

UT journal

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n. 2



TIPS FOR STAYING ON THE RIGHT PATH THIS YEAR

UT and QEP: Enhancing Quality through Inquiry



THINKING CRITICALLY. CREATIVELY SOLVING problems. Communicating effectively. Learning skills to be successful.

These are certainly core educational outcomes that UT strives to instill in its students. I think UT does an excellent job at achieving these outcomes. Just look at the success of our alumni, who are excelling in so many different fields.

But are we doing the absolute best that we can in those areas? And what can we do to enhance our already strong programs? Those are the questions we've chosen to study and scrutinize for the next several years and is the basis of our new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Every 10 years UT has to undergo a rigorous and self-reflective process to reaffirm our accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The QEP is a central part of this process.

Ten years ago our QEP focused on improving our global initiatives. And today, we have record numbers of students studying abroad and a more diverse campus than ever. Plus, twice we've been named a finalist for the Sen. Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization, which recognizes universities that make significant, innovative progress toward comprehensive internationalization.

Our new QEP, which was chosen through a campus-wide selection process and will begin in 2016, will teach students how to identify, define and solve problems.

What does this mean for students? It means that students will learn the skills they need to be successful in resolving questions or hypotheses. It means there will be more opportunities for students in all majors to engage in internships, artistic creation and faculty-led research projects. It means students — whether they are writing an original manuscript, scrutinizing a business' marketing plan, designing a cross-sectional survey or analyzing DNA in the lab — will be even better versed in problem solving and skills application.

The QEP will also incorporate high impact practices that include working with faculty mentors, working in teams on projects, doing quality internships, and writing and talking about their work with others.

For a long time we have stressed experiential education as part of students' educational program at UT. This has included building on students' academic curriculum with such hands-on experiences as internships, service-learning, applied classroom projects, employment, study abroad, faculty-student research and clinical practicums.

The QEP, which is titled *Learning by Doing: Inquiry-based Experiential Education*, builds on those experiential education efforts. It will take what we do already and expand the volume of opportunities for all students. Ultimately, it will force us to ask hard questions and creatively solve problems.

It's the kind of constant improvement that UT prides itself on. And it's exactly the kind of inquiry that we'll be asking and expecting of our students.

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news of note



Clockwise from left: Howard Jenkins spoke at the renaming reception about helping the University to grow; Patricia Jenkins arrives at the celebration with friends and family; the building now bears a new name, Howard and Patricia Jenkins Hall.

More than a Number

Residence hall renamed to honor Jenkins family after \$10 million gift

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH THE *Tampa Bay Times*, Howard Jenkins said that when his children attended UT, they were treated like individuals and “not just numbers.”

“They were very appreciative of the education they received and the help they received from the University,” he said.

It seems fitting then that Howard and Patricia Jenkins have made one of the biggest gifts in UT’s history, which will help the University continue this tradition of treating each student like an individual and not just a number.

The Jenkins’ gift of \$10 million will go toward the building of the Palm Apartments, a new residence hall already under construction. This new

residence hall, currently in its first phase, will ultimately replace ResCom.

“I’m just here to help him and others continue to grow the University,” said Howard Jenkins, referring to the unprecedented growth the University has experienced under President Ronald Vaughn’s leadership.

The Jenkins family is already well known in Tampa Bay.

Howard Jenkins is the chairman of the executive committee of Publix Super Markets Inc., and is a member of UT’s board of trustees. In addition to his work at Publix, he served on the national board of directors of the Boys and Girls Club; was co-founder of a scholarship charity for college students, Take Stock in Children

in Florida; and is co-founder of the Jenkins Clinic, a charitable cancer treatment and research clinic.

Patricia Jenkins founded Apollo Environmental Inc. in 1986, which specializes in hazardous materials consulting and analysis, expert witness testimony and regulatory compliance. The Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners appointed her to serve on the Environmental Protection Commission’s Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee. She has also served on environmental discussion round tables and lectures for CNN, SOBAC, Eckerd College, the University of Florida and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

"They have made a transformational gift to UT ... We are proud to name UT's largest residence hall in their honor."

— PRESIDENT VAUGHN ON THE NAMING OF JENKINS HALL

"Howard shares a commitment to philanthropy with his wife and partner, Tricia," said Vaughn. "They have made a transformational gift to UT that not only meets the needs of our students today, but also ensures the continued vitality of this great University in the future. We are proud to name UT's largest residence hall in their honor."

The 11-story Jenkins Hall is located on West Kennedy Boulevard and houses 528 students. Most recently, the residence hall, which received LEED® Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council last spring, was named the outstanding project of the year in the category of LEED for New Construction, Higher Education. This recognition was made by the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the USGBC at its 2014 LEEDership Awards ceremony.

Gift Benefits Forensics Lab

STUDENTS IN UT'S FORENSIC SCIENCE degree program will now have the opportunity to experience real-world, hands-on research, thanks to a donation of DNA, drugs and explosives laboratory instruments valued at more than \$230,000.

The National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) donated eight DNA, drugs and explosives analysis instruments, including gas chromatograph mass spectrometers (GC-MS) and genetic analyzers.

NFSTC was joined by the FBI, Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office and Thermo Fisher Scientific in donating a total of 12 instruments to the department.

Kenyon Evans-Nguyen, assistant professor of chemistry, said the extent



Students try out the new equipment.

and generosity of the donations was an unexpected windfall, providing the University with superior, state-of-the-art equipment.

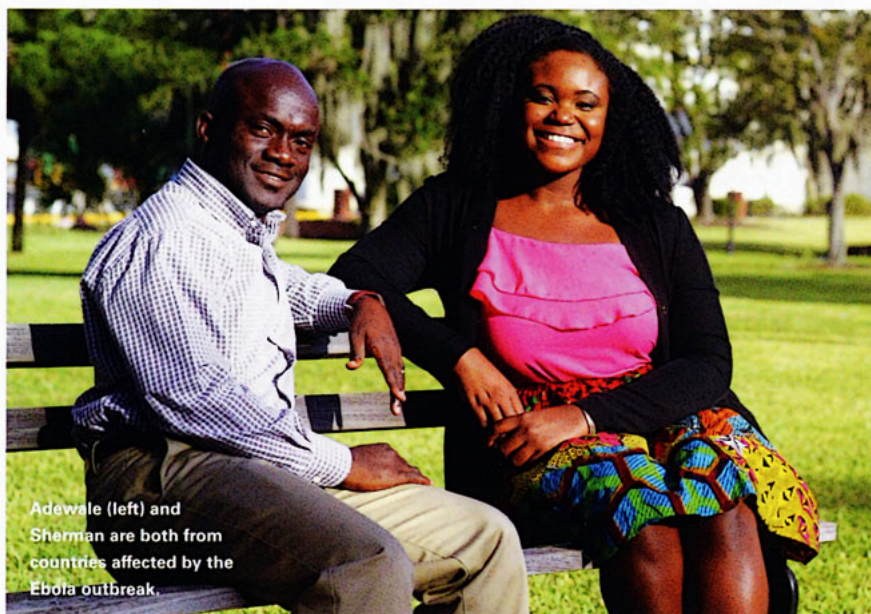
"If the University was to purchase this outright, it would be close to \$1 million in upfront costs," Evans-Nguyen said. "Our forensic science degree program is rapidly growing, and the GC-MS instruments in particular are very useful donations."

Students won't be the only ones who benefit from the donation. UT faculty will also have access to further their own research for validation methods for forensic analysis of drugs and explosives. In addition to forensic science classes, the equipment will be used in courses such as organic chemistry, physical chemistry, advanced instrumental chemistry and other science courses.

The donation comes as UT's forensic science department seeks accreditation by the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). Currently, 41 bachelor's and master's degree programs around the country are FEPAC accredited.



MOVING ALONG Work continues on the construction of the Academic and Administrative Building. The parking garage expansion is set to be completed this spring and the academic and administrative spaces next fall.



Adewale (left) and Sherman are both from countries affected by the Ebola outbreak.

A Sensitive Issue

Students share personal experiences with the Ebola outbreak

WHEN LUCY SHERMAN '17 CAME BACK to school this fall, her flight from her home in Monrovia, Liberia, was rerouted because neighboring countries were starting to restrict travelers from Liberia, a country that just a few months ago was hit hard by the Ebola outbreak.

Three months later, the World Health Organization is now reporting a slowing in the number of new cases in Liberia, a good sign for Sherman. With nearly 5,000 deaths in West Africa due to Ebola, Sherman said it's hard not to know a friend or family member affected.

"You're living in fear," Sherman said of the last couple of months. "You didn't know who had it. People were hiding bodies for fear of being stigmatized. But now the numbers of new cases are decreasing. Now people are aware, and the fear has declined."

At The University of Tampa, staff is coordinating efforts and working with the Hillsborough County Health De-

partment on the best way to protect all students, said Stephanie Russell Krebs, dean of students. There are protocols in place to maintain the health and safety of all on campus.

When Nigeria was declared free of the Ebola virus in mid-October, Adepoju Adewale MBA '15 decided it was his chance to go home and see his family. He hadn't seen his wife since January, and he was eager to hold his loved ones after a summer of worrying about them from UT's campus.

"It's a wonderful feeling that's priceless," Adewale said of stepping off the plane and seeing his wife. "I could see the relief on their faces, and we all felt happy that it's all over now."

Adewale is a physician in Nigeria who is earning his MBA at UT with the hopes of working in the financial management side of health care or pharmaceutical industry. His wife is a laboratory scientist with the federal government in Lagos, which caused alarm for Adewale who wondered

about her safety working with human bodily fluids. He said her hospital's quick response and use of protective gear helped mitigate any exposure, and helped calm his nerves.

The week-long trip home this October was worth the incredibly long trek to get there, Adewale said. Even the highly cautious measures now in place at the airport in Nigeria, which involved several checkpoints to measure every person's temperature and added three and a half hours to his normal check-in experience when he flew back to Tampa, were worth it.

"I still have my boarding pass, which has my temperature written on it," Adewale said. "It was most frustrating, but necessary."

Sherman, a communication major, came to UT because she liked the weather and the small campus. When she graduates, she wants to work in media law, Liberian education policy or global development, the latter of which she got a taste for this summer working on women's issues for Action-Aid back home.

But for now, the UT sophomore is trying to balance her school work with worrying about her family and how they are coping with the fear of Ebola. Instead of finding some respite from the worry, her Facebook wall and Instagram feed are consumed with posts about the virus.

"It's hard, I won't lie," she said. "But school is school."

In all of her classes, the topic of the crisis has come up. As a global issue, she understands the discussion, but it can be upsetting to hear those misinformed debating on opinion, she said.

To counteract her frustration, both in being away from her family at this time and in fighting rumors and stigmatization on campus, she and her fellow members of the African Student Association have held events to educate their peers. They focused on the history of Ebola, discussed how it is transmitted and discerned facts from myths.

"I have to control myself because people ask a lot of questions, and I get passionate," she said. "Instead of getting angry and mad and emotional, I'm able to educate."

Sherman's father is a surgeon in Liberia. He had to shut his clinic down during the peak of the outbreak, but returned to treating patients when the major hospitals started turning people away. He is now involved in educating people on how to deal with Ebola.

"He's lost a lot of colleagues. I see postings about it on Facebook, but he won't talk about it with me," Sherman said. "You look up to your parents to help you get through, but they don't know what to do either."

Sherman was thinking about traveling to Atlanta for the Thanksgiving break, but was concerned about the treatment she'd receive while traveling on her Liberian passport. She reached out to UT's International Programs Office, which helped her secure a Florida ID.

"I don't want to be ashamed to be Liberian, but I also don't want to be

treated differently because I'm from there," she said.

Traveling home over winter break is up in the air for Sherman, who felt the reduced number of flights and carriers could make returning to the U.S. difficult.

"I'm not worried about getting sick, I'm worried about getting stuck," she said.

If there is one thing Sherman hopes people understand about the outbreak, it's that Ebola is a sensitive issue.

"You don't know what people are going through emotionally. Words can really make an impact, by lowering self-esteem and confidence," she said. "Just be careful and be sensitive. If you have an Ebola joke, keep it to yourself."

In the meantime, Sherman relies on her friends and her phone calls home to keep her spirits up, and is focusing on school to keep her going.

"Laughter is my coping mechanism," she said. "It sure beats crying and worrying. There is worry in my laughter, but at least it's not dominant."



