor24 5K/1-Mile Fun Run*

Participants are welcome to run, walk or stroll their way through campus on a scenic 3.1 mile course, with a portion of the race along the Hillsborough River. A separate 1-mile fun run will also be offered for those who are interested in a shorter race or wish to run with younger participants. The 5K race will be chip-timed and participants of the 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run will receive a T-shirt and certificate with registration. The top three male and female finishers in each age category will receive a medal and recognition. A family friendly post-race event will be held at Pepin Field immediately after the race, which will include food, refreshments, music, bounce houses and local vendor tents to enjoy.

### 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

#### *Silver Spartans Brunch*

Exclusively for members of the class of 1993 through 1969 and their guests. This year the members of the class of 1993 will be honored for their 25th reunion. *Invitation Only*

### 11 a.m.

#### *Class of 1968 Reception*

Exclusively for members of the class of 1968 and their guests. *Invitation Only*

### 11 a.m.

#### *Golden Spartans Reception*

Reception for current Golden Spartans (class of 1967 and earlier) prior to the induction lunch. *Invitation Only*

### Noon–2 p.m.

#### *Minaret Climb*

Music Room  
*First Come First Served*

### Noon

#### *Golden Spartans Induction Lunch*

Golden Spartans induct this year's newest members, the class of 1968. This event is for our Spartan alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago from UT. *Invitation Only*

### Noon–3 p.m.

#### *Spartan Street Festival*

Join students for carnival attractions and vendors in a festival-style fair. Enjoy carnival rides, games, tasty treats and so much more.

### 7 p.m.

#### *Women's Soccer vs. Florida Tech*

Pepin Rood Stadium

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

## SHARE YOUR HOMECOMING EXPERIENCE!

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



## SILVER SPARTAN SOCIETY

Join us for an inaugural brunch to induct the class of 1993 into the newly formed Silver Spartan Society in front of UT classes of 1969–1992. This brand new society is a special group comprised of The University of Tampa alumni classes that graduated 25 to 49 years ago. A new class will be inducted each year and for the first year we hope to see a great crowd of alumni in attendance as we recognize the 25th reunion class of 1993. At the Saturday brunch each member in attendance from the class of 1993 will be presented with a gift and certificate.







A great group of female alumni who attended UT in the 1950s gathered for their annual **LADIES OF THE '50s LUNCH** on March 19.



**NEW YORK CITY**—area Spartans enjoyed hearing from David Gudelnas, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, at an alumni reception in Manhattan on March 29.



The University Club served as a great venue for a UT alumni reception in **CHICAGO** on April 4.



Spartans in **BOSTON** were treated to a University update by Stephanie Russell Krebs, vice president for student affairs and dean of students, at a reception at the Algonquin Club on April 17.



The 25th annual **DECADE OF THE '50s OPEN HOUSE** occurred on May 9. Joyce Wamble Glauser '54 wrote a touching essay that was shared with the group on the importance of the reunion and what it means to the attendees.



Alumni volunteers welcomed the class of 2018 to the UT Alumni Association at the first ever **GRADUATION BRUNCH** on April 22. Thank you to the alumni who served as table hosts at the event.



# ALL IN | for UT

04.24.18

PHOTOS BY ZACH GRESHAM



On April 24, the University celebrated its annual Give Day, #allinforUT. (3) Students, faculty and staff gathered in the Vaughn Center Courtyard to celebrate the day with games and prizes, and (2 and 4) President Ronald Vaughn and Vice President for Development and University Relations Keith Todd offered students rides to class. (5) The Pieathon, where students paid to pie a professor or staff member, was a smash, and (1) students also enjoyed the chance to write a thank you note to UT's donors. Save the date for Give Day 2019 on April 23!



A photograph of two men in suits standing in front of a building with columns. The man on the left is giving a thumbs up. The man on the right is also giving a thumbs up. The background is slightly blurred, showing the architectural details of the building.

# A Remarkable Achievement More than \$160 million raised!

## **FINAL CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Dear fellow Spartans and friends of UT:

Creating Tomorrow — The Campaign for UT has surpassed its goal! This remarkable achievement is the result of the hard work and extraordinary generosity of trustees, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, administration and other friends of the University. The impact of your gifts will be felt for years to come.

Success in this campaign is transforming UT in profound ways. It enables the University to elevate and maintain its programs and facilities at the highest level. It assures that UT will continue to attract and retain exceptional faculty

and creates even greater opportunities for our students.

If ever there was a team effort, it was demonstrated in this campaign. I am grateful for the leadership and unwavering support of our campaign co-chairs, Don DeFosset, Gene McNichols and John West, all the members of our five campaign committees and our Board of Trustees, who set the pace for campaign giving and actively engaged new friends for the University.

This Changing Lives campaign report highlights some of the campaign's



# CREATING TOMORROW

FOR UT AND OUR WORLD



accomplishments — part of UT's future that you helped to create. The programs and donors featured represent many others equally powerful and significant.

To all who supported this campaign, the University is deeply grateful. Because of your commitment, UT has secured its place among our nation's finest educational institutions. Thank you!

