



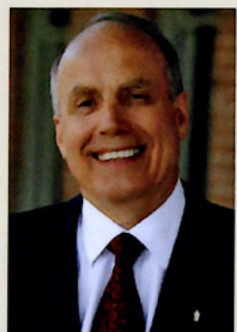
UT journal

The Publication for The University of Tampa SPRING 2011

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

From fair rides to special effects,
alumni delight folks of all ages.

UT's Community Impact



HERE AT UT, OUR CURRICULUM AND INSTITUTIONAL goals are finely tuned to prepare students to succeed in today's challenging global economy. What is often overlooked is how those goals directly impact the health and vitality of the Tampa Bay region.

Our economic impact numbers are impressive. UT's operating budget now tops \$170 million. With more than 1,100 full-time, part-time and vendor-contracted employees, and a record 6,500 students — who come from all 50 states and 100 countries — it is estimated UT has an economic impact of \$600 million. UT has been a bright spot in the community as we've continued to hire throughout the recession, and we will hire about 25 new employees for next year. Plus, in the past 13 years UT has invested \$270 million in campus facilities.

But, what's more important is the human capital that UT brings to Tampa Bay. Attracting well-educated young workers and entrepreneurs is crucial for a region to prosper economically. Job creation, which is so vitally important to Florida's immediate and long-term future, is being nurtured on our campus daily.

When you look at our alumni, you find leaders in the community — people who came from points around the country and globe to enjoy a UT education and who decided to stay and contribute to the local economy. UT students have gone on to become mayors, ambassadors, authors, doctors, judges, business leaders, legislators and teachers. And many of them have started businesses, created jobs and added to Tampa's dynamic nature.

We have alumni who have started financial services firms and banks that are headquartered in Tampa. Other alumni have started restaurants that add to Tampa's culinary variety and vibrant nightlife. Others have started advertising and public relations agencies that bring creative, talented people to Tampa Bay. Graduates who go on to professional school — such as law or medical school — often open practices in our area. And, of course, as our world becomes more focused on technology, our alumni are also in the high-tech arena — creating successful companies based on an idea and run on pure energy and commitment.

The examples are numerous. That's partly because we draw students nationally and internationally, and about two-thirds of them stay after graduation. The majority of our 32,000 alumni live in Florida and Tampa Bay. UT imports intellectual talent to the region.

These UT grads have the kind of energy and ambition that any university would be proud to acknowledge. And they provide the entrepreneurial spirit and job creation that will make a difference in the state, and national, economy.

Certainly graduates stay here because of the weather, the beautiful sunsets and our community's many other amenities. But they also stay here because UT has helped them make connections with the business and nonprofit community through internships, mentoring and leadership programs. Numerous alumni are key partners in providing these opportunities to students.

We'll graduate 1,500 more students this year. That's a new crop of highly educated, highly motivated young people who will add jobs, businesses, creative ideas and energy to the Tampa Bay area.