THE CLASS OF 2018

19,872

Applications received

1,752

Freshmen enrolled

11% of students are international

TOP COUNTRIES:

Venezuela, Trinidad, United Kingdom, Bahamas, Ecuador

NEW COUNTRIES

Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Tunisia, Romania

TOP 15 STATES AFTER FLORIDA:

New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Georgia, Ohio, Texas, California, Virginia

21% qualify for the UT Honors Program

Up from 19% in 2013

MOST POPULAR MAJORS:

marine science-biology, nursing, psychology, finance, sport management (in that order)

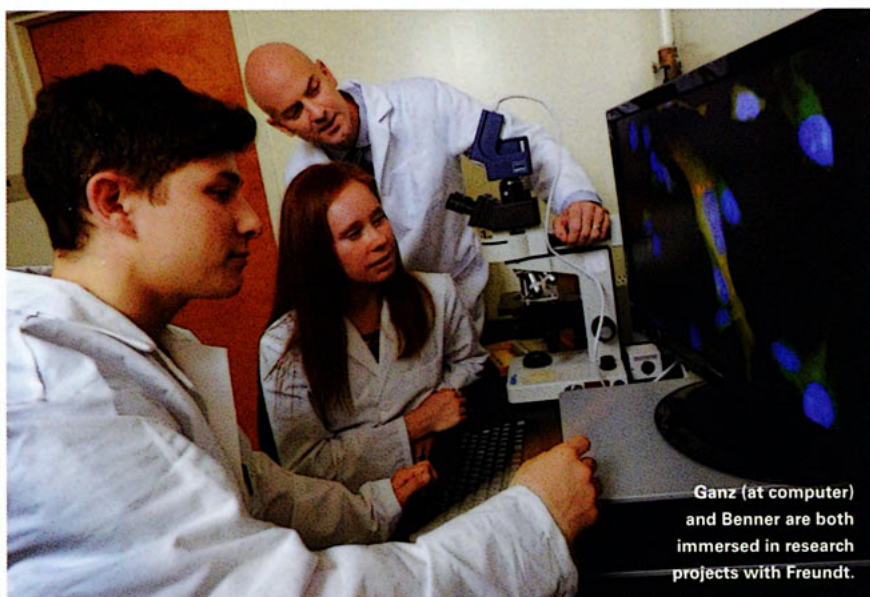


PLUGGED IN The University has installed four electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on the first floor of the Thomas Parking Garage. Dennis Nostrand, vice president for enrollment management, plugs in his Chevrolet Volt.



Touching History

STUDENTS IN BRIAN SHULER'S INTRODUCTION TO Music Literature course were able to see, smell and touch medieval music manuscripts like this one, a 15th century Italian illuminated antiphonal leaf on vellum for the Feast of All Saints. Shuler '83, an adjunct professor of music, is also the cartobibliographer for the world's largest medieval manuscript leaves dealer, located in St. Petersburg, FL, and run by Anthony Griffon.



Ganz (at computer) and Benner are both immersed in research projects with Freundt.

For Students, Lab Research Helps Bring Science to Life

THE CONTENTS OF A MICROBIOLOGY lab might include lab coats, beakers, pipets and petri dishes. In Assistant Professor Eric Freundt's lab there are those things, but also computers, basketballs and even a sword.

But don't let the toys fool you. What happens in Freundt's lab is likely impacting the graduate careers of at least two of his honors students, Max Ganz '15 and Bayleigh Benner '14, and with hard work and a pinch of luck, will make an impact on the medical world.

"Our overall goal is to help elucidate multiple sclerosis research," said Ganz, of Long Island, NY. "The goal is to identify the cytotoxicity of the MS-like virus and how it correlates to the MS-like pathology."

Ganz, a double major in biology and psychology with a minor in chemistry, had his first 8 a.m. class at UT with Freundt, later volunteering in his lab and by junior year, was working on an independent project related to the overall research.

"In our initial discussions about the

research project, I was impressed with Max's ability to quickly grasp concepts and ask insightful questions. He demonstrated initiative by independently delving into the literature prior to beginning our research, and I was impressed with his ability to both understand primary research papers and make insightful connections between studies," Freundt said.

Benner, a double major in marine science and biology, worked with Freundt over the summer as a recipient of the Biology Summer Research Fellowship. She has been studying how a virus, called TMEV, manipulates cellular gene expression during infection, and in particular, how virus infection might cause MS-like disease. Benner is continuing her research this semester and writing a manuscript for submission before she graduates in December.

"I look at gene expression," said Benner, of Downers Grove, IL. "When the virus enters cells, it completely controls the cell, changing every aspect of the cell and creating more of the virus."

Freundt explained the difference in the students' research is that "Max's research looks at both how the virus makes more copies of itself and disrupts cellular structures, whereas Bayleigh's research has focused on how the virus turns cellular genes on and off."

Both Ganz and Benner presented their research projects this September at the 100th annual meeting of the American Society of Microbiology, Southeastern Branch, which had representation from schools including the University of South Florida, Mercer University School of Medicine, the University of Florida and the University of Alabama. Benner received best undergraduate poster presentation, and Ganz tied for second place.

"When students become active researchers, they are able to fully understand the scientific process," Freundt said. "I think research experience allows students to approach all of their science classes with a different perspective and enables them to think more critically about what we believe to be true about the natural world."

Ganz said the opportunity for him to get his hands in the mix piqued his interest immensely and has been solid affirmation he has chosen the right career path.

"You can read all you want in textbooks, but there is something about it being experiential that makes a difference," said Ganz, who won Undergraduate Researcher of the Year at UT last fall. "My degree means more to me, because I'm contributing to the academic community."

For Benner, learning by doing was the only way to go.

"By involving myself in experiential learning, it makes everything clearer," she said. "I mean organic chemistry, that's the death of all science majors, because it is a big determinant as to whether you can remain in the science programs — but by doing techniques in the lab you learn the material so much better. It's not so abstract."

McMahon holds one of her test subjects.



Amphibians Can Acquire Resistance to Deadly Fungus

THE WORLD FACES AN EMERGING epidemic that has already killed millions, a fungal disease that infects frogs, toads and salamanders. It has wiped out populations and even entire species.

"It has caused hundreds of species' extinctions around the world," says Taegan McMahon, assistant professor of biology and author of a recent study of the disease in *Nature*. "It's considered by some to be one of the most devastating pathogens beyond humans that is out there right now."

But McMahon and colleagues have discovered that at least some amphibians learn to avoid the fungus and develop resistance to the disease.

Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis — chytrid for short — is a fungus implicated in the recent global decline of amphibians.

"Some groups are able to survive with the fungal infection long term, and others are wiped out within a

matter of weeks," says McMahon.

Among the notable losers: the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, which once lived at high altitude in the California mountains but is now all but extinct in the wild.

"Almost all the amphibian populations have been impacted one way or another," says McMahon (though not in Florida, because the climate may be too warm for the fungus to survive).

In earlier research, McMahon discovered that after the chytrid fungus wipes out a population of frogs, it doesn't die out. It can persist in alternate hosts such as crayfish so that attempts to reintroduce frogs, even years later, may fail.

In the recent *Nature* study, McMahon and colleagues tested whether oak toads (*Bufo quercicus*) could detect and learn to avoid the fungus. They prepared two groups of toads — one group had never been exposed to the fungus, the other was infected and

"cleared" (by slightly raising the toads' body temperature to kill the fungus).

Researchers placed the toads into a chamber with fungus-free water on one side and water contaminated with the microscopic fungus on the other. The toads that had never been infected spent near-equal times on both sides. But toads that had been infected recognized their old foe and spent most of their time in the fungal-free water.

In a second part of the study, McMahon and colleagues infected Cuban tree frogs (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) up to four times each. They discovered that each additional infection and recovery conferred greater resistance to the fungus and ability to survive an infection. They also discovered that exposure to a dead form of fungus (by freezing in liquid nitrogen) provided the same protection — much like a human vaccination with a dead or attenuated virus.

The finding suggests it's possible to vaccinate captive populations for eventual release to the wild.

"It would be really hard to convince a zoo or a museum that is maintaining a population in captivity to expose them to a deadly pathogen," says McMahon. "So in this case we could expose them to the dead fungus to confer that acquired resistance."

By flooding an endangered wild population with vaccinated captive frogs, it might be possible to confer "herd immunity," just as a majority of vaccinated humans protect the few who don't get their vaccinations. It might even be possible to inoculate wild amphibians by treating ponds with the dead fungus.

"All of that is really far down the line," says McMahon. "From my perspective, absolutely nothing should be done until we have done quite a bit of follow-up research."

Nonetheless, the *Nature* study "opens a huge door" in the fight against a disease that threatens to drive many species to extinction.

spartan sports



Triplets Michael (left), Megan and Joseph Lucchesi are all part of the men's lacrosse team.

Triplets Bring Family Bond to UT ... and UT Lacrosse

IN THE SMALL TOWN OF LAKE TAPPS, WA, Joseph, Megan and Michael Lucchesi '18 grew up from a young age playing lacrosse with their dad in their backyard. This family recreation and time spent together led to a competitive drive for the sport and eventually the eye of UT's lacrosse coaching team.

The 19-year-old triplets' passion for

lacrosse was fostered by their dad who grew up playing lacrosse in Rochester, NY.

"I have been playing lacrosse since the third grade. My dad has been my coach from third grade all the way through high school varsity," said Michael Lucchesi.

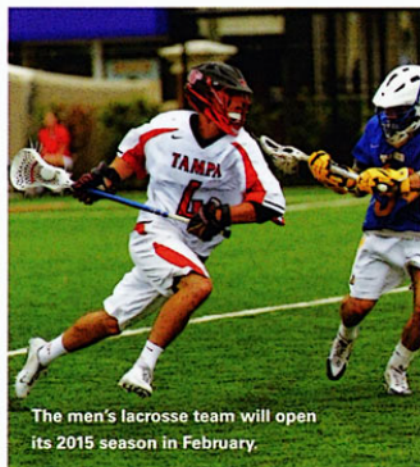
All noted the quick pace of the

game as a reason they enjoy the sport so much, as well as the all-out intensity of lacrosse excites each Lucchesi.

Michael Lucchesi describes it as the perfect combination of "brute physicality as well as finesse and athleticism."

They all played varsity lacrosse for Auburn Riverside High School,

(Continued on page 10)



The men's lacrosse team will open its 2015 season in February.

(Continued from page 9)

though each was involved with many other extracurricular activities. Both brothers played varsity football. Joseph Lucchesi served on the associate student body as the school's vice president. Megan Lucchesi was involved in soccer, choir, drama and student government. She even had the lead role in the high school's spring musical.

WHERE WE WANTED TO BE

The triplets were recruited to the University by Assistant Coach Chris Burdick the summer before their junior year in high school. During a trip to Florida the following December, the Lucchesi family visited the campus for a tour, to meet with coaches and to see what the University had to offer. The consensus among the three was instant.

"When we stepped on campus, we immediately knew this is where we wanted to be," said Michael Lucchesi.

Joseph Lucchesi and Michael Lucchesi play on the men's team. While Megan Lucchesi was recruited to play collegiately at UT for the women's team, she decided to step away from the sport her senior year of high school. Given she already had her heart set on attending UT and she still loved the sport, she decided to continue to be involved

by joining as the men's team manager.

"I absolutely love the sport. Since I am not playing lacrosse myself, I wanted to stay in the lacrosse community in some way. Another big reason is it's an excuse to watch my brothers play more," Megan Lucchesi said.

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

The boys' excitement to play lacrosse for the University has only increased as time has passed.

"The competitiveness of the lacrosse team is another reason I chose UT. The fact that we have a real shot at competing for a national championship is unreal to even think about. Here I am given an opportunity that not a lot of people get," explained Joseph Lucchesi.

Michael Lucchesi furthers his brother's sentiment. "I love being a part of the lacrosse team here at UT. It is a lifetime experience to be able to play a college sport with my brother," he said.

The two even get to play with a former teammate from high school. Michael O'Connor, a sophomore, is a lifelong friend of the brothers. When O'Connor decided to play for the University, it only gave the boys more reason to come to Tampa.

Beyond the team, the siblings are appreciating their time at the University and more than content with their decision to attend.

"I am loving my time here at UT. It is definitely the best decision I have made," Joseph Lucchesi said.

Megan Lucchesi agrees. "I love it here. I am a history and English double major, so I absolutely adore the historical aspect of the campus. I have been to the museum about four times, because every time I find some new fact or artifact. I am so excited knowing that I get to live here in a place with such rich history," she said.

Michael Lucchesi appreciates the beauty and size of the University.

"From being on other college campuses back home, none can really compare to facilities offered here at UT. I also enjoy that it is a relatively small school that still feels like a big school. The class sizes are perfect to where I feel like all my professors know me more than just another student in their class," he said.

Each has goals and dreams that far surpass the lacrosse field. Joseph Lucchesi is deciding whether to major in nursing or secondary education with a minor in leadership and will get his master's in whichever field he chooses. Michael Lucchesi plans on obtaining a nursing degree to work either in a children's hospital or emergency room. Both plan to move back to Washington to start their careers. Megan Lucchesi will pursue her doctorate in English to become a university professor. She also has a strong desire to see the world and hopes to teach overseas in the future.

BEYOND A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

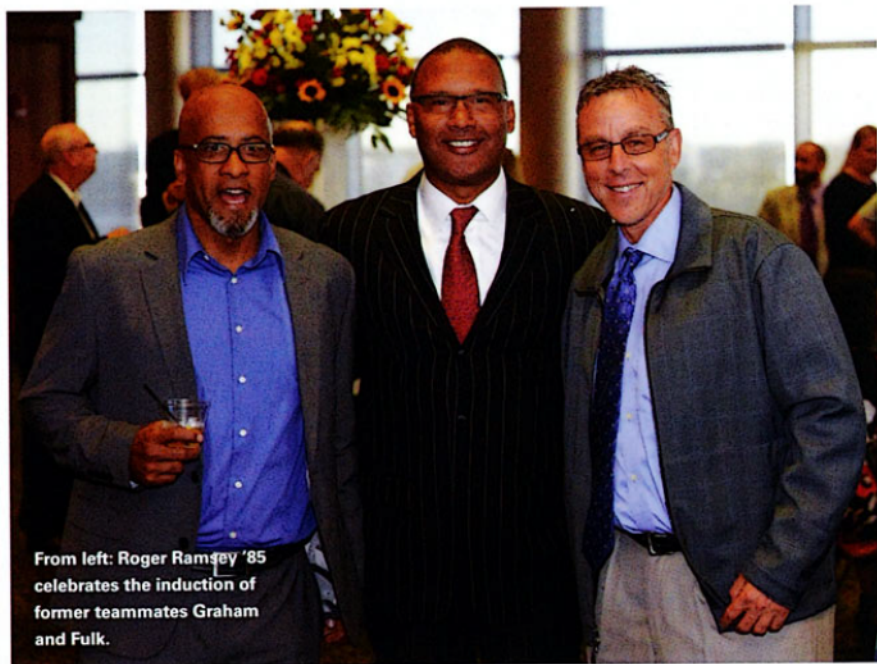
It is evident these three share a bond with each other that goes beyond a family relationship. It is a bond that blends in perfectly with the family atmosphere at UT.