*Ronald L. Vaughn*

Ronald L. Vaughn, President

THE CAMPAIGN FOR

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA

INVEST IN EXCELLENCE



## Campaign success by the numbers:

More than  
**15,000**  
campaign  
supporters

**122** new  
scholarship  
and program  
endowments

**72**  
estate gift  
commitments

**17** new  
construction  
and major  
remodeling  
projects

"As an intern in the development office, I was able to see firsthand the impact that donors have on our community. I was excited to wear the philanthropy cord at graduation, and my excitement grew when I discovered so many of my classmates wearing the cord that symbolizes our support of UT. We know we are a part of something greater than ourselves. This act connects the class of 2018 and ignites our involvement as alumni for years to come."

**Jaclyn Wall '18**

# SPARTAN



6  
transformative  
gifts exceeding  
\$10 million

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28  
gifts of \$1  
million or more

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10  
alumni donors  
surpassed the  
million-dollar  
mark

5 new  
sports teams

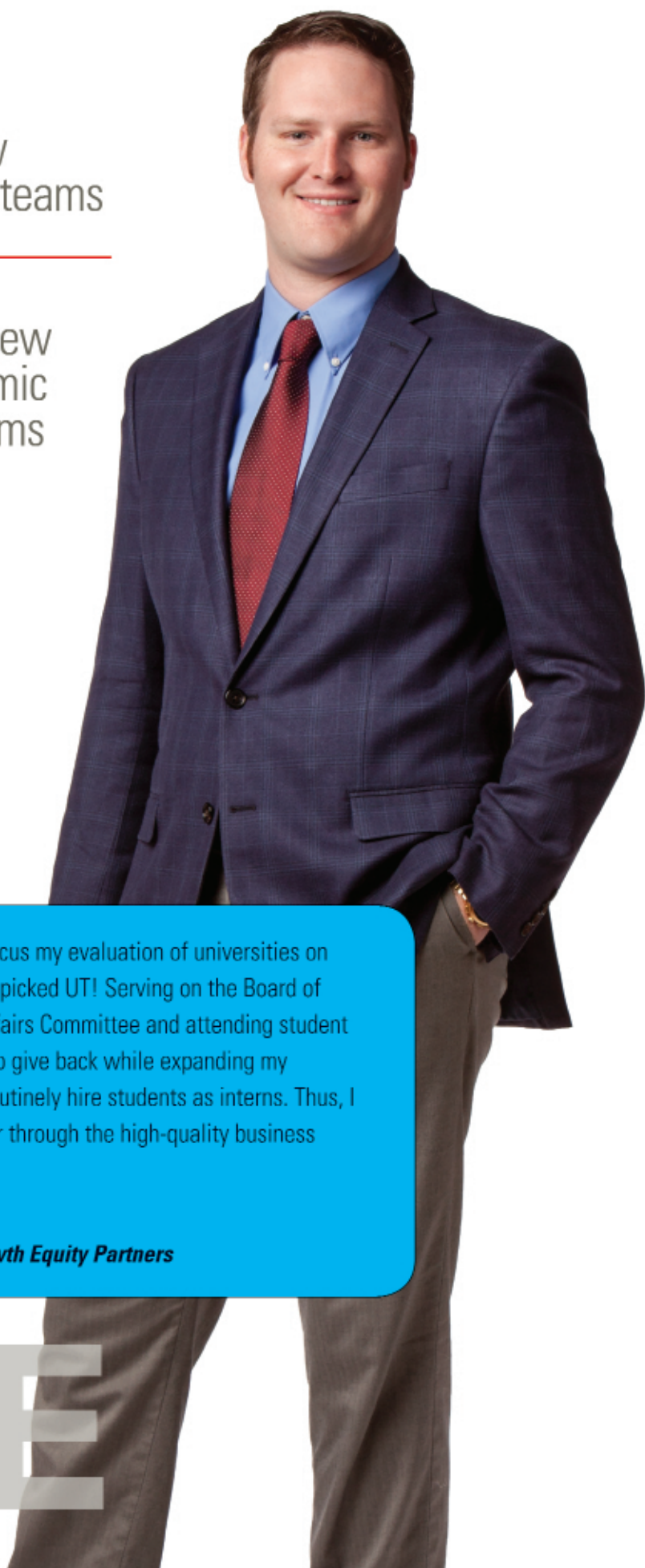
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79 new  
academic  
programs

"Financial aid allowed me to focus my evaluation of universities on the quality of the education – I picked UT! Serving on the Board of Counselors and Educational Affairs Committee and attending student networking events allows me to give back while expanding my network. At Stonehenge, we routinely hire students as interns. Thus, I see the impact of being a donor through the high-quality business school and intern applicants."