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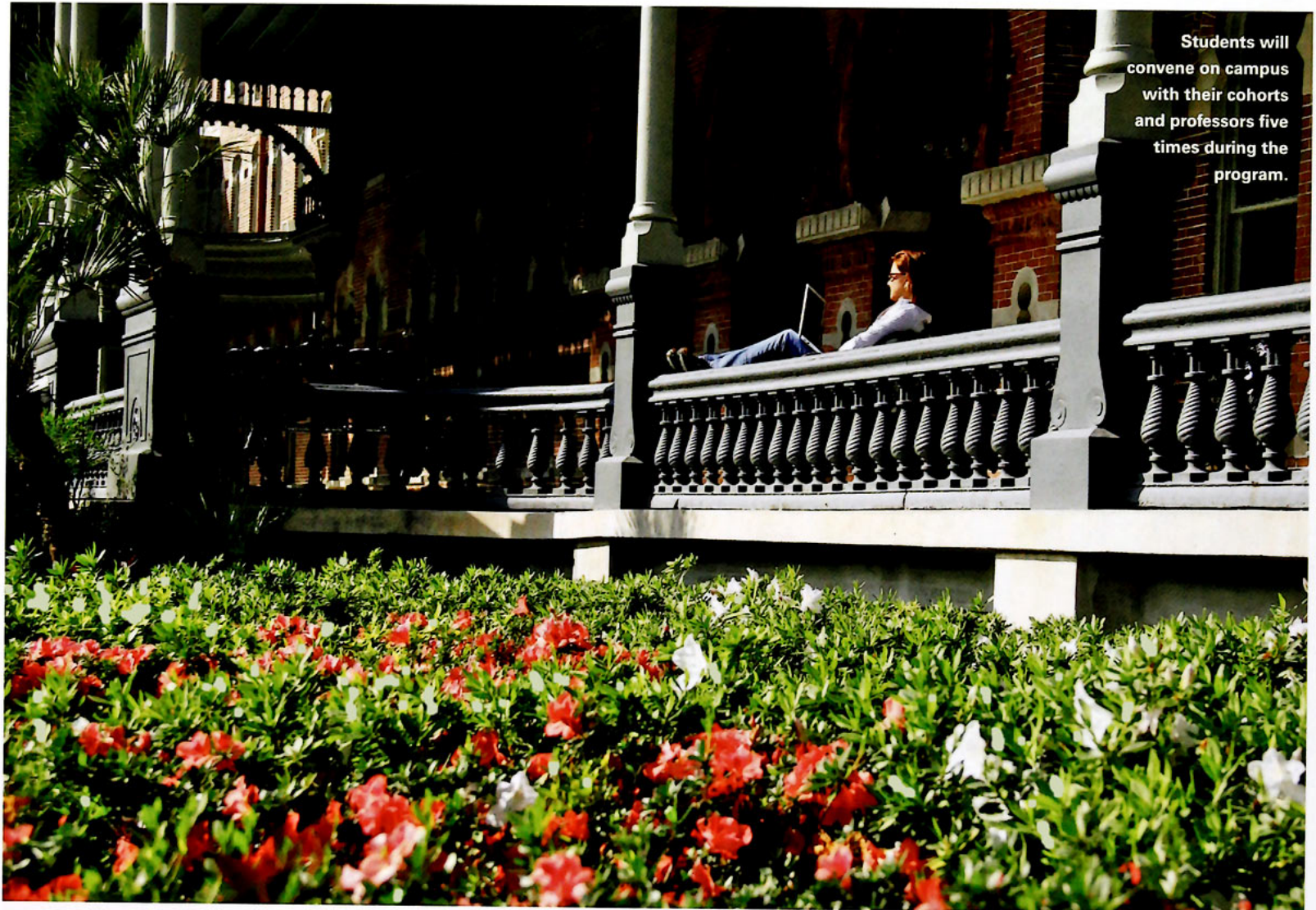
A scholarship student who taught himself English



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Are we fair yet?

news of note



Students will convene on campus with their cohorts and professors five times during the program.

UT Launches MFA Program

New low-residency program in creative writing will begin January 2012

BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2012, UT WILL offer a low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program.

The program is designed to help poets, fiction writers and creative nonfiction writers advance their command of craft through exposure to literature from a writerly perspective and with supportive critique and mentoring, said Donald Morrill, associate dean of the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

"The program offers small work-

shops with personal attention, a passionate literary community of encouraging mentors and peers, and a beautiful campus," Morrill said. "UT is home to inspiration that can last a lifetime."

The program is a two-year, four-semester course of study, and students attend four 10-day working residencies on campus, capped off by a fifth, culminating residency. Each residency is followed by a five-month, one-on-one

tutorial with a faculty mentor. As part of the requirements for the degree, students will complete a substantial manuscript of original work in a selected genre.

The program's inaugural residency will be held Jan. 5-14, 2012.

An anonymous donor provided money to fund visits by distinguished authors, which will enhance the student experience and make UT's program distinctive.

"UT is home to inspiration that can last a lifetime."