"The bond between the three of us is just something special. Some people will ask 'What is it like to be a triplet?' and I can only respond with 'What is it like not being a triplet?'" explained Michael Lucchesi. "For us, we don't know any different."

"We have been through everything together, and I could not imagine life any other way," Joseph Lucchesi echoes.

"Simply put, they are my best friends. I can completely be myself around them, and they are some of my biggest supporters," furthered Megan Lucchesi. "Having them here with me is such a comfort. It's a piece of home that I can run to if I need it."

— EMILY STOOPS



From left: Roger Ramsey '85 celebrates the induction of former teammates Graham and Fulk.

Ten Inducted to Hall of Fame

2001 men's soccer team, local alumni coaches also honored

A FORMER NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE Year, a four-time All-American and several national champions are among the eight alumni and two contributors who were inducted into the UT Athletic Hall of Fame in October.

UT also inducted the 2001 men's soccer team, which capped the 2001 campaign with an NCAA Division II national championship.

The Sam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to a quartet of local high school baseball coaches, including John Crumbley '82, Pop Cuesta '69, Frank Permuy '70 and Jim Macaluso '72.

SHANNON AITKEN '09

Aitken was the goalkeeper for the 2007 women's soccer national championship team. She was named the National Player of the Year (2007) and Sunshine State Conference Female Athlete of the Year (2007-2008). Aitken ranks first in program history in wins (59),

ties (7), saves (197), games played by a goalie (76), games started by a goalie (75) and most minutes played by a goalie (6,974).

ERIC BEATTIE '08

Beattie was selected in the second round of the 2004 Major League Baseball draft by the Detroit Tigers. He is third in school history for career shutouts (four), tied for fifth for career wins (30), seventh for career innings pitched (288) and eighth for career strikeouts (278). He is tied for first for wins in a season (15 in 2004), and tied for first for shutouts pitched in a season (three in 2003).

DAVID DION '93, MBA '96

Dion was part of two national championship baseball teams and was named the 1993 NCAA Division II World Series MVP. He was a first-team All-American (1993) and a two-time first-team all-South Region (1993, 1994).

Among UT single-season leaders, he ranks first in games played (64 in 1994), ninth for at bats (247 in 1993), sixth for home runs (20 in 1993) and 10th for total bases (158 in 1993). He ranks sixth for career home runs (32).

TOM GRAHAM '82

Graham was goalkeeper for the 1981 men's soccer national championship team. He is first in school history for save percentage (.868) and for goals against average (.64); second in school history for most career victories (34); and seventh in school history for saved shots (158). Graham only lost two games during his career at UT. In 1982, he won 19 games, a UT single season record, and in 1981, he recorded 95 saves, second in school history for a single season.

JIM KINER '01

Kiner is a four-time All-American and one of greatest swimmers in program history. Kiner was a national champion in the 100 breaststroke for UT in 2001 and holds the school record in that event. During his career with the Spartans, he was a two-time national runner-up. In 2000, Kiner was an Olympic Trials Qualifier. He is now the assistant coach for the UT swimming team.

RENE MARTINEZ '88

Martinez is a two-time second-team all-South Region (1987, 1988), a member of three NCAA South Regional all-tournament teams (1986, 1987, 1988) and a two-time second-team all-Sunshine State Conference (1987, 1988). He ranks first in sacrifice flies (22), fifth in assists (561), eighth in at bats (774) and tenth for games played (211). For single seasons, he is first for stolen base percentage (1.000 in 1988) and tied for third for sacrifice flies (7 in 1986).

JESSIE MCDOWELL '03

McDowell was the 2003 Sunshine State Conference Player of the Year.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

She ranks among all-time career leaders in basketball for blocks (2nd, 298), blocks average (2nd, 2.7), field goal percentage (4th, .539), field goals made (6th, 584), defensive rebounds (6th, 537), games started (6th, 98), rebounds (7th, 797), offensive rebounds (8th, 260), points (9th, 1,395) and minutes (9th, 2,875).

MALANA WINSKAS '07

Winkas is a four-time Sunshine State Conference Defensive Player of the Year (2003, 2004, 2005, 2006) in women's soccer. She remains the only four-time winner in SSC history. She was also named first-team all-SSC in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, the first four-time all-SSC in program history. She was twice named the Daktronics South Region Defender of the Year (2003, 2004).

KEITH FULK '89

Fulk led UT to its third soccer na-

tional championship in 2001 and the program's second unbeaten year with a 19-0-2 season (tied a school record for most wins). He also led the program to three Sunshine State Conference titles. He is the only coach in UT soccer history to be named NCAA II Coach of the Year (2001) and is a member of the SSC Hall of Fame.

JARRETT SLAVEN

Under Slaven's guidance, the women's cross country team captured the University's first ever NCAA Division II South Regional title in 2004 and added five straight crowns from 2007 to 2010. He also led the men to the first Sunshine State Conference tournament title in 2011 as the team advanced to the NCAA Nationals. He has also led the women to 11 SSC titles, and had the SSC's Runner of the Year in nine of the last 12 seasons. He has won 11 SSC Coach of the Year awards.



SOCCER COACH EARNS 100

UT alumnus and head men's soccer coach Adrian Bush '95 recorded his 100th career victory with a 2-0 win over The University of West Alabama (No. 21) at Pepin Stadium.

Bush is in his 10th year as head coach and is a member of UT's Athletic Hall of Fame. He joins Tom Fitzgerald (1987-1995, 2004) and Jay Miller (1978-1986) as the only coaches in men's soccer program history to surpass the 100-victory mark.

As a student, Bush enjoyed a stellar playing career at UT, earning Adidas National Player of the Year honors in 1994 when he captained the Spartans to the 1994 NCAA Division II national championship. A four-time All-South Region and All-Sunshine State Conference performer, Bush was the first Spartan soccer player to be inducted into the SSC Hall of Fame in 2002 and was named to the SSC Silver Anniversary team one year later.

The Spartans finished the 2014 season with an overall record of 9-6-2 and were nationally ranked for a total of three weeks.



ATTACK CANCER The attack units of the men's and women's lacrosse teams visited the children's wing of Tampa General Hospital in October as part of their Attack Children's Cancer campaign. Players interacted with the patients and made a PSA for the Vs. Cancer Foundation to help fight children's cancer.

NEW YEAR'S MILE

A stylized illustration of a person in a yellow and orange athletic suit running to the right. They are positioned to the right of the word 'YEAR'S' and appear to be running along the top of the letter 'M'.

BY MILES PARKS '13 ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARC ROSENTHAL

Tips to help you be
part of the 8 percent
that keep their
New Year's resolutions

YOU KNOW THE DRILL. IT'S JAN. 3 OR 5, OR MAYBE EVEN JAN. 12. THE OPTIMISM BEAMS OFF EVERY glass filled to the brim with protein shake. Things are changing and your neighbors dash along the streets with a pip in their steps. You've been to the YMCA in July, when the Florida heat is so sweltering that the mere thought of running a mile outside moistens your brow. And yet, that YMCA is never as filled as it is in mid-January. Then it happens, slowly, but surely.

It's Jan. 21, and you spot a few open elliptical machines. It's Jan. 25, and your aunt, the one who wasn't going to be so stressed about work, is tearing out her hair over 75-hour weeks in the office. By Feb. 1, many of those New Year's resolutions have faded like a Florida winter. You swear they were there for a brief moment, but it's warm again, and life this year doesn't look so different. A recent University of Scranton study found that close to half of all Americans, about 45 percent, usually make New Year's resolutions. Of those who do vow to change their life, the study found about 8 percent are successful each year. In the effort to get you into that small fraction, the *UT Journal* talked with professors in relevant fields to get some insight on a few of the most popular, but most difficult resolutions to plan for and keep.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO STARVE

Jacob Wilson is amazed at people's preconceived notions about getting healthy and losing weight, basically everything he specializes in. An assistant professor of health sciences and human performance, Wilson spends his time researching the most effective ways people can transform their bodies.

"People always think of dieting, and they think of it as deprivation," Wilson says. "But that's why they can't sustain it."

Getting healthy for a new year is probably the most common, if not the most cliché, of resolutions. Wilson said he often hears about people buying entire year memberships that go unused after February.

Even speaking with him for 20 minutes, however, you find yourself

ready to hit the weights.

"The thing is, how you look and how you feel is important to overall confidence," he says. "Your situational self-confidence has to do with your physiological state. If you're feeling good about your body, you feel more confident going into situations."

His biggest tip for those looking to make gains in fitness is to set realistic goals. Running a specific 5K or signing up for a power lifting competition can be good specific goals to shoot for, but even when it comes to weight loss, he said it's important someone doesn't try to lose 50 pounds in a month.

For someone who is looking to lose weight, Wilson recommended a mix of cardio activities, like running or using an elliptical machine, mixed with resistance training, like pull-ups or squats. Many people, Wilson says, make the mistake of only spending time doing cardio when they are trying to burn

weight. Without weight training mixed in, some of the weight that is being burned off is muscle, whereas fat gets burned when the two are mixed.

As for shaping a new diet, he says a good tip is to make sure you are eating slightly more grams of carbohydrates than protein in each meal. Many Americans eat three times as many carbs than protein in a given day, Wilson says, which leads to obesity.

Although starting a fitness and diet change can be tough in the beginning, it is much easier with a positive attitude, says Wilson.

"This is something you're doing to improve yourself," he says. "This is time you're investing into improving yourself. Not just for now but for the long term. There's this huge awareness about smoking and how bad it is, but sitting is the new smoking. It's just as bad. It's what's causing many of the diseases in our society."

JUST CHILL

One of the most abstract resolutions is also the one that can positively affect the most aspects of your life.

Be less stressed. It seems easy enough, and yet, in American culture, we know better. So does Mike Stasio, associate professor of psychology at UT.

"For someone to say they are never going to be stressed again is a goal that is just too high," Stasio says.

Instead, it's the little changes, the subtle relievers that can make all the difference.

"The first thing I would recommend is increase the quality of your diet and increase the quality of your sleep," Stasio says. "You can make a lot of gains that way right away. Sleep is very important to cognitive thinking, and it's often overlooked."

While traumatic events, such as deaths or natural disasters, can cause immediate amounts of anxiety and fear, there's no real cure or resolution to deal with those, nor should there be. Stress in dangerous and dire situations is invaluable to our evolution as human beings; it lets us know something is wrong and forces us to act.

However, that fight with your neighbor over the color of the fence? Or the boss who won't let you take a lunch break? Or those big credit card bills?

Not so healthy, Stasio says.

"If we feel we can control the situation, or fix the situation that is causing us stress, then it may have less impact

on our overall health," Stasio says. "But if the situation is chronic, if it's going to happen all the time and we have no power to fix it, then that's the stress that can be related to cardiovascular disease and other health issues."

Stasio's best advice can be applied to all those looking to better themselves in any way this winter. No matter the resolution, remember we aren't perfect, embrace that and work hard.

"Just breathing deeply five or 10 minutes a day and then adding some exercise," Stasio says. "Don't let in that 'abstinence violation effect,' where we violate our self-imposed rule and then we say 'well I fell off my New Year's resolution, so it's all lost.' We should resist that. Even if we have a little lapse, it doesn't mean our resolution is done; little relapses are just human."

"It's the slow and steady lifestyle change that's good for people in the long term."



MORE PLANNING, LESS PACKS

In terms of reward, it's hard to argue that quitting smoking isn't the most beneficial of the common New Year's resolutions.

First and foremost, the negative physical effects of smoking are staggering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that smoking kills 5 million people each year around the world, with that number trending upwards toward 8 million by 2030.

It was that epidemic, the first-hand experience of seeing the effects, that got Mary Martinasek into the business of prevention.

"I spent 25 years working in a hospital," says Martinasek, now an assistant professor in public health at UT. She cared for patients being treated for lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"I can help people so they don't end up like those I treated for years in

the hospital," she says. "Those people became so disabled, they couldn't even carry on normal activities of daily life or they died from the disease."

The most important aspect to quitting on Jan. 1, Martinasek says, is to have a plan in place long beforehand. Free counseling classes are available all over Tampa, and a schedule of the counseling sessions Martinasek leads can be found at ahectobacco.com.

At the one-time, two-hour class, those looking for support get strategies to change their lifestyle in ways that will make quitting easier, while also getting free physical resources necessary to ease withdrawal, like patches or lozenges, items that retail for up to \$45 a box.