**Nicholas Brunner '14**  
**Associate at Stonehenge Growth Equity Partners**

PRIDE





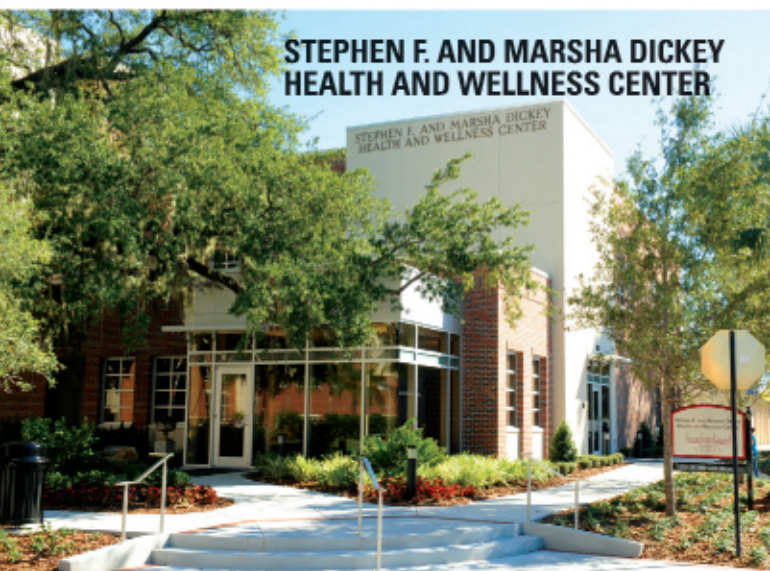
**BOB MARTINEZ ATHLETICS CENTER**



# NEW VISIONS FOR CAMPUS SPACE



**PALM APARTMENTS**



**STEPHEN F. AND MARSHA DICKEY  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER**



**NAIMOLI FAMILY ATHLETIC  
AND INTRAMURAL COMPLEX**



**FITNESS AND RECREATION CENTER**



**MAUREEN A. DALY INNOVATION  
AND COLLABORATION BUILDING**



**HOWARD AND PATRICIA  
JENKINS HALL**



**RIVERSIDE CENTER**



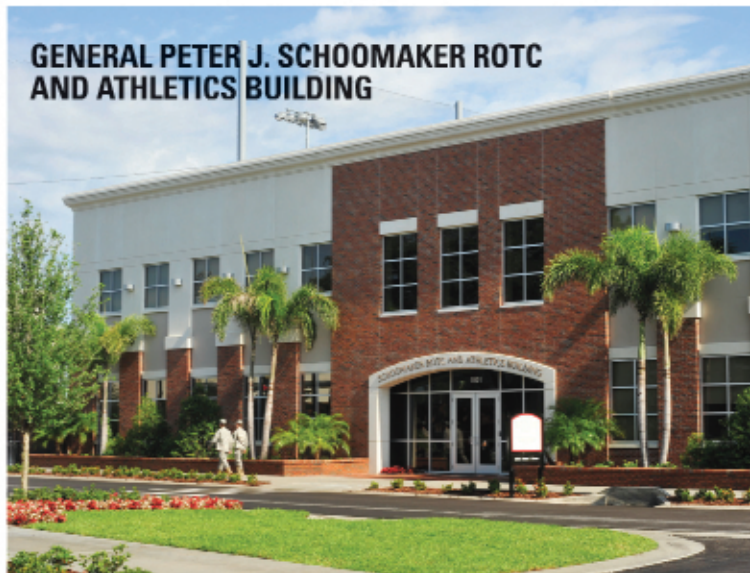
**FRANK AND CAROL MORSANI HALL**



**IAN AND JEAN MACKECHNIE BUILDING**



**GENERAL PETER J. SCHOOMAKER ROTC  
AND ATHLETICS BUILDING**



**SYKES CHAPEL AND CENTER FOR FAITH AND VALUES**





# CHANGING

## Southard Family Scholarships

"Our daughter Ashley's (class of 2012) experience at UT was excellent. Tuition alone doesn't cover the cost for all the great opportunities at UT, so we provide full scholarships for students, who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend the University. When the school grows and prospers, it's positive for students and alumni. We are excited for our first scholarship recipient now in graduate school and on her way to a great career."

*Mike '82 and Amy Southard*



*Sandi and Gary Simon*

*Current Recipient of a  
Southard Family Scholarship  
Blake Delgadillo '21*



*Mark Colvenbach  
Director of UT Career Services*

## Internship Opportunities

"At orientation, my daughter Chelsea and I were told that students at UT were treated like family. Those were more than words in a speech. The help we received from UT faculty and staff was comforting to a parent 1,000 miles away. The Spruance Foundation supports a psychology endowment, providing financial aid to psychology students and out-of-state internship opportunities through the Office of Career Services. Our goal is to help students secure rewarding jobs and sing the praises of UT."

*Tom Spruance*



# ING LIVES

## Estate Gift

"UT is an urban university that has been able to grow yet maintain a climate of honest and deep caring for our students. I have always believed deeply in education. My support of UT and our students comes from knowing how important it is for success and personal fulfillment to be a lifelong learner. We made an estate gift, because we wanted to support the University's mission and special culture of 'connectedness' that is unique at UT."

**Gary Simon, Director of Adult and Summer Academic Programs; Lecturer of Marketing**

## Physician Assistant Medicine

UT's newest department in the College of Natural and Health Sciences

"When you provide a student with an excellent education, you transform lives. My family was honored to support the nursing program, recently named Florida's best, which is now housed in the new Graduate and Health Studies Building along with the new physician assistant medicine program. UT's expanding health sciences programs produce students who are well prepared to provide quality medical care to our community."