—DONALD MORRILL, ASSOCIATE DEAN
OF GRADUATE AND CONTINUING STUDIES

Sabbatical Focuses on Buddhism and Nature

California poets pay tribute to mountains, creeks and flowers

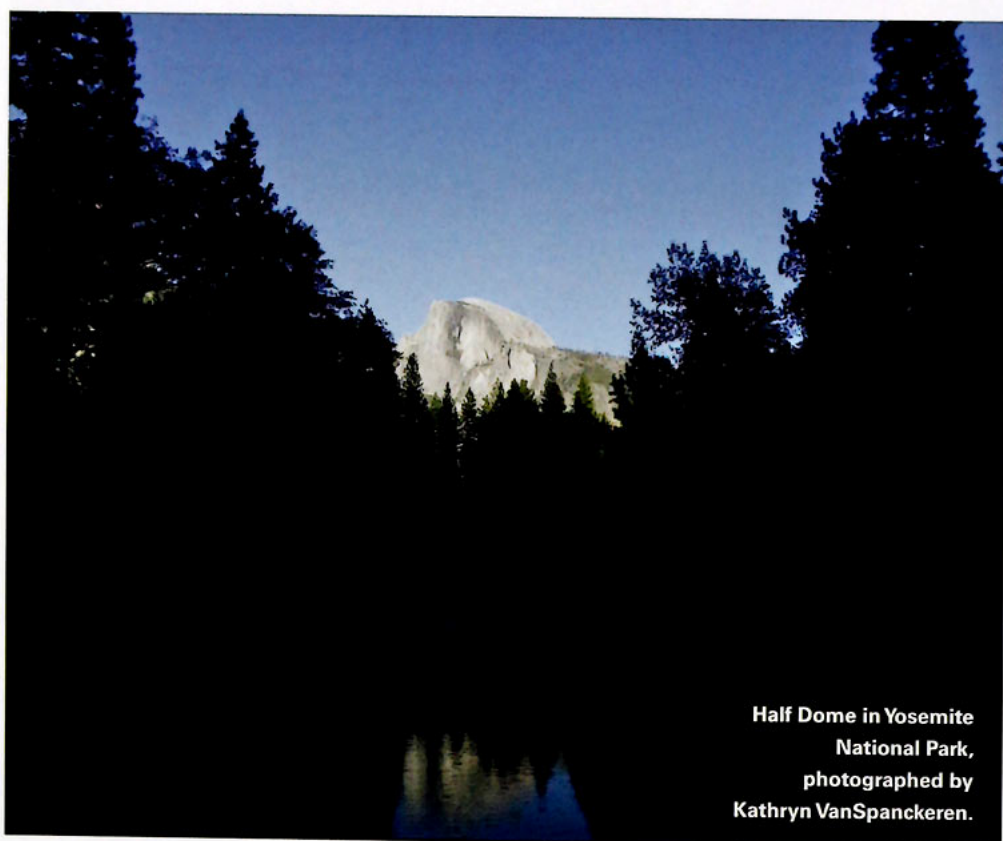
KATHRYN VANSPANCKEREN, professor of English and writing, has taken a sabbatical this spring to do a photo study of Northern California mountains and rivers and has even traveled to Thailand to share her little bit of heaven.

At the Chulalongkorn University International Conference of Oriental Studies in Bangkok, VanSpanckeren presented the paper "Spirited Land: Buddhist Influences on Northern California Nature Poetry," focusing on the influence of Buddhism on American writers today.

"I had so much fun researching this. I was just in bliss," she said. "It brought together everything I love."

VanSpanckeren focused on three major poets influenced by Buddhist thought: Robinson Jeffers, Kenneth Rexroth and Gary Snyder. In her abstract, she says California poets have been more open to Buddhist thought because of the area's regional history, geography, cosmopolitan demographics and cultural independence from the East Coast. The interaction with Native Americans and their harmonious lifestyle with the natural world also impacted these writers.

"All of these writers loved nature," VanSpanckeren said, noting that mountains and stone are all iconic images repeated in their poetry.



Half Dome in Yosemite
National Park,
photographed by
Kathryn VanSpanckeren.

CANDID CAMERA

There's a new webcam overlooking Vaughn Courtyard, so you can see what's going on at UT while you're away. It was funded by the 2010 Senior Class Gift. To see the view, and the view from our other three webcams, visit www.ut.edu/multimedia-gallery.

NURSING RANKS HIGH

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) has named UT a No. 1 nursing program in the country based on its exam passing rate.

UT was listed a No. 1 out of 1,686 programs nationwide and 63 programs in Florida. UT was one of only two Florida schools with a 100 percent first-time taker passage rate for 2009 graduates. The national average rate of passage for first-time exam takers is 90 percent.

The rankings are based on the percentage of graduates passing the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

"This is a great accomplishment for a relatively new program," said Maria Warda, professor of nursing and chair of the department.

Warda said the program's rigorous structure, its dedicated faculty and students' ability to gain real-world experience at more than 100 area health care facilities all contribute to the high passing rate on the exam.