"On New Year's Day, you can put a patch on and eliminate a lot of those withdrawal symptoms," says Martinasek. "The worst and most difficult time is the first four weeks. If you can get

through that first four weeks, then you are just going to build on your success."

While drastically improving health is one benefit to quitting, another is financial.

"Cancer means nothing to a young adult," Martinasek says. "But if a person smokes a pack a day, and they pay almost \$6 for a pack of cigarettes, if they quit they save more than \$2,000 in a year. That's more than \$21,000 in 10 years. They actually make money, because they're saving money."





FAMILY MATTERS

It's an odd time to be a parent.

As technology rapidly shifts, parents are forced to not only juggle their electronic lives with their personal lives, but also handle the expansive task of monitoring their child's behavior in the wild, wild, West world we call the Internet.

With so many Netflix films at your fingertips, and an array of videogames at the fingertips of your child, it's tough to get away sometimes, and get together. Many parents and spouses vow to do just that on Jan. 1, and spend more time with their family. It's a move that if followed through on, can reap extreme benefits, explains Joseph Sclafani, professor of psychology at UT.

"If you're the dad of a boy who plays sports, maybe it's getting into coaching. Or maybe it's kicking soccer balls back and forth with your daughter," he says. "It's about being there. One of those things kids really need is just time."

When it comes to this resolution, the natural inclination is to think stereotypes. It's the father coming

home too late, while the mother stays at home with the kids, and it's the children who lose out on the feeling of a two-parent household. That dynamic has changed significantly, however, over the past 50 years.

"In today's world, men have been given permission, and they've started to grow into the role of taking more responsibility in the raising of children," Sclafani says. "Most people realize there is a role for a father, and there is a lot of research that shows that when there is a father present, the kids excel more in academic pursuits, they get into less trouble, and there are less arrests and less truancy and other kind of issues."

But as society has come to expect dad to be around more, the concept of full family time has been burdened by the growing necessity for mothers to be part of the workforce.

Pew Research found that while mothers spent an average of eight hours per week doing paid labor in 1965, that number had almost tripled by 2011. Over the same time period,

dads reported to be working an average of five hours less per week.

"I used to talk about work-life balance, but I've thrown that out because there's no balance. Now it's about work-life integration," Sclafani says. "If you don't want your kid to smoke, you better not smoke; if you don't want your kid to be a pill popper, you better not be a pill popper. The way the parents act at home and around other people, kids soak that all in."

But it's not just parenting that begs for time.

"There's an old saying, 'happy wife, happy life,' which is true," Sclafani laughs. "At the marital level, I recommend date nights. It's important for a mother and father to go off, hopefully as much as one to two times a month, to get babysitting or child care or whatever they need and just go off and have an evening as husband and wife with very little reference of children."

"For spouses, just to know there is support is really important," Sclafani says. "I say you get to multiply your joy, and divide your grief." **UT**

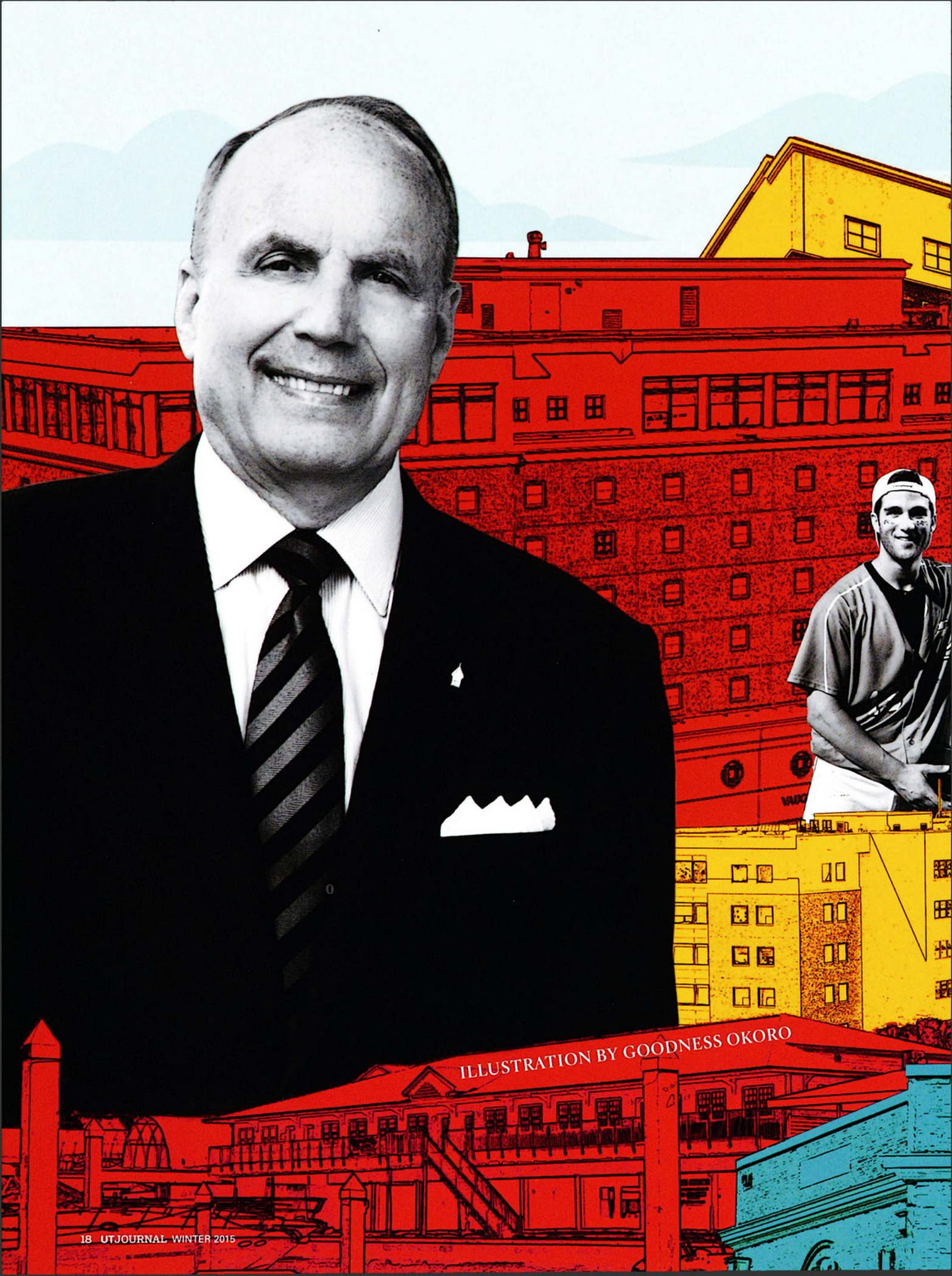
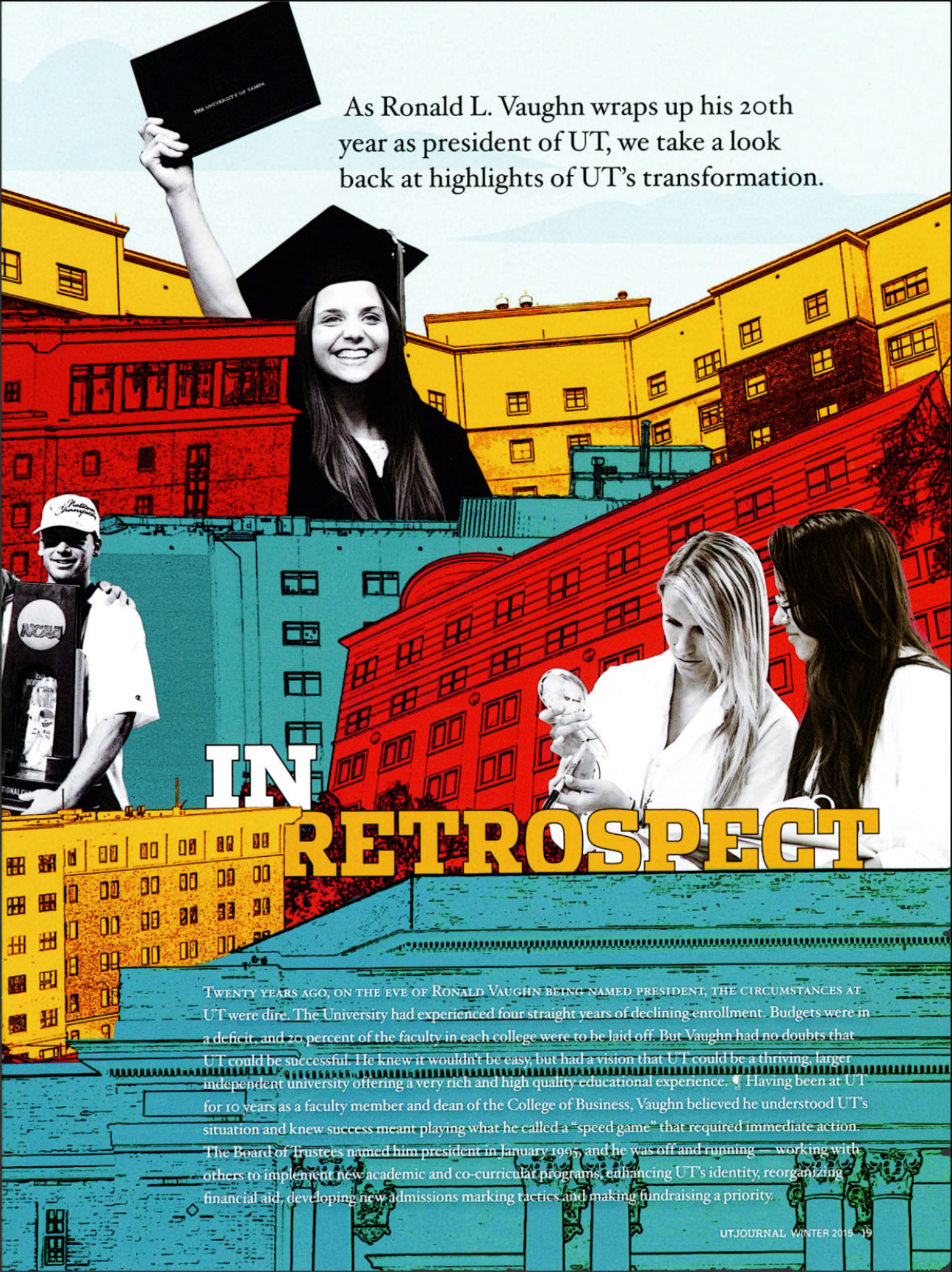


ILLUSTRATION BY GOODNESS OKORO



As Ronald L. Vaughn wraps up his 20th year as president of UT, we take a look back at highlights of UT's transformation.

IN RETROSPECT

TWENTY YEARS AGO, ON THE EVE OF RONALD VAUGHN BEING NAMED PRESIDENT, THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT UT were dire. The University had experienced four straight years of declining enrollment. Budgets were in a deficit, and 20 percent of the faculty in each college were to be laid off. But Vaughn had no doubts that UT could be successful. He knew it wouldn't be easy, but had a vision that UT could be a thriving, larger independent university offering a very rich and high quality educational experience. ¶ Having been at UT for 10 years as a faculty member and dean of the College of Business, Vaughn believed he understood UT's situation and knew success meant playing what he called a "speed game" that required immediate action. The Board of Trustees named him president in January 1995, and he was off and running — working with others to implement new academic and co-curricular programs, enhancing UT's identity, reorganizing financial aid, developing new admissions marketing tactics and making fundraising a priority.

Vaughn took the position with an understanding that a serious fundraising effort would also be pursued and supported to put the University on a more sound financial footing. While consultants recommended a feasible initial campaign goal of only \$20 million, the campaign ended less than nine years later with almost \$84 million raised.

Vaughn's early steps in reorganizing admissions and financial aid systems paid off almost immediately. The 40 percent larger incoming class in 1995 enabled the University to eliminate a \$1.6-million deficit, and end the fiscal year with a surplus. Today, UT has notched 18 straight years of record enrollments along with surpluses every year.