**Alexander Walter MBA '09**



Physician Assistant Medicine team from left: Marisa Belote, Johnna Yealy (Director), Gregory Burns, Allison Kaczmarek '92 and Kimberly Mularoni.



# WE SEE TOMO

## Program Support

"UT's BFA musical theater program is a 'diamond in the rough.' Our daughter Bailee began at another university, but her experience was less than desirable. It's exciting to see her now flourishing and obtaining work in her desired field. Our hope is that our gift will increase awareness of the gem we have locally for aspiring performers. We'd like to spark the interest of more students to attend and experience the amazing faculty, staff and program."

*John '85 and Nikki McQueen*



*Thespians (from left) Nicholas Cooper '21, Missy Tucker '20, Mykai Eastman '20, Liane Houde '18 and Francesca Marotta '20 pictured with Paul Finocchiaro, associate professor of theatre.*



## Support for Academics and Enrichments

"The history faculty challenged me and gave me the foundation to teach history and conduct historical research. This inspired me to support UT. By endowing scholarships for history majors and supporting our elite baseball program, which reinforces UT's values of excellence, commitment and team spirit, Jeanette and I have established a legacy in support of worthy causes at our great university."

**Fred '70 and Jeanette Pollock**

*Frederick E. and Jeanette Pollock  
Endowed Fund for Baseball  
Recipient David Lebron '18*

*Frederick E. and Jeanette Pollock  
Endowed History Award  
Recipient Selena Martinez '19*

## Faculty Research Grants

"I serve on the Sykes College of Business Advisory Council, which helps raise money for faculty research grants. The prestigious AACSB accreditation of the college requires faculty to engage in meaningful and impactful research. Grants help make high-quality research and publishing possible. This elevates the College of Business and helps us to attract quality students, faculty and future employers for our graduates."

**Thomas Meachum '81, MBA '93**

*Recipient: Jill Mosteller, associate professor of marketing, spent the summer of 2018 researching what motivates consumers to write online reviews.*



# The Future is Now

To be competitive and prepared for the future, The University of Tampa and its students must be flexible and agile — prepared to react and respond to new and changing markets, advancing technologies and global thinking taking place across disciplines and industries.

Futurists study the future. With systematic study, vision and foresight, they explore possibilities and predictions. They are vital, especially when changes in society are accelerating.

UT stands at a historic moment — a time of great opportunity, optimism and possibility for our future. Our motto “Esse Quam Videri — To Be Rather Than To Seem” inspires us to boldly forge ahead on our epic journey.

**The Creating Tomorrow Campaign has achieved great success and positioned the University to continue moving forward with passion and purpose. We are creating our future.**





*Student Government president James Meslener '19 with Ron and Renée Vaughn in front of the now completed Graduate and Health Studies Building.*



# OUR SUCCESS IS DUE TO YOU!

**Thank you for creating a lasting legacy of excellence at UT.**

*This honor roll includes donors whose campaign gifts, including planned gifts, were received between June 2006 and June 2018.*

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**





# STEADY AMONG THE STORMS

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

THE START OF LAST YEAR WAS MARKED BY Hurricane Irma, which devastated Puerto Rico and parts of Florida. We weathered the storm, and continued to do what we do best — offer an excellent, unique and model educational experience to students.

Despite the disruption, we kept focused on our institutional mission. UT staff and faculty work hard to help students become successful and thoughtful citizens, and every year we tackle new initiatives, implement new programs and create new curricula to uphold these values and secure UT's future. And last year, despite the hurricane's challenges, UT was undeterred.

But neither are we immune to the threats that plague higher education, including burdensome and costly new regulations, declining U.S.-wide college-bound student enrollments, more pronounced enrollment

declines in many states, intense university competition, federal government changes to financial aid and substantial barriers to international student travel that deterred many from attending U.S. universities.

Fortunately, we have a dynamic and diverse student body, an expert faculty, a dedicated staff and many University friends — including parents, alumni, donors and others — who are unwavering in their support of UT.

As a result, I can emphatically say that UT has had another purposeful, memorable, record-setting year with many positive outcomes, and that UT's future is strong.

The following pages describe some of the efforts and the results of those efforts to make UT a top-notch, model institution. If you haven't been to UT in a while, you will find it an energetic, fulfilling place to be.



## academics

BUILDING A FACULTY THAT CONSISTS OF DYNAMIC TEACHERS WHO ARE EXPERTS IN THEIR fields has been central in UT's becoming a model university. As such we had a giant infusion of intellectual talent this year as we hired a total of 72 new faculty due to several dozen new positions, as well as retirements and other replacements.

This year UT had the largest addition of full-time faculty in UT's history. Plus, UT made unprecedented progress in diversifying faculty ranks. Forty-five percent of all faculty are women, and 14 percent of faculty represent racial diversity. Of new faculty hired, 47 percent are women, and 19 represent racial or ethnic diversity. People make up the best UT, and faculty are no doubt at its core.

We launched the Institute for Sales Excellence, based in the Sykes College Business, to provide world-class sales education and training through relevant business-to-business sales methodologies and research. We also approved several new degree programs.