Labyrinth Walk

THE SYKES CHAPEL AND CENTER FOR FAITH AND VALUES held a guided labyrinth walk as part of its spirituality programming this spring. On March 15, Eboo Patel, executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core, spoke on "Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Global Religious Crisis." Named one of America's Best Leaders in 2009 by *U.S. News & World Report*, Patel is a member of President Obama's Advisory Council of the White House Office of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



TKE at UT The fraternity Tau Kappa Epsilon was colonized this semester at UT. The 60 students in the colony hope to get an official charter this May. There was a TKE chapter at UT starting in 1955, but it came and went twice.



College Sex Columns Reflect Reality

DANIEL REIMOLD SAID HE'S READ more college sex columns than anyone on Earth — and all with his grandmother's blessing.

That's because the assistant professor of journalism was doing scholarly research for his book, *Sex and the University: Celebrity, Controversy, and a Student Journalism Revolution*.

"Sex is the topic, but the real spark is student press related," said Reimold. "I'm extremely passionate about college media so student journalism is the impetus behind writing this book."

Published in September by Rutgers

University Press, *Sex and the University* has been written about in a number of publications including the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*. It traces the

direct inspiration of student sex columnists to Carrie Bradshaw, the lead character in the HBO series "Sex and the City."

For most outsiders, Reimold said this leads to the biggest misconception about who these student writers are and what these columns are about.

"Many place these students akin to the Samantha Jones, sex-crazed character versus just what they really are, which is the Carrie Bradshaw-type character

just looking to find love and a little bit of lust through their four years," Reimold said. "They're truly writing about what's happening already on campuses. I'd say they're really more documenters than trendsetters."

With this book, Reimold hopes people move beyond the topic and become intrigued with what makes him passionate: student journalism.

In February Reimold participated in a live chat with *The Washington Post* for reporter Jenna Johnson's blog, "Campus Overload," which covers trends on and off campus, and last fall he was interviewed along with two students on ABC News/Nightline.

Reimold advises UT's student newspaper, *The Minaret*, which has two sex columnists who have covered such topics as safe sex, oral sex and sharing the number of sexual partners.



Daniel Reimold, Assistant Professor of Journalism

Religion and Pop Culture Come Together

Assistant art professor blends photos of pop stars with iconic imagery

CHRIS VALLE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF art, sees parallels between Elvis "The King" Presley and the Christian "King of Kings" icon Jesus, between pop icon Madonna and Mary mother of Jesus, between Kid Rock and St. Thomas.

The artist transposes images from pop culture over Italian altar paintings he recreates from the 15th and 16th centuries, drawing a parallel between religion and pop culture. His paintings from the *Altered Series* were exhibited in Italy this fall in the Contempor ART 2010 at the Galleria D'Arte Mentana in Florence.

Valle was one of five artists chosen for the competitive exhibit, and his participation was made possible with the help of a UT David DeLo Research grant

"I like to show how popular culture is becoming religion for some people," said Valle.

The process starts in Photoshop where Valle does his preliminary studies. He combines sketching and photography to come up with his overlay design, creating a stencil from the television image. When he is finished painting the Italian altar image, he airbrushes through the pop-culture stencil onto the Italian recreation. At this point Valle overlays with decal paper, using new paper with each color.

Valle followed up the Florence exhibit with a November exhibit at the Applebee Gallery in MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL.



Chris Valle, Assistant Professor of Art

Smells Like Sustainability

Students learn the true meaning of reduce, reuse, recycle on field trips

THE SMELL WAS ALMOST VISIBLE, AND UT students grabbed the necks of their shirts to cover their noses. The students were on a tour of the City of Tampa's wastewater treatment facility and were getting a whiff of one of the first steps in purifying the water.

"I had no idea about this whole process," said George Butterly '14, an art history major.

After finishing the tour, Butterly determined that he now probably knows far more than most people do about wastewater. While he didn't find a passion for the industry, he said he can appreciate the process.

The field trip was one of four that Assistant Professor Kiyoko Yokota is taking this semester with the students in her biology course on sustainability. They are set to visit the City of Tampa solid waste facility and Waste Management's Recycle America facility, a

TECO power plant and Sweetwater Organic Community Farm.

"The course is based on experiential learning of environmental science," said Yokota, who created it based on two others she previously taught, combining traditional environmental science with the experiential learning aspects of her Global Issues course.

"I want the students to learn to find sustainable solutions to our everyday lives," she said. "It's a holistic approach. It's to make students aware of what they can do and to not be afraid of science."