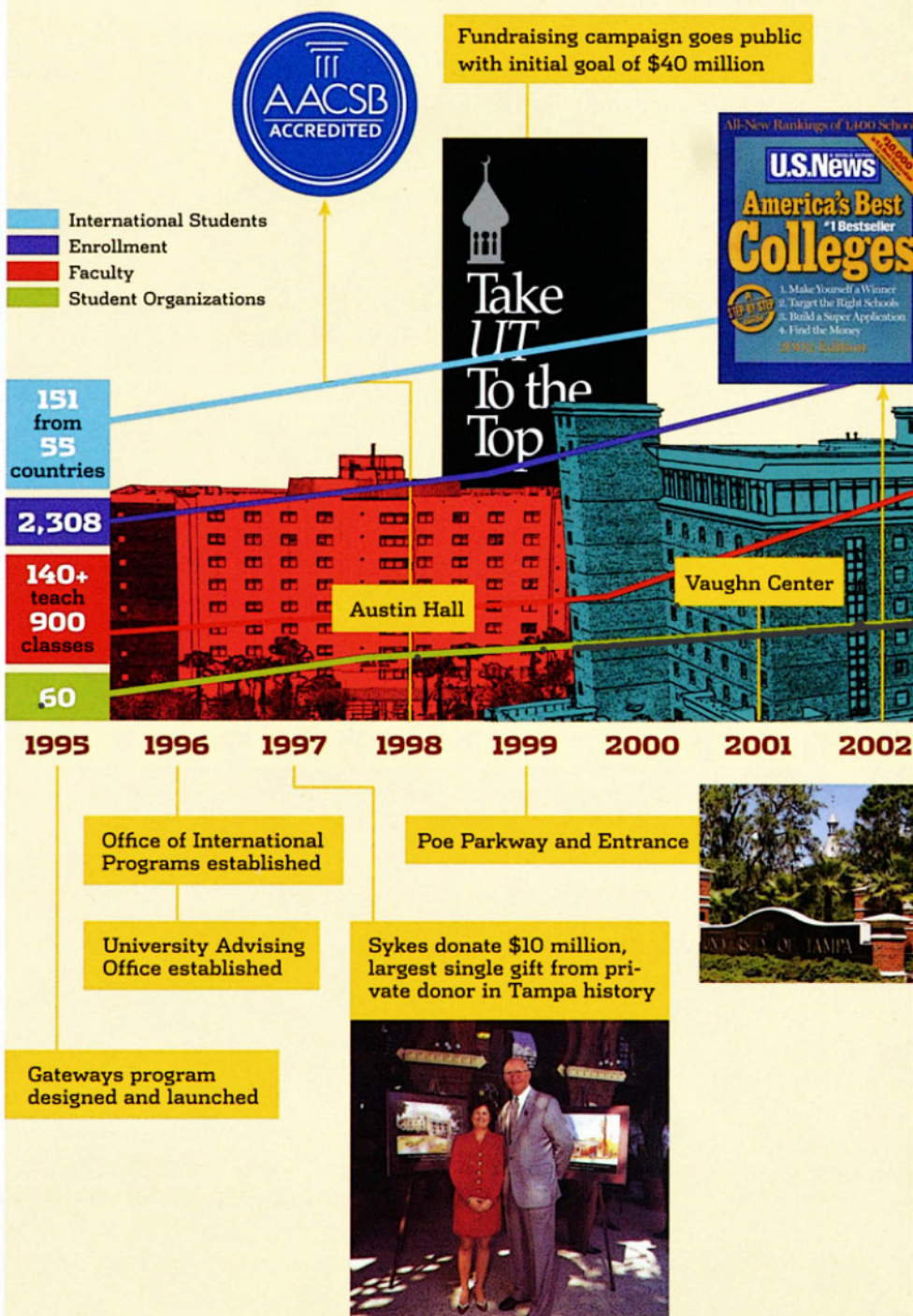
But along with the critical reorganizing of internal business practices came further development of the UT educational experience and the student support system, including new advising and international programs offices. These internal developments were quickly followed by more visible campus transformations.

"Nowhere will the visual change be more dramatic than in the look and feel of the campus because, as the diverse interests of our student population change, the campus must reflect it," Vaughn said in 1995.

Indeed, by the late 1990s Vaughn began the largest campus rebuilding project in the University's history, resulting in 30 major building projects worth more than \$400 million.

UT's transformation has been noted nationwide. In a recent article in the *Tampa Tribune*, Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, said UT is a "hot" school that's attracting more students for the right reasons. "It's got great leadership, and it's building a better university." **UT**

TRANSFORMING A UNIVERSITY: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VAUGHN PRESIDENCY



Total number of graduates (May, August and December) exceeds 1,000 for first time.

311
from
90
countries

400
teach
3,000
classes

5,000

President's Leadership
Fellows established.



1,355
from
137
countries

650
teach
4,666
classes

7,752



200

160

115

Sykes Chapel

Naimoli Athletic Complex

2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Marine Science Center

PEACE sponsors first
international service trip

Cass Science Opening

Academic Success
Center opens

Jenkins Hall





BY MARY ELLEN COLLINS
PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHEN SIMPSON

Global Citizen Gives Back

Successful fashion
executive Kay
Isaacson-Leibowitz '68
now focuses her leadership
skills on helping the
children of the world.



Isaacson-Leibowitz
at home in Rancho
Santa Fe, CA.

"SINCE I RETIRED, I'VE DEDICATED EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY, LOVE AND PASSION I HAVE TO THE WORLD OF CHILDREN AWARD."

— KAY ISAACSON-LEIBOWITZ '68

KAY ISAACSON-LEIBOWITZ '68 HAS BEEN AN INTREPID WORLD TRAVELER from a very young age. The oldest of five children, she grew up in a military family that moved every one or two years, including a stop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Because her family didn't live on base, she had an up-close-and-personal view of how challenging life could be for the country's children.

Although she could not have known at the time, her childhood experiences would come full circle to her current role as co-founder and co-chair of the World of Children Award, which serves the needs of vulnerable children across the globe.

Along the way, Isaacson-Leibowitz enjoyed a 35-year career in fashion, retiring in 2005 after 10 years as executive vice president of Victoria's Secret. Today, she maintains a connection to the fashion world by serving on the board of GUESS? Inc.

Isaacson-Leibowitz had a non-traditional education that included attending elementary school in Taiwan and taking high school correspondence courses in Ethiopia.

Her father was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base around the time she was ready to start college, which is how she ended up at UT. She majored in French and says even though she was a mediocre student, she made the most of the opportunity to pick up some valuable non-academic skills.

"UT was small, and you could excel there in your own way. My leadership skills were absolutely honed at the University," said Isaacson-Leibowitz, who was the president of her dorm from sophomore year on, and very active with her sorority and the Panhellenic Society.

While she originally envisioned herself working for the United Nations, after the 6-foot, 1-inch Isaacson-Leibowitz did a bit of modeling, she changed her plans.

"When I wrote to my parents in Germany and told them I wanted to be a model, my dad about had a heart attack," she said with a laugh. "But he said as long as you can support yourself, go ahead."

FASHIONABLE BEGINNINGS

She headed to Germany after graduating where, in addition to modeling, she got a job in a small boutique that sold expensive knitwear. That providential move was her first foray into fashion and the first step on a 35-year career path.

She went on to work for C.E. Chappell & Sons in Syracuse, NY, and then Denver Dry Goods in Denver as an accessory/handbag buyer. Although she had been making \$85 a week at the store in Syracuse, she asked for \$125 and got it.

When her boss went to work at Joseph Magnin Co., he tapped her to manage that company's largest store. The experience came with valuable lessons in management.

"I was 24 and the youngest employee in the entire store. At my first review I was put on warning because the store wasn't doing well. I went home and cried my eyes out," said Isaacson-Leibowitz.

She said the next day she called her team together and said she wanted each of them to tell her one thing they thought she could do better and vice versa. They eventually went on to win Joseph Magnin's outstanding store award.

"Not being a good leader had a lot to do with being young. I was probably too bossy and had to learn to lighten up. That experience taught me how to accept criticism, build a team and change course," she said.

During her tenure at Joseph Magnin, CEO Harvey Lowenthal became a mentor to Isaacson-Leibowitz. She remembers that he took her to lunch one day and asked what she wanted to be when she grew up.

"I was only 26, but I said, 'I want

to be you.' I always thought that I'd change the course of a business. I was very assertive throughout my career — I learned that from both my parents. There were no books like *Lean In* back then. Gloria Steinem and Marlo Thomas were the women I patterned myself after," she said.

Her continuing rise through the retail ranks included a position as divisional merchandise manager at Diamond's department store in Phoenix, and becoming the first female vice president for Fashion Bar in Denver.

STEPPING INTO THE EXECUTIVE RANKS

In 1981, an event in her personal life prompted her to take a temporary break.

"I had always had a romantic obsession with Italy. A girlfriend who lived in Rome asked me to come and visit, so I moved there and lived with her and her boyfriend for a year. I learned to speak very, very good Italian, and had a boyfriend who rode a Harley," she said.

When her year was up, she moved back to New York where she quickly got a job as senior vice president of product development for Carter Hawley Hale, owner of Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman and other high-end stores.

Five years later, in 1989, she was recruited by Melville Corporation to become president of Accessory Lady in Dallas, making her the first female president of Melville. From there, she added to her impressive executive resume by serving as acting president of Banana Republic and executive vice president of Victoria's Secret, where she increased sales volume from \$1 billion to \$4 billion in 10 years.

A WATERSHED YEAR

For Isaacson-Leibowitz, 1999 stands out as a watershed year in her life. During a trip to Italy with her sister, she spent time with two couples who had restored old farmhouses.

In July 2013, Isaacson-Leibowitz (third from right), traveled with her husband, Harry Leibowitz, and World of Children celebrity ambassador, Stephanie March, to Nepal. One of their stops was the Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children just outside Kathmandu.

Intrigued, she asked them to show her some other old houses.

"We saw one that was in complete ruin," she said. "It was over 500 years old and hadn't been lived in for more than 50 years. I bought it on the spot. I decided that's where I was going to retire."

Around the same time, she met Harry Leibowitz, a former Procter & Gamble executive who had founded the World of Children Award two years earlier. When asked if it was love at first sight, Isaacson-Leibowitz gives a practiced but heartfelt answer.

"Harry's daughter took me to the annual World of Children Awards. When I saw the video of Harry with the vulnerable children he was helping, and I saw his passion, I fell in love with Harry and the World of Children Award simultaneously," she said. The two married in 2003 and worked on restoring the house in Italy together, hiring artisans in the local village of Anghian to do the work. They lived there for four to six months a year from 2003 to 2012.

THE SECOND ACT

"Since I retired, I've dedicated every ounce of energy, love and passion I have to the World of Children Award. We both work full-time — as volunteers — for the organization."

World of Children's mission is "to improve the lives of vulnerable children by funding and elevating the most effective changemakers for children worldwide." Since 1998, it has provided \$6 million in cash grants and program support to 100 individuals whose efforts have touched the lives of approximately 30 million children.



As former successful executives, the couple knows how to leverage their business expertise in the nonprofit world.

"Victoria's Secret prepared me for this," said Isaacson-Leibowitz. "We run World of Children like a business with a heart."

She is quite proud of the fact that four weeks before this year's awards ceremony they had already raised \$1.1 million in gifts and sponsorships. And she was particularly looking forward to her first meeting with her role model Marlo Thomas, the 2014 World of Children Lifetime Achievement Award honoree.

The list of this year's awardees include the head of a foundation that helps street children in Brazil; an individual who spearheaded campaigns to build teaching hospitals in Cambodia and Laos; and the founder of a successful long-term alternative to orphanages for displaced youth in Israel.

It is difficult to imagine Isaacson-Leibowitz without a full plate. In addition to working for World of Children at home in Rancho Santa Fe, CA, she and her husband visit grant awardees around the world and enjoy their grandson, Keon, who was adopted from Ethiopia by Harry's daughter, Silene Young.

She also serves on the board of GUESS?, where she chairs the nominating and governance committee and sits on the compensation committee.

"I love serving on boards because it enables me to stay relevant in the industry; see businesses from the perspective of a shareholder not an operator; and work as a team member with other bright, interesting individuals in an environment of governance and collegiality and to influence strategy," she said.

Isaacson-Leibowitz is the only woman on the board, something that is not unusual. In fact, in 2013 only 16.6 percent of corporate directors on Fortune 1000 companies were women.

As someone who broke through several glass ceilings during her rise in the retail industry, Isaacson-Leibowitz is very aware of that gender imbalance. She serves as a role model and mentor for the many young women who come to her for advice about getting a seat at the table.

Though she has already achieved so much, Isaacson-Leibowitz has a ready answer when asked what's next.

"Harry and I will do this until we take our last breath," she said. "We have a wonderful team in place, and we're working really hard to make sure World of Children Award is sustainable beyond us." **UT**



alumni report

class acts

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

58 **Rene Gonzalez**, founder of the Spanish Lyric Theatre and SLT Productions in Tampa, has stepped down as the organization's artistic director after 55 years of leadership. Founded in 1959, Spanish Lyric Theatre is the longest running Hispanic theatre company in the country, according to BroadwayWorld.com.

61 **Marvin Wilson** is semi-retired and working in real estate as a hobby. He said he is grateful to everything the University has provided him. Email: wayjan@aol.com

64 **Thaddeus Tharney**, retired clinical psychologist and college professor, is self-employed as an artist. He divides

his time between homes in New Jersey and on the coast of Maine. Email: tmtharney@msn.com

69 **Marshall and Claire '71 Bradley** are doing well, playing golf, checking off "honey-do" items and relaxing. In June, they took a three-day trip to Venice, Italy, followed by a seven-day cruise on Norwegian Cruise Line and had a fabulous time.

71 **Howie Thompson** has been named the Best Author on the Beach by the digital magazine *Grand Strand Happening Now* for the second year in a row. Howie has penned his eighth book, *Double Shot*, a murder mystery. Howie appears each week at the Music on Main Street concert in Myrtle Beach, SC.

72 **Richard Muga** published his first book, *The Palmetto Beach Memoirs*, in July 2014. (See page 31.) Email: rmuga@aol.com

73 **Patrick Downing** was elected chairman of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission at its annual meeting held aboard the battleship in Mobile, AL. Patrick has served on the commission since 2008.

74 **Cesar (Evaristo) Ulloa** was awarded the Sarlo Excellence in Teaching Award by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. It was the first time in the history of the school a voice teacher has been given this award. Email: cesarulloa@aol.com

Harold Youmans presented a lecture entitled "Eight Days in May, the British Raid at Oswego, New York" at Fort Ontario. Harold, former editor of the *Quarterly Journal of the War of 1812*, is considered to be one of the nation's pre-eminent historians of the War of 1812.