UT continued its investment in the Academic Success Center with initia-



tives to strongly support student success and graduation. We initiated campaigns that focus on different outcomes depending on the time of year, including registration processes and targeted outreach to specific groups of students. We rolled out the new advising platform for a pilot group of faculty advisors as well as advisors in

continuing studies, athletics and the International Programs Office. We continued to refine and advance our Center for Teaching and Learning by integrating several key teaching and learning elements under an associate dean.

UT again offered a rich collection of hundreds of cultural arts programs that contributed to the campus learning environment as well as Tampa's cultural life. These included the Sykes Chapel Concert Artist Series, numerous plays, musicals, recitals, choral programs, concerts, dance happenings, musical theater, art exhibits, master classes and the Lectores visiting authors series.

UT continued to implement its \$1 million investment in our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which focuses on expanding high-impact undergraduate/faculty research and internship opportunities. As part of this effort and with help from Career Services, the number of internships provided to our students increased by about 250 to almost 1,000 student internships. Undergraduate research projects done in conjunction with faculty also dramatically increased.

UT's Research Days spotlighted hundreds of

New degree programs include:

- Master of Physician Assistant Medicine, ready for a Fall 2019 launch
- Doctor of Nursing Practice, UT's first doctoral program
- B.A. in Museum Studies
- BFA in Film and Media Arts
- BFA in Animation
- BFA in New Media

Other potential new degree programs are also under study.

student research projects that showcased the amazing research our undergraduate students are doing, something that is reserved for graduate students at many universities.

Two years ago we made a five-year, \$250,000 investment in an Education Advisory Board (EAB) project to enter student educational data, so that we could study student learning patterns combined with student support mechanisms to improve student performance. We are now beginning to see improvements in student success and retention from our cutting-edge predictive analytic efforts.

The following are a few more highlights from UT's outstanding academics:





■ The Ethics Bowl Team advanced to the national championships for the third time in four years.

■ Nursing's BSN program was again ranked as the top program in the State for NCLEX passage rates and one of the top programs in the nation. Registered Nursing also ranked our nursing program as the top-ranked program in Florida out of 136 programs.

■ The Sykes College of Business' graduate programs were ranked No. 78 by *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and the school was named one of the World's Top Business Schools by The Princeton Review. It was also ranked as a Top Tier program in North America by *CEO* magazine, which also named UT's Executive MBA as the No. 32 Global Executive MBA program.

■ College Values Online ranked UT's marine science-biology program as the No. 9 best value, and Bioexplore ranked our marine science program No. 10 nationally.

■ The John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center received the 2017 NASDAQ Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence Award. And, it entered into a unique partnership with HSN to launch the American Dreams Academy for entrepreneurs and small business owners nationwide. Lastly, an entrepreneurship student was accepted as one of 17 students nationwide to participate in the 2017 Future Founders Fellowship.

■ The new M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice

launched successfully with an initial cohort of 17 students, and the new M.S. in Cybersecurity launched last fall with 11 students.

■ The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, which launched in the fall and was featured in this magazine's last issue, was so successful that we have signed an agreement with Hillsborough County Public Schools for new classes in Fall 2018 and Fall 2019.

■ A UT team was the winning team at the recent Tampa Bay Technology Forum Exploratory Labs Boot Camp.

■ A UT team also won the recent Frank and Ellen Daveler Pitch Competition held at USF, with students from 10 Florida colleges and universities competing.

■ A UT student team took second place nationally in the annual Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Best Practices competition.

■ UT was selected as one of 10 schools in the U.S. to participate in the biannual Congreso Universidad Cuban International Conference, hosted by the Institute of International Education.

Lastly, UT created a workgroup to focus on the principles of free speech and academic freedom. The group hosted a speaker in the spring who examined many interesting questions, such as "What does academic freedom mean?" "Does it extend beyond teaching and research?" And, "does it include rights to due process?"

Fall 2017 enrollment was a record-setting 8,913.



## enrollment

THE FALL 2017 ENROLLMENT CLASS WAS ANOTHER ALL-TIME record of student enrollment with 8,913 total students, a 7 percent increase over the prior year. Despite the many challenges I mentioned above, this recruitment year for the Fall 2017 entering class was one of our toughest and the Fall 2018 recruitment effort delivered more challenges.

During the 2017-2018 year we continued to focus on our sound overall strategy as we strengthened UT's market position with:

- New and improved academic programs;
- Additional full-time faculty, additional student advisors and strengthening of other areas of student support;
- Pursuit of academic program quality along with associated recognition and special program accreditations;
- Expanded co-curricular learning opportunities;
- An enhanced campus atmosphere;
- Many improvements to various services;
- New promotional ma-

terials for all new programs, as well as refreshed and edited content on existing materials and throughout the UT website.

As usual we made numerous enhancements to our enrollment process as part of dealing with the increasingly challenging higher education enrollment environment.

We do not take our success for granted and foresee more challenges in recruiting students in the future. As such, we continued to focus on our sound overall strategy as we strengthen UT's market position. Despite the challenges and uncertainties noted previously, we expect to achieve a record enrollment of approximately 9,200 students this fall.