She said many of her students are unsure or unfamiliar with the science involved in sustainable practices. She introduces them to it through data collection and hypothesis testing.

Yokota feels strongly about the topic and hopes her students become more aware of the impact they are

having and can have in the future. She is originally from Japan, where she absorbed from her culture the attitude that people should live within their means. As an ecologist, she has a clear picture about the world's limited resources.

"It is very apparent to me that we can't keep throwing away without some careful planning," Yokota said.

REDUCING UT'S FOOTPRINT

Bottles and cans

- 26 bottle and can recycling containers on campus
- 30 containers for the collection of printer, copier and other paper products

Power down

- 19,950 hours of power consumption per week saved when computers automatically shut down after labs close
- 500 occupancy sensors installed in buildings to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces

Paper chase

- 35% recycled content in printer and copier paper
- 68% reduction in paper consumption per student since the Print Sustainability Program was launched

Visit www.ut.edu/sustainability for more information.



Students in Assistant Professor Kiyoko Yokota's class tour the City of Tampa's wastewater facility on a class trip.



Lights, Camera, Art

IMAGES LIKE THIS PHOTOGRAPH BY Natalia Radziejewska were the foundation for the "Shedding Light Project," part of Lights on Tampa, held Feb. 19. The one-night-only biennial city-wide art exhibition features lighted art

installations throughout downtown, and several UT professors participated. The "Shedding Light Project" was produced by Juliet Davis, associate professor of communication, and Stephanie Tripp, assistant professor of

communication, and included videos and photos submitted by community members. Jennifer Rosoff '07 worked with dance professor Susan Taylor Lennon to put on performance theater titled "Shadow Play."

spartan sports



UT's coach called Taylor Wrenn '13 a "natural-born leader on the field."

Spartan Bounces Back from Adversity

YOU COULD HEAR IT IN TAYLOR WRENN'S voice — the pure anticipation for a new season and a fresh start at UT. And if anyone deserved to be excited about the start of the 2011 baseball season, it was definitely Wrenn.

Before coming to UT, Wrenn played for the University of Southern California. A year ago, he was enjoying his winter break at his home in Lakeland, FL, a few weeks before he would make his Division I debut as the starting shortstop. Wrenn felt he had a good fall practice, despite battles with mononucleosis and bronchitis, and was ready to make an impact for the Trojans.

But during the break Wrenn fell ill again with flu-like symptoms and, like many people, was prescribed the

antibiotic azithromycin, also known as Zithromax Z-Pak. On Jan. 8, Wrenn suffered a rare allergic reaction to the drug, causing him to black out while driving and crash into a neighbor's tree. Wrenn was in critical condition and was in a coma for four days after the accident.

Miraculously, Wrenn not only survived the accident, but returned to USC on Jan. 17, and was back on the field practicing with the Trojans just days after waking up from the coma. He started at shortstop in the Trojans' first game against California Polytechnic State University on Feb. 19. But despite Wrenn's amazing comeback, something was just not right. He had lost about 35 pounds in the hospital and his body and mind were having

trouble recovering from the trauma.

"I was starting every game, but I just couldn't get it together mentally," Wrenn said.

Wrenn's expectations for himself as a Division I student-athlete were high, and the pressure of trying to recover from the accident, play baseball and do well academically was too much. After playing 18 games, Wrenn had a conversation with then-head coach Chad Kreuter about being overwhelmed.

"He said, 'I don't care about Taylor Wrenn, the baseball player — I care about Taylor Wrenn, the person,'" Wrenn said. "That was big for me because I realized I didn't have to put so much pressure on myself. I just told them I couldn't play because I wasn't mentally there."

"I went back to USC too quickly after the accident," he said. "I thought I could play, but I probably should have stepped back and realized the magnitude of the situation and rest and regain my body."

Wrenn left the baseball team and finished the spring semester at USC. He quit baseball all together for two-and-a-half months. Finally, his parents talked Wrenn into giving baseball another chance.

Wrenn's summer journey began in the Cape Cod League as a temporary player, but then an opportunity for a full-time position opened in the Northwood League in Minnesota, so he headed to the Upper Midwest.

"I had lost so many at-bats and so much playing time the previous season, so I felt it was better for my career to move up there," Wrenn said. "I was having a really good summer and all of sudden my arm started to feel funny."

After seeing a doctor and undergoing an MRI, Wrenn was diagnosed with a torn labrum — the cartilage in the shoulder joint — which would

greatly affect his ability to throw the ball. Wrenn underwent surgery to repair the tear on July 31.