75 **Mark Menendez** was featured in *The Mountaineer* (Haywood County, NC) for his work as an artist and instructor. Mark began teaching art at the age of 16 and continues to teach throughout the United States.

77 **Roberto Leon** obtained a law degree from the British American University at California. He has been teaching real estate principles and law for the last 10 years. He and his wife Palmyra celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014. Email: rleonmailbox@aol.com

78 **Kathy Hess-Collins** is an active member of the Ladies Golf League at the King & Bear golf course at World Golf Village and the Palencia Tennis Center in St. Augustine, FL. Email: shoesbabe@att.net

David Rauch visited the Rotary Club of Mayo in Mayo, FL, recently to introduce himself as the Rotary District 6940 (Northwest Florida) governor. David gave a short presentation on the importance of

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

On Nov. 15, 1969, the National Alumni Association (NAA) board of directors held its first meeting as a national organization, having previously operated with a Tampa Bay area focus.

This past summer, the current board began creating a five-year plan to meet the needs of an ever-growing alumni population. Over the next few months, they will conduct alumni interviews, analyze the 2013 alumni survey results and review best practices of peer institutions to help create the plan.

The first step was easy. Just as its predecessors saw the need to add national to the name of the organization to represent alumni around the country, the board realized it needed to remove national to reflect the global scope of the Alumni Association.

We hope to have a plan to share with alumni in Fall 2015 and will keep you updated on the progress.



Marshall '69 and Claire '71 Bradley in Venice, Italy

recruiting and retaining members so the club can reach its primary goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

79 **Thomas Hogan** is working as location manager on Showtime's *Masters of Sex*. Email: tommyhogan@me.com

81 **Louis Bullard** is a first-grade teacher at Pine Hill Waldorf School in Wilton, NH. Email: lbullard@pinehill.org

82 **John Dobbie** has joined Helix, the world's leading manufacturer of lateral training fitness equipment, as the director of commercial business development for its eastern region.

84 **Mary (Pavloff) Hatcher** was elected circuit court judge for the 5th Judicial Circuit, Group 3, according to the *Ocala Star Banner*. Mary is the owner of Mary Hatcher, P.A. and has more than 25 years of experience with family law cases.

86 **Robert Clifford** was named vice president and Tampa area manager at Parsons Brinckerhoff, where he will manage the Tampa operations. Some of the firm's current projects in that office include Interstate 275 and State Road 694 (Gandy Boulevard).

Alexander Kurien MBA is deputy associate administrator of the Office of Government-wide

Policy (OGP) of the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). OGP plays a key role in improving the government's management systems.

87 **Kim Lowe**, a book blogger, writes a regular column in *USA Today* called Monday Night Romance with romance author Tracy Solheim. Kim and Tracy dish football stats, romance novels and pop culture for football fans and lovers of romance.

Bryan Parry, orthopedic surgeon at Vierra Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center in Melbourne, FL, was featured in *Space Coast Daily* for his passion for running. Bryan averages six to eight races per year and also volunteers as the medical director for the annual Battle of the Bridges Triathlon.

David Richardson MBA represents District 113 in the Florida House of Representatives. He recently spoke on current and future legislation and its impact on Miami Beach at the Quarterly Pillar Breakfast hosted by the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, according to *Miami's Community Newspapers*.

90 **Mark Herrin** is retiring from active duty with the U.S. Army this fall as a lieutenant colonel after more than 27 years of service. Mark and his family will remain in the Denver, CO, area. Email: mark.herrin@gmail.com

I remember...

Being in a sorority. Special event planning was something I learned there that helped me in several future jobs in terms of managing several parts of a group with a common goal.

—ALUMNA '88, FROM ALUMNI ATTITUDE SURVEY

92 **Robbie Tenenbaum** has joined the University of Louisville rowing team as the Cardinals' new assistant coach, according to KyForward.com. His previous five seasons were spent with the Clemson University rowing team, four as the head coach.

Joe Urso, coach of the UT baseball team, was named to the coaching staff for the USA Baseball National Team Development Programs where he was a coach for the 14U program, according to the *Tampa Tribune*.

94 **Kenneth Lewis** is the founding partner of Lewis Strachan, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He was also promoted to associate professor of law at Nova Southeastern University. Email: klewisesq@yahoo.com

Yolanda Banks McCoy joined HighWater Limited in the Cayman Islands. HighWater provides independent director services and other corporate governance services to hedge funds and global investment managers.

Mark Pearson resigned as the Land O'Lakes High School boys'

soccer coach, according to the *Tampa Tribune*. Mark coached the Gators for 16 years and was the longest tenured boys soccer coach in Pasco County.

95 **Paul Fritz**, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, has recently been assigned to Vicenza, Italy, as chief of space operations. Email: pefritzii@me.com

Patricia (Smith) McPhillips moved to the Washington, D.C., area and started a new job with the Department of the Army, Office of the Inspector General at the Pentagon. She was promoted to lieutenant colonel in March. Email: patty69m@gmail.com

Taylor Schmitz, a 12-year Nashville Police Department veteran who was working as the South Precinct's community coordinator, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Email: taylor.schmitz@nashville.gov

96 **Christopher Deabler** joined the Cincinnati law firm Dinsmore & Shohl, where

Ye be invited! The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will host the annual Gasparilla Brunch in Plant Hall on Saturday, Jan. 31. Guests enjoy an all-you-care-to-eat buffet, parking on campus and custom UT beads. Go to alumni.ut.edu for event details.



he will practice in the corporate department working with the business, acquisitions and securities practice group.

98 Heather Murray has been appointed vice president of product marketing for the Hewlett Packard Solutions Group with Tech Data Corp. Heather, a 15-year veteran with Tech Data, will lead the sales, marketing, technical and supply chain operations.

Michael Pfeiffer is the owner of Epic Teleconsulting in Tampa where he works with small businesses to provide them with affordable and effective technology. Email: mpfeiffer77@verizon.net

99 Miguel Menendez was recently introduced as the new Jesuit High School (Tampa) baseball coach.

02 Pete Guzzo was featured in *Creative Loafing Tampa* for his work as a filmmaker. He is the director and creative producer for Home Shopping Network's original content division.

Michael Mathews has been elected by Tampa's Spanish Lyric Theatre's board of directors to serve as SLT's interim artistic director.

Danielle O'Hara Murphy has joined SRS Real Estate Partners as a senior associate in the firm's Orlando office. Danielle provides tenant representation to national retailers and handles acquisitions, dispositions, investment sales and landlord representation.

Richard Russell MBA was appointed chief financial officer, treasurer and secretary of Omega Brands Inc., according to TMCnet.com.

04 Casey McLean, founder of the Soundside



spartan spotlight

Sita Monti '89, MBA '93

A Hand Up

For Sita Monti '89, MBA '93, what began as an interest in South Africa has blossomed into a full-time occupation.

Monti is the owner of LivAfrika, a Tampa store that sells fair trade jewelry, gifts and home goods crafted by women in small African villages.

"South Africa is my passion," said Monti, explaining that 90 percent of the products in her store are from the country.

LivAfrika is the only Fair Trade Federation member in the Tampa Bay area. Fair Trade Federation members support farmers and artisans in developing countries by offering better trading conditions when selling to developed countries.

In addition, Monti sends any profits from her sales back to a church mission that teaches women skills, like beading or sewing, which they can use to support themselves. Monti explains that these are often grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Monti began visiting South Africa in 2000 and now leads mission trips with her church. She currently travels there twice a year,

working closely with these women.

"Africa gets in your blood. It's addictive," said Monti. "I feel like I'm home when I'm there."

During her travels, Monti observed that the artisans make something out of everything — the pages of magazines are spun into colorful beads for necklaces, discarded bones from the butcher are buffed and carved into cuff bracelets, old tires are transformed into toys for children.

"The artistry is unbelievable," she said.

After several years, Monti asked herself why she was being called to South Africa. After speaking with a friend about the quality of the goods, her friend convinced her to buy the pieces she liked to sell here in the U.S.

Monti did just that, bringing items home to sell at local markets, home shows, and church and country club bazaars. Monti ran the business out of her home for the first two years.

"It started out as a hobby that turned into a business," said Monti. "When I ask myself why I'm doing this, the root comes down to wanting to be a voice for these women."

spartan spotlight

Rob Binger '09 and Tanner Brodhagen '10

Barrel Raft Boys



Last fall, Rob Binger '09 started kicking around an idea: What if, like Huckleberry Finn, he built a raft and floated down the Mississippi River from his home in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico, a trip of 1,692 river miles?

The idea was first inspired by a family friend who had rafted down multiple rivers.

Knowing he'd need a partner, he called up his college roommate, Tanner (Cox) Brodhagen '10, who is now living in Colorado. Brodhagen accepted the invitation with little hesitation.

Building the raft took "a lot of calculated guesswork," said Binger. The first thing they figured out was how many barrels it would take to hold up the weight of the 10-foot-by-21-foot raft, a 12-foot-by-10-foot covered structure and all of their gear and supplies. (The correct answer: 16.) A small boat motor on the back acted as a rudder and a screened-in shelter kept out the rain and bugs. Mostly.

"We had some heavy rains that soaked everything," said Binger. "So there was one point where everything was wet for a week to 10 days and that was pretty miserable."

They began their journey on the St. Croix River on July 14, meeting up with the Mississippi in Prescott, WI. For the next eight weeks and one day, the two drifted from sun up to sun down, stopping each night to rest. Their goal was to travel 20 miles a day, which often depended on the river. Some days they struggled to meet their goal and others they'd far surpass it, traveling 50 miles.

Though they were often alone out on the river, the two never had to "keep busy," said Binger.

"We were always moving so things were always changing — navigating around barge and boat traffic, dealing with weather, spotting wildlife and scenery," said Binger.

They finally reached the Gulf on Sept. 9, and, after celebrating with their family, sold the raft for money to rent a car to drive back home.

Binger hopes to have other adventures, maybe one day rafting the rest of the Mississippi River from its headwaters to Prescott, WI. "I would encourage anyone to take an adventure," he said.



Lily and Stella Cage

Marinelife Rescue Center, spoke at a meeting of the Northwest Women in Boating in Seattle, WA, to help inspire the community to protect the marine environment and raise awareness about what goes into rescuing and rehabilitating sea life.

Jonathan Norris has a new job as relationship manager at The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He also earned his MBA degree in international business.
Email: jonathan.norris04@gmail.com

05 Kevin Curtis is a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Miami and a research chemist at Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, according to *Run South Florida*. Kevin is also the founder and co-owner of Algaergy LLC, a marine biomedical, biotechnology and research organization focused on genetically altering marine plants for use in biofuel.

Matthew Wittemann is working as a business development manager at W.S. Cumby Inc., a regional commercial construction services firm located in Springfield, PA.
Email: mwittemann@gmail.com

06 Marisa (Floyd) Cage is excited to announce the birth of her baby, Stella, who has joined big sister, Lily, in the family.
Email: risa2242@gmail.com

Melissa Carroll was featured in *Creative Loafing Tampa* for her work as an author, yoga teacher and creative writing teacher at UT.

She recently published *Going Om: Real-life Stories On and Off the Yoga Mat*. (See below.)

Bob Finer penned a novel titled *Here comes The Painter*. The novel describes the life of a carefree, fun-seeking young professional in his late 20s. When his world is turned upside down by a combination of tragic events, he finds himself searching for answers. (See below.)

Email: robert.finer@gmail.com

Jenna Marotta released her first album, *Gypsy*. She performs at New York City venues such as the West Village's Caffè Vivaldi and The Bitter End.

Jordan Haug has joined Handel & Carlini LLP as an associate attorney. Jordan also serves on the board of the Hudson Valley Chapter of the National Association of Professional Mortgage Women and is a member of the New York State Bar Association.

07 Kenny Goodwin Jr. owns Spin My Ad, in which he tows billboard ads around Saratoga, NY, via bicycle, according to TimesUnion.com. Kenny, an avid cyclist, seized the opportunity to create a local, green, effective and unique form of marketing.

Nathan Jokela has become the Tampa Bay area's favorite leading man, according to *Creative Loafing Tampa*. Over the last year, Nathan has played George in Stageworks'

Of Mice and Men, Brick in Tampa Rep's *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Joe Farkas in Jobsite Theater's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*.

Danny Mastronardo spoke at an American Marketing Association Tampa Bay event about his company, Nardo's Natural, and his experience on ABC's *Shark Tank*.

Lee Sierra MBA was featured in *Creative Loafing Tampa* as a candidate in the Hillsborough County School Board race.

08 Philip Bowen has a new job as a digital and marketing strategist/technology communications specialist at Jackson-Dawson Communications and moved to Dearborn, MI. Email: philipwbowen@gmail.com

Priscilla Hammett was married to Alexander McQuoid on Aug. 30, 2014. She also joined Whirlpool Corporation's Government Relations team in Washington, D.C. Email: prishammett@gmail.com

Shawn McGrane was promoted to senior relationship manager for corporate plans with MassMutual Retirement. Shawn's territory consists of New York City, Long Island and southern New Jersey.

Amber Osborne is the chief marketing officer (CMO) for Meshfire, a social media management tool. She was named No. 2 on the list of top 50 most influential CMOs by social influence by Infegy, which produces social media monitoring

software, according to *Forbes*.