## athletics and campus recreation

A HIGHLIGHT THIS YEAR WAS THE INAUGURAL SEASON OF beach volleyball. The team's record was 14-10, and the home matches provided a delightful way to spend a spring afternoon at the Beach Volleyball Complex near the center of campus.

Our student-athletes represented UT well in the classroom. The total team GPA for the 2017-2018 year was 3.14. Women's basketball had the highest team GPA of 3.5, followed closely by women's lacrosse with a 3.46, and then followed by the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) champion women's volleyball team.

Nearly all of our athletic teams had winning records, and many of our teams were nationally ranked this year, including baseball (SSC champions), men's basketball, women's basketball, men's lacrosse and men's soccer.

Women's lacrosse, which played its fifth season, had its best season on record with a 12-5 record, and our coach, Kelly Gallagher, was named SSC Coach of the Year.

Out of more than 600 scholar athletes, many were honored:

- 39 All-SSC selections;
- 15 All-Region;
- 8 All-Americans;
- 44 athletes of the week;
- 4 national players of the week.

And, as usual, the athletics department participated in community service projects with various organizations, logging more than 100,000 hours.

UT students are very interested in their own health and wellness, and even students who are not on NCAA teams have many outlets for their athletic, recreation and



**UT had four national players of the week this year.**

Beach volleyball athletes played their inaugural season in Spring 2018.



health interests. Two years ago we opened the Fitness and Recreation Center (and this year received silver LEED certification for its sustainable construction), and this year we experienced a total of 181,905 visits. This is impressive given our student body of 9,000.

The club sports program continues to be popular, with teams such as ice hockey, paintball, weightlifting and fishing. A highlight this year was in October when the ice hockey team played the U.S. Women's National Ice Hockey Team. The UT

team lost, but successfully prepared the Olympic team for the winter Olympics, where they earned gold.

Lastly, intramural sports saw its largest participation increase, and three new intramural sports were added this year: spike ball, table tennis and our first-offered adaptive sport, goalball. The intramural sports program was once again named one of the Top 50 Best Colleges for Intramural Sports by Best Colleges.com, with 424 intramural sport teams comprising a record number of 5,142 student participants.

## NEW ACCREDITATIONS AND REACCREDITATIONS

- ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) reaccreditation for our MIS program.
- NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) reaccreditation for our music and musical theatre programs.
- COSMA (Commission on Sport Management Accreditation) new accreditation for sport management.
- ACJS (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences) for new criminology and judicial studies program accreditation.
- CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) new accreditation for teacher education.
- CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education) new accreditation for baccalaureate and master's degree programs in nursing and the post-graduate APRN certificate program.
- FDOE (Florida Department of Education) renewed accreditation for UT's Department of Education.



# co-curricular learning

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS CONTINUED TO ADOPT THE SPARTAN READY FRAMEWORK for the division's strategic focus as part of UT's priority to better prepare students with life skills important to career and life success. We have now integrated Spartan Ready competencies into the student affairs assessment template and assessment report.

One of those ways is in Spartan Living, UT's intentional, sequenced, residential curriculum that was implemented in the fall. Utilizing Spartan Ready competencies, learning outcomes for residential students were articulated and learning experiences were sequenced across the academic year. Initial learning experiences included residence hall floor meetings, community standards, individual student conversations and alcohol and drug education.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) infused Spartan Living into programs and initiatives by focusing on community building, resident advocacy and promoting inclusion. More than 500 students participated in three key programs, including Kids at UT, which hosted families from the greater Tampa community on campus for Halloween activities; Tie-identify, which recognized and supported various social identities; and Week of Appreciation, which celebrated fellow students, faculty, staff and themselves.

In partnership with the Honors Program, the Office of Residence Life established McKay Hall as an honors community, housing 161 honors students. Honors faculty facilitated monthly

events, including coffee talk dialogues and films. Spartan Living was again integrated through collaborative programming between the Honors Program and Residence Life.

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) continues to grow with 1,601 members (a 9 percent increase from last year), and it has nearly doubled in size since 2012. The FSL community now comprises more than 21 percent of the total campus undergraduate population, and one organization was added: Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity.

UT's portfolio of leadership programs continued to provide a rich set of about 140 leadership development programs. The President's Leadership Fellows were involved in four cohort projects focused on Special Olympics, Bridging Freedom, human trafficking and child welfare. UT student participants in our Walt

Disney World's Leadership Program learned much and also volunteered at Give Kids the World Village.

The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement welcomed 19 new student organizations, including the Student Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Toastmasters @ UT, UTampa Women in Technology, SALLE — Students for Aiding the Lives and Living of the Earth, 'Cuz I'm African, TEDxUTampa, Venezuelans in America and Spartan First Response Club.

We continue to put many campus resources into Career Services programming and individual services. More than 217 career-related events were hosted across campus.

Nearly 400 companies participated in eight job and internship fairs and employer engagement programs, including the annual Etiquette Dinner, the Eleva-

Several new Leadership Excursion programs were also offered this year, which almost tripled student participation in our more entry-level leadership development programs. These included:

- Leadership at the Lowry Park Zoo;
- Leadership and Swimming with the Manatees;
- Leadership and Cooking;
- Leadership and Dragon Boat Racing; and,
- Leadership and Escape Room.

tor Pitch Competition, UT After Hours, Life After UT series and employer branding events, such as Cisco and BBVA. Career Services staff conducted 108 classes and sessions for UT students. In addition, Career Services hosted the first-of-its-kind on-campus job fair to promote campus jobs and internships. More than 11,200 jobs were available to students and alumni on HIRE UT.