Lindsay (Simon) Senior recently celebrated her first year anniversary in working for Smithsonian Journeys, the Smithsonian Institution's travel program. She resides in Northern Virginia with her husband, Adam. Email: senior.lindsayj@gmail.com

09 Rob Binger and Tanner Brodhagen (Cox) '10 were featured in *The Telegraph* for their journey down the Mississippi River aboard a 10-foot-by-21-foot homemade barrel raft. (See page 30.)

Scott Hunter MBA joined Shire as their new marketing director of ophthalmics business. Scott served as director of marketing at Bausch + Lomb and has a background in the ophthalmic pharmaceutical industry ranging from clinical research to market analytics and marketing.

Megan Killeen accepted a job as an orthopedic physician assistant in upstate New York. She also graduated from MCPHS University in Boston, MA, with a master's degree in physician assistant studies. Email: megkilleen@gmail.com

Marissa Mohammed played soccer with the Central Women's team in the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association Women's League over the summer, according to *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday*.

Michaelann Murphy MBA has joined the Tampa office of Franklin Street Real Estate Services as a

“ I remember... Dance Happening. Dance was a big part of my childhood, and I was very happy to find this activity exists at UT to help me continue my enjoyment in dancing in shows and for fun. —ALUMNUS '06 ”

director specializing in landlord representation. Michaelann has nearly a decade of experience in leasing, development and acquisitions.

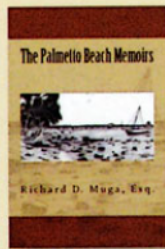
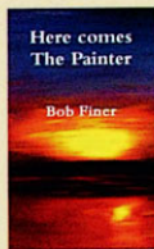
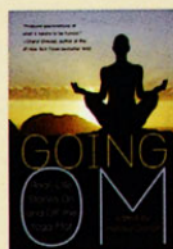
10 Jacqueline Ahn joined Genentech as a full-time employee to support the clinical data management team as a process analyst.

Eric Calderone reinterprets a variety of pop songs and opening themes to TV shows and video games as metal songs, often adding original solos into the arrangements. He has gained a substantial following on YouTube, with 1,012,959 subscribers to his 331 Erock channel.

Estefania (Greco Silva) Perez will soon celebrate the opening of Fabrica Woodfired Pizza in Tampa's Channel District. Fabrica Woodfired Pizza will offer Neapolitan-style made-to-order pizza, handcrafted sodas and house wines on tap.

Alyssa Saracino teaches fourth grade at Stratford School in Garden City, NY, according to *The Garden City News*.

Randy Tarnowski just began his second year in South Korea as part of the Fulbright Program. He spent his first year as an English teaching assistant and will serve his second as executive assistant in the Fulbright Korea office.



Recently published books by alumni:

Going Om: Real-life Stories On and Off the Yoga Mat by Melissa Carroll '06; *Here comes The Painter* by Bob Finer '06; *The Palmetto Beach Memoirs* by Richard Muga '72

11 Kasey Colucci got engaged to Michael Kyprianou on May 18, 2014. They bought their first home together and are planning to be married in fall of 2015.

Email: kaseycolucci@gmail.com

Abigail (Levingston) Dobbie and her husband, Jesse, had a baby girl, Callie Kay, on June 6, 2014.

Email: abbie.dobbie@gmail.com

Zach Fournier has joined the Tri-City Americans, in the Western Hockey League, as their new athletic therapist, according to the *Tri-City Herald* (WA).

Mykel (Shapiro) Hardy is recently married and moved to downtown Chicago.

Email: mykie.shapiro@gmail.com

Zachary Hines, who is half of the cabaret act Coco & Homo, appeared in a *Tampa Bay Times* article about the 25th anniversary of the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Kendra Mahon is an account executive at Schifino Lee ad agency in Tampa. Kendra has worked with brands such as VISIT FLORIDA, Visit Tampa Bay, The Epicurean Hotel and the Dali Museum.

12 Sean Bierman was the Can-Am League pitcher of the week after his team, the Rockland Boulders (NY), defeated Trois-Rivières (Quebec) 8-1, according to the *Daily Record* (NY).

Sophie Erber joined WLUC-TV6

in Marquette, MI, as its new anchor/reporter for the evening news. Prior to this position Sophie worked at ABC Action News as an investigative reporting intern and WFLA as an i-team/producing intern.

13 Christine Acosta is now the corporate director for the Working Women of Florida annual conference after 20 years in business-to-business sales.

Matt Crum MBA was featured in the *Business Observer* for his role with FrankCrum, the family-owned, Clearwater-based company that offers human resources outsourcing, employee staffing and insurance. Matt runs Frank Winston Crum Insurance.

Stacy Piagno was featured in *The St. Augustine Record* for competing for the United States in the Women's Baseball World Cup in Miyazaki, Japan. Stacy also participated in 2012 and was part of a squad that won a silver medal in Edmonton, Canada.

Esteban Roman is featured in *El Futuro 2*, a documentary about five young adults who all graduated from Aurora, IL, high schools and went to colleges and universities throughout the country. Esteban is pursuing a master's in kinesiology and sports management at Saint Mary's College of California.

Matt Rutkowitz, founder of Outeraction, was featured in *83 Degrees* and *BizJournal*. Outeraction creates micro experiences for millennials and corporations to in-



Kasey Colucci '11 and Michael Kyprianou

crease their social engagement by providing fun, casual opportunities to gather and make professional connections while they participate in unique and engaging events.

Susan Lorena Snodgrass is finishing her master's degree in art therapy at Loyola Marymount University. She received an American Art Therapy Association scholarship to attend its annual conference in San Antonio, TX.

14 Leah Barney was accepted into the Spanish embassy's teaching program to teach English in the Balearic Islands off the coast of Spain for one year.

Gabriella Falco is now working in the Neurology/Neurosurgery ICU at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Email: gabriella.a.falco@gmail.com

Heather Fitzpatrick spent her summer at Schifino Lee ad agency

in Tampa as a creative intern and is now a full-time junior art director.

David Gordon completed a coastal wetlands research internship last spring with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg. Since graduating in May, he was hired by Mote Marine Laboratory as a water chemist.

Tessa Heath began her career as a U.S. history teacher at Giunta Middle School in Riverview, FL. She was featured in a WTVT-Fox 13 piece about her first day of school as a teacher.

Kevin McNorton, relief pitcher, signed with the Joliet Slammers (IL).

Hailey Smith has joined Cherry Blossom Events in Madison, WI, as an intern.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Yolanda L. Pritchard '40
Pierce J. "P.J." Harvey Jr. '46
A. Douglas "Doug" Middlebrook '51
James Hefren '52
Robert L. Page Jr. '52
Roy M. Wilcox '60
Rose "Rosie" Diaz '62
Mary Guyneth Kuenzi Enno '63
Charles A. Polansky Jr. '65
Alious Joe Casey '67
Conrad N. Frassa '69
David A. Measels '72
Linda McPheron '78
Steven Parozanin '78
Lisa A. Rorrer '83
Gregory Joseph Blackburn '88
Ruth Eugenie Proctor MBA '07
Ali Mansho MBA '13



What's the password? The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will host a speakeasy-themed party on Friday, March 20, in the Rathskellar, featuring heavy appetizers, libations and live entertainment. For more information, go to alumni.ut.edu.



A small gathering of UT alumni and friends was held in **DENVER** on Aug. 21 where Jim Bridgman '03 and Becky Bridgman '02 were happy to meet other Spartans in Colorado.



Each year as part of orientation in August, we welcome **SPARTAN LEGACIES** who have chosen to make UT a family tradition. This year we had a good group of students and their legacy connections take part in our annual photo.



Heather Fay '13, Jay Krapf '12 and Colleen Kelly '03 attended the networking reception in King of Prussia, PA, on Sept. 16 for parents and alumni living in and around **PHILADELPHIA**.



The **TAMPA BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER** hosted its annual kickoff social on Sept. 18 at Taps Bar and Lounge. A variety of class years were represented amongst the attendees.



A great crowd turned out for our brunch in **NEW YORK CITY** on Sept. 20, including Kyle Lerner '10, J. Elizabeth Bambach '11, MBA '13, Anthony Vitale '08 and Joseph McKenna '10.



Lisa Ladany '08, Gabrielle Ladany, Alysha Otte '10 and Nicole McMinn '09 were excited to attend our first alumni and parent reception in **CONNECTICUT** on Sept. 18.

HOMECOMING

HOMECOMING & REUNIONS 2014

PHOTOS BY
CASEY BUDD '16 AND
MELANIE R. MUNGER '10



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Homecoming, held Oct. 16–18, began with the President's Reception on the West Verandah of Plant Hall (5), attended by a large number of alumni, including members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity (7) and Delta Phi Epsilon sorority (12), who were celebrating group reunions. The crowds then headed downstairs into the Rathskeller (4, 9). On Saturday the class of 1964 was inducted into the Golden Spartan Society as part of their 50 year reunion, and a huge crowd came to the lunch (6, 11). The Alumni Barbecue took place outside all day Saturday and was attended in large numbers by alumni and their families (2, 3, 10) as well as the 1970s alumni of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity (1). The day was capped off by the student parade (8) and homecoming soccer games.

brick by brick

common good

WHY I GIVE: Tom Spruance



Spruance on his property in Wilmington, DE

Father of Chelsea Spruance '15
Chair, UT Family Association

Q: Why did your daughter choose UT?

A: Chelsea and I traveled from the East Coast to the West Coast and down into the South looking for the right fit for her college career. Our search ended the day we walked onto the UT campus. Chelsea liked the size of campus, and she felt that the class sizes would provide a more personal connection with her professors — she would be a person not a number.

Q: What do you like best about UT?

A: When Chelsea and I attended orientation, I remember the reoccurring theme of family. We were told that everyone on staff would work together to help students as they adjusted to

their new surroundings. I have found through the years this theme of family was not just a comforting word for newcomers. Whenever there was a problem or concern, the faculty and staff at UT were right there to help. This is very comforting when you are living more than 1,000 miles from your daughter.

Q: What made you get involved with the Family Association?

A: As a father of a freshman, I was a little nervous when I left my daughter for the first time. The services that the Family Association provides are very helpful in easing the transition into life with a child away from home. I wanted to help and support this program, knowing that many freshmen families would feel as I did.

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

A: For three years I have been working with and supporting Career Services, the office responsible for helping graduates find jobs. If students can't get a job in the field they love and have studied, what a terrible waste. Career Services has made great progress introducing UT to employers who are interested in hiring UT graduates. I have also enjoyed working with and supporting the Department of Education in their efforts to graduate students who are superior in their ability to teach at all levels.

Q: Why do you support UT?

A: My grandfather started the tradition of supporting the schools and colleges that have educated our family members. UT has allowed my daughter, Chelsea, president of Psi Chi, the national honors society in psychology, to expand her horizons, test new boundaries and experience challenges that will provide her with the tools to move forward in life as a productive and compassionate person. What more could a father ask for?

Q: Why do you think it is important to give your time to UT?

A: My involvement with UT has been a very exciting and rewarding experience. I think it is important to let the faculty and staff know their efforts are recognized and appreciated. The best way I know to express this appreciation is to roll up your sleeves and get involved. Education is a three-way partnership between the student, parent and the university. If each one pitches in, all three benefit.

"I can honestly say that I can't remember any time at The University of Tampa, either as a student or adjunct faculty member, that wasn't a great adventure."

— JOHN SYRON JR. '74

leaving a legacy

A Great Adventure

JOHN W. SYRON JR. '74 CAN'T WAIT until baseball season begins at UT. He'll be sitting at the Sam Bailey Baseball Field, cheering for his favorite team — and especially his favorite player, John W. "Jack" Syron IV, his grandson.

Jack is a third generation Spartan, but always first in his grandfather's eyes.

"I'm so proud of Jack," said Syron. "He's a fine young man, but then I'm proud of all my children." Syron's son, Mike, and daughter-in-law, Kathleen, are 1976 UT grads and daughter, Mary Kay, graduated from UT in 1990.

His grandson, Jack, is projected to graduate in 2018, 34 years after his grandfather graced UT's hallowed halls. And if Syron has his way, there will be more generations of Syrons to graduate from his alma mater.

A favorite topic for Syron is the American judicial system and his illus-

trious career in law enforcement.

"I went into law enforcement because I wanted to help people. It's about rehabilitation. It's about helping people straighten out their lives and seeing to it that they get the help they need," he explained.

Syron was born in the small town of Floral Park, NY, on Long Island. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. In 1950, he joined his family on vacation in Tarpon Springs and met and married "a red-headed Greek girl," Tasula. He also attended St. Petersburg Junior College and became "hooked" on education.

Eventually he had an opportunity to join the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. He was hired in 1962 and spent 31 years handling everything from criminal investigations to managing the maximum security jail. As divi-

sion commander, he oversaw between 1,200 and 1,400 inmates a day and 300 employees. After retirement, he went to work for the Pasco County Sheriff's Office for nine more years.

Along the way, Syron managed to earn two undergraduate degrees, in sociology and criminology, and a Master of Education degree from UT. In addition, he was part of UT's adjunct faculty from 1974–1979, teaching courses in areas of criminal justice.

Highlights from his days at UT include serving as president of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, the national criminal justice fraternity, and membership in Kappa Delta Pi, the national education honor society.

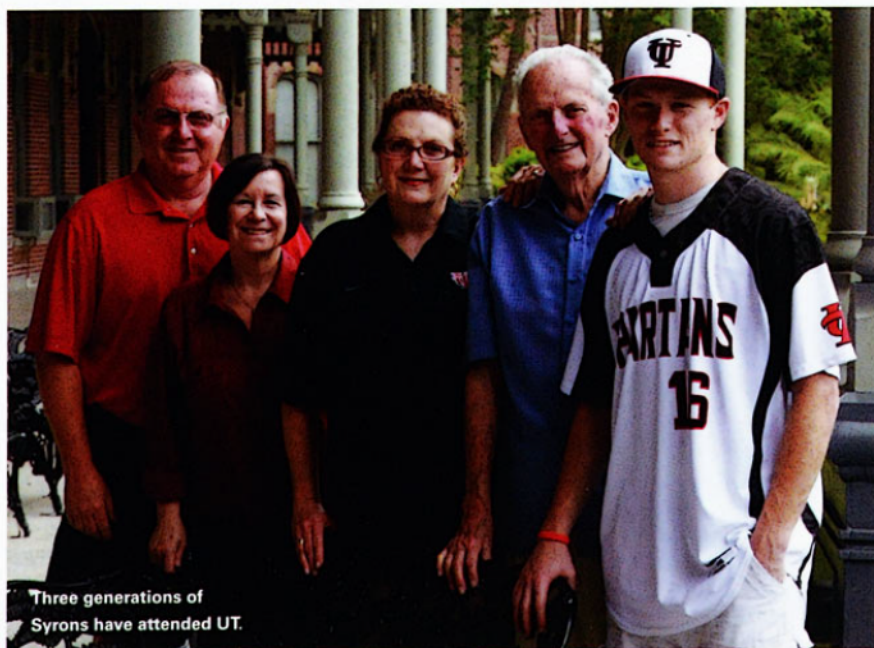
"I can honestly say that I can't remember any time at UT, either as a student or adjunct faculty member, that wasn't a great adventure," Syron said. "The grassy area east of the original student center, the cast iron benches and the quietly moving Hillsborough River were always very soothing to me."

Syron added that he always had a strong drive to stay connected to UT. One of his connections translates into monthly contributions for the Fredrick Spaulding Society.

"I am happy to help the students and the University," he said. "I would strongly encourage other UT alumni to think about helping out."

Syron now lives in Pasco County but said he will make the trek to Tampa to see his grandson play baseball at UT.

"I'll be at every game, unless I'm in the hospital!"



Three generations of Syrons have attended UT.



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



Ereba, a sophomore chemistry major, is one of UT's phonathon callers.

the annual fund

A Peaceful Relocation

AT 20, TOMBARI EREBA '17 HAS ALREADY gone from escaping a war to fundraising for UT.

Born in Ogoniland, Nigeria, Ereba's family fled their home country when she was just 18 months old.

"In 1994, the year I was born, war broke out in Ogoniland, the home of our tribe. My parents fled to the neighboring country, Benin, until a U.S. organization helped us relocate to Stone Mountain, GA," Ereba shared.

Life in Stone Mountain was, thankfully, very peaceful for Ereba. She always knew she wanted to go to college, and first learned about UT from a mail piece. Initially, the attractive campus was what drew her to attend the University.

"Plant Hall is one of my favorite places on campus. It is beautiful. I love the architecture and the history of the building," said Ereba.

Now a sophomore, her reasons for loving UT have expanded, even including the available cuisine.

"I love that there is a Chick-Fil-A on

campus. Three words sum it up: Spicy. Chicken. Sandwich," said Ereba with a laugh.

But it is the diverse student body that Ereba loves the most.

"Before I came to UT, I'd never met someone from Honduras, Tanzania or had friends that were Dominican," she said. "People are very friendly here, and I never feel like an outsider. I think the mixture of people helps in preparing for a future career, too. In whatever field someone chooses, they will be faced with people of all backgrounds."

Ereba initially came to UT with an undeclared major. She worked with her advisor, and took some exploratory classes and learned that she had an aptitude and inclination for math and science. She decided to combine the two and major in chemistry and minor in mathematics.

"My chemistry classes are hard, but it is fulfilling to take a hard course, get a good grade and leave knowing that you

expanded your knowledge," she said.

Ereba takes her studies very seriously. As part of her extracurricular activities, she is a member of the American Chemistry Society and the United Nations Student Association. She also sits on the Straz Hall Council for her residence hall, is a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary and is employed as a UT phonathon caller.

"I became a phonathon caller because I was looking for a job on campus," she said. "It has been eye opening to see all the ways the Annual Fund impacts day-to-day life at UT."

Ereba shared that she read an article recently that connected all the dots for her on the importance of donating to your University.

"Imagine if after you graduated, your University were to lose all its accreditation," said Ereba. "That would have a negative impact on your job outlook or opportunity for graduate school. On the other hand, if after you graduate your school is able to build new facilities and invest more money in research, your degree now holds more weight."

As a phonathon caller, Ereba helps UT contact more than 20,000 alumni and parents annually. The goal of each call is to help create a connection with UT no matter where a person is in the world. Students, like Ereba, also help UT update contact information and share the importance of the Annual Fund.

"Through working at the phonathon, I learned that scholarships are a direct result of donors giving back to UT," said Ereba. "Personally, my scholarship has made attending UT a realistic possibility, and I am grateful to all the people that make it possible."



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

Board Welcomes New Members

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

CHARLOTTE BAKER

Baker is CEO of Digital Hands, a U.S.-based managed security services provider. Baker has received numerous personal accolades, including being named one of the 50 Most Powerful People on the Gulf Coast by *Gulf Coast Review*. Baker serves on the advisory board for the Technology Services Industry Association's Managed Services discipline and the Education Foundation Board of Women Impacting Public Policy.

O. REX DAMRON

Damron — author, teacher/coach, professor, businessman and philanthropist — is president of the Krewe of Sant' Yago Education Foundation. An emeritus professor at Kent State University, Damron has authored four books and worked in secondary education. He has also operated several businesses, including a restaurant, travel agency and import business.

JOHN P. LOWTH III '82

Lowth is CEO of Arnone, Lowth, Wilson, Leibowitz, Andriano and Greco

Inc., life insurance brokers specializing in estate and business continuity planning for high net worth estates. He has served on the board of many community organizations and currently serves as a trustee for the PC Richard and Son Foundation. Lowth established the John Lowth Annual Scholarship at UT.

A.D. "SANDY" MACKINNON

MacKinnon is founder and CEO of MacKinnon Equipment and Services. He has chaired a number of community organizations, including the Florida State Fair Authority, Tampa Bay & Co. and many others. MacKinnon has received numerous civic and business awards, and was recognized by the Florida House of Representatives for contributions to community service.

NANCY J. RABENOLD

Rabenold is the co-founder and CEO of Xcira Inc. (formerly known as Auction Management Solutions Inc.), an independent, technology-based infrastructure supplier for the asset disposition industry. Prior to co-founding Xcira Inc., Rabenold worked in IBM's Federal Systems Division for 13 years, where she held senior program management responsibilities for such platforms as NASA's Space Shuttle.

CRAIG C. STURKEN '66

Sturken is the chairman of Spartan-Nash, the largest food distributor serving military commissaries and exchanges in the United States in terms of revenue. He serves on the board of directors of The Right Place Inc., a Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce business development and recruitment group, and is a member of the United Way of Kent County Campaign Cabinet.

BEN WEST

West is chairman and founder of 22sqared, one of the largest independent advertising agencies in the U.S. West spent the early days of his career at Young & Rubicam New York, Ogilvy & Mather New York and D'Arcy MacManus Masius Worldwide. He also served on the national board of directors of the 4A's and as a judge for the annual North American Effie Awards.

New ex-officio members include Patty Martini Clark, chair of the Board of Fellows; Suzanne Kirkconnell, president of The Chiselers Inc.; and Katie Krimitsos, chair of the Board of Counselors.

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

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

Gifts made from June 30–Sept. 16, 2014.

AL AUSTIN '47

Richard Basciano
Thilo D. Best
John F. Germany
Suzanne Kirkconnell
KPMG LLP
Bob Martinez '57
William Starkey
LYDIA BURGUET
Terry Snell

HELEN CHAVEZ

The Chiselers
EVAN CHIPOURAS
Tampa Bay Association
of Environmental
Professionals Inc.
BETTY CULBREATH-
GIBBONS
Beverly Austin
The Chiselers

STEVEN J. FLECKMAN

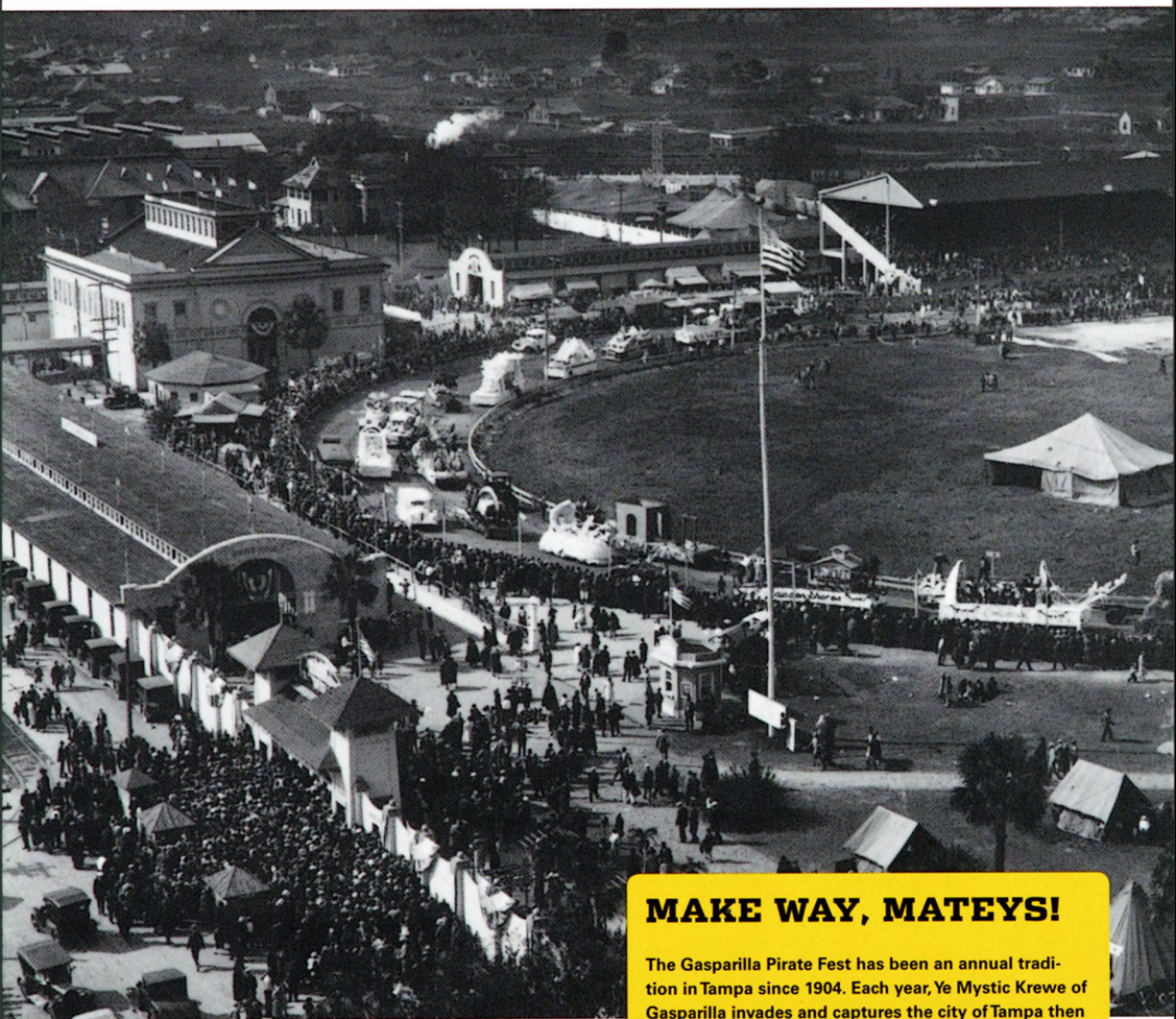
Gabriel Weiss
KARYN RINGHAVER
Beverly Austin
CARMEN RODRIGUEZ
Beverly Austin

PAT WARLICK

Beverly Austin
The Chiselers
Berdina Morgan
JAY WOLF
Beverly Austin

NEW ENDOWMENTS

Anne and Kenneth Hyatt Endowed Scholarship
Steven J. Fleckman Memorial Endowed Scholarship



MAKE WAY, MATEYS!

The Gasparilla Pirate Fest has been an annual tradition in Tampa since 1904. Each year, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla invades and captures the city of Tampa then celebrates with a parade. Today the parade route winds along Bayshore Boulevard and into downtown, but the 1926 Gasparilla parade, pictured here, took place at the Florida State Fairgrounds, which are now part of UT's campus. UT continues to be part of the celebration, now held on the last Saturday in January, by hosting its own festivities each year, including the PirateFest safety fair for students and the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter's Gasparilla Brunch (see page 28).

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UT's Sigma Delta Tau chapter organized Volley for Kids in conjunction with the University's annual Energii Wellness Expo in October. All proceeds from the event were donated to the sorority's philanthropy, Prevent Child Abuse America.