Internships posted for current students rose dramatically by 261% as a direct result of the expanded University-wide efforts by the Faculty Internship Committee and our move to a new customer relationship management platform.



Fraternity and Sorority Life grew 9 percent over last year to 1,601 members.



## health, wellness and counseling

WE STRONGLY BELIEVE — AND RESEARCH SUGGESTS — that healthy students make better, happier and more productive students.

UT has seen similar trends in increased numbers of students accessing counseling services as many other colleges and universities. As such, we have made many enhancements to our counseling services delivery. An innovative highlight in this area this year is our piloting an after-hours call service. Students in crisis after hours now can receive a face-to-face assessment with a mental health provider through a HIPPA-compliant secure video site online and via Campus Safety smart phones and iPads. Currently, there are no other universities offering this type of after-hours care.

The University assisted with and/or promoted 413 programs offered by the Resource Team for Faith, Values and Spirituality and the 10 spiritual organizations on campus.

Wellness Services and Live Well UT provided or participated in nearly 2,000 programs, presentations and meetings focusing on educating our students in all areas of wellness. Each of Live Well UT's student-led initiatives, events, student contacts, presentation attendees and one-on-one sessions were combined to ultimately have more than 60,000 student interactions.

Live Well UT expanded its program by adding five

  
**2,000**  
programs, presentations  
and meetings focused on  
educating students in all  
areas of wellness.



The Energi Wellness Symposium was one of almost 2,000 wellness programs provided by Live Well UT.

new initiatives in order to serve a wider breadth of students. These included Tampa Spartans for Animals, Spartan First Response, UT Spartans Body Building Club, International Student Organization (ISO) and Service Oriented Spartans (SOS).

Better Together and the Faith, Values and Spirituality program have worked to create numerous annual signature events to support the interfaith efforts on campus. These events include the Gratitude Banquet

and Interfaith Graduation Celebration in the fall and Interfaith Harmony Week, the Interfaith Retreat and the second Interfaith Graduation Celebration in the spring.

Lastly, the UT Recovery Community secured a grant from Transforming Youth Recovery Higher Education Grantee Program that provided support for substance-free programming. This programming was open to all students in order to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

## INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

UT's reputation continued to expand with hundreds of press releases and media stories, and recognition by various national ranking services. Here are a few of them:

- UT was again ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* in the Top Tier of Best Regional Universities (South). Noteworthy this year was that UT was also named in four web-exclusive lists, including Best Value Schools and Best Colleges for Veterans.
- UT has been regularly named a Military Friendly

University by Victory Media and *Military Advanced Education*, putting us in the top 15 percent of all universities.

- UT was again named to the PhiTheta Kappa Transfer Student Honor Roll as one of the top 60 universities in the nation for transfer students.



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## operations

WE WERE EXCITED TO OPEN THE 91,000-SQUARE-FOOT Graduate and Health Studies building at the end of August. See the story, page 2.

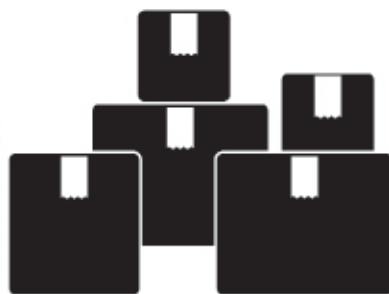
We also were excited to start the rebuilding of the Riverside Center. Again, see the story, page 6. The new Riverside Center will enhance many campus functions, including adding space for Career Services, adding faculty offices and classrooms and implementing a bigger language lab.

However, one of the big enhancements to the Riverside Center is in Mail Services. As you may expect, the ways in which students use postal services vary greatly from even five years ago. Like most college mail centers across the country, UT experiences an avalanche of students' packages

at the beginning of each fall semester, and the avalanche continues for much of the academic year. The final count last year exceeded 100,000 packages.

The Mail Services redesign will feature electronically controlled package lockers that can be accessed by students whether or not the Mail Services center is open. The new Mail Services center will have optimized space for receiving mail and packages, and the public lobby area will have self-service equipment and full-service counters.

Similar to the challenges of other large institutions, UT is bombarded daily by



**Mail Services processed more than 100,000 packages last year.**

thousands of attempts to violate our information system's security. In this increasingly dangerous world, we work to constantly train employees, tighten systems and add the latest cybersecurity technology. One example is the addition of two-factor authentication for off-campus and on-campus system access verification. UT continues to be a model cybersecurity program in higher education. As part of our ongoing cybersecurity diligence, we also went through three audits this year (one by an

internal team and two by external auditors).

Lastly, UT continues to implement a new enterprise-wide software system, which began more than two years ago and touches many areas of campus — billing, human resources, admissions, registrar, finances, etc. The new cloud-based Workday software promises greater convenience as well as efficiency and effectiveness improvements, once we complete the difficult and time-consuming installation process.



The Graduate and Health Studies Building offers state-of-the-art simulation labs for nursing and physician assistant students.

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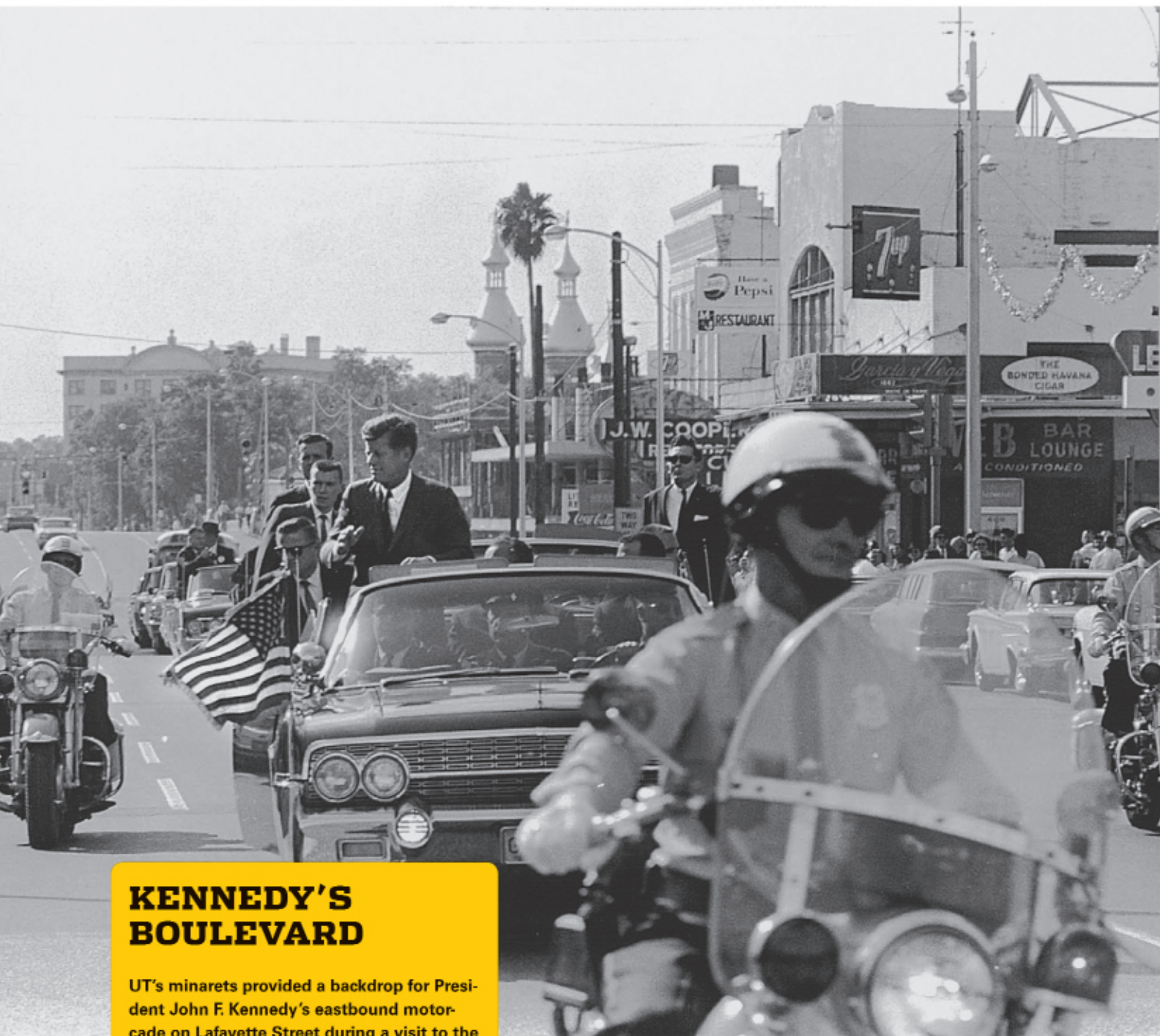
## a final note

I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T MENTION THAT THIS YEAR saw the passing of Bruce Samson, who served as UT president in the late 1980s. He established a solid financial footing for the University and started the trajectory for improving the campus infrastructure. Much of what he started we've been able to build on for the past 20-plus years.

We must continue The University of Tampa's positive trajectory. As such, on behalf of my wife Renée, myself, senior staff colleagues and the entire University community, we thank all members of the Board of Trustees, the Chiselers, Fellows, Counselors, alumni, families, friends, as well as our faculty and staff for help in building our great University.

Thank you for your interest and support!





## KENNEDY'S BOULEVARD

UT's minarets provided a backdrop for President John F. Kennedy's eastbound motorcade on Lafayette Street during a visit to the Tampa Bay area on Nov. 18, 1963 — just four days before his assassination in Dallas. In 1964, Lafayette Street (called Grand Central Avenue west of the bridge) was renamed Kennedy Boulevard in memory of him and his visit, the first by a sitting president to the area.



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Students enjoyed a free concert by Jesse McCartney and T-Pain on March 23 at this year's Party in the Park. This popular event is hosted each year in Plant Park by UT's Student Productions.