"I was disappointed, but I had been through so much over the last year that I was like, 'Bring it on, what else do you have for me?'" Wrenn said.

Meanwhile, Wrenn was in the midst of figuring out whether he would continue at USC or transfer. His father, Luke, a baseball scout in Florida for the past 25 years, recommended that he look at UT.

Head coach Joe Urso remembered Wrenn from high school and always thought he would be a great fit for the Spartan program.

"When I heard he had the injury and was looking to transfer, it was definitely worth the chance for us to bring him into the program," Urso said. "I felt like even if the arm does not come back and is ready to go this year, he brings so much to the table offensively."

The Spartans, who lost 10 players to professional baseball, three to graduation and its best pitcher to injury this season, was a team of new faces. During the fall Urso was looking for leadership, and with Wrenn, the coach didn't need to look far.

"One of his greatest attributes is his knowledge of the game of baseball," Urso said. "This kid is a natural-born leader on the field. Even though he is new to our program, he's already taken over one of the captain roles. He does a great job and knows the game as well as any player I've been around."

The transition has worked out great for Wrenn, too.

"I've loved every moment since I've been here," Wrenn said. "I really enjoy my teammates here. We all really get along and do lots of stuff together. I felt like that was missing last year with the team I was on."

—AMY FARNUM

This article first appeared on NCAA.com on Feb. 4.

UT GETS LAX

UT has announced the addition of a men's lacrosse program, which will begin competition in the spring of 2012. The team will compete at the NCAA Division II level, increasing UT's number of varsity sports to 18.

"We are excited to announce the addition of a thrilling sport," said Athletic Director Larry Marfise. "Lacrosse will bring additional enthusiasm to UT athletics and the University. This is a sport that continues to grow in popularity, and I look forward to making this a part of our rich tradition."

The Spartans will play at Pepin Stadium, where UT's men's and women's soccer teams compete. There are currently 37 schools in NCAA Division II participating in men's lacrosse.

Tampa joins fellow-Sunshine State Conference schools Florida Southern College, Saint Leo University and Rollins College along with Florida Tech, who also begins competition in 2012.

UT has hired the all-time winningest coach in Division II, Rory Whipple, who was previously the head coach at Florida Southern College. This marks the fourth program that Whipple has started as he looks to build the Spartans into a national contender.

Visit www.tampaspartans.com for more information.



LET'S GET ROWDY The University held alumni night on Jan. 19 for a game against Florida Southern and had a season-high attendance of 1,148. Spirits were high, though the Spartans lost to the Moccasins, 67-81. You can follow Spartan sports at www.tampaspartans.com, on Facebook or via Twitter at [utspartans](https://twitter.com/utspartans).



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

★ WITH ALL OF THE TRAGEDY IN THE world today — war, natural disasters, economic decline — it's no wonder people are seeking refuge in TV, music, movies, the Internet and more. There's a reason Americans spend billions each year on entertainment. Sometimes you just need to enjoy yourself. ¶ But it's not pure escapism. Research has shown laughter can reduce stress, boost the immune system and provide a general sense of well-being. Entertainment can provide much needed balance in our hectic day-to-day lives. ¶ The alumni in the following pages of the *UT Journal* have devoted their lives to entertaining others. From putting smiles on children's faces, to grooming the next generation of Spielbergs, to making audiences laugh, they have made successful careers out of bringing people fun.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SEAN MCCABE

AMUSEMENT!



.....
THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!
.....

a Wild RIDE

One UT alumnus continues on his forefathers' path, from fair to glowing fair. **BY ROBIN ROGER**

WHEN RICK REITHOFFER '71 WAS A child, he traveled with his family to set up carnival rides at fairs up and down the East Coast. When he was finished working, he would go on the bumper cars as many times as he could. In fact, he said he learned to drive riding those bumper cars.

Nowadays, he drives a two-bed/two-bath house trailer while he takes the rides to fairs, carrying on his family business, the 115-year-old Reithoffer Shows. And he's already started training the next generation to take it over.

"There's no free ride, no silver spoon in any of my kids' mouths," he said. "They all work hard. As my grand-

father always said, 'You can't all ride in the cart. Someone's got to pull it.'"

FAMILY TREE

It was Reithoffer's great-grandfather, Julius Reithoffer, who started the business, back in 1896 after he fled from Germany during a populist uprising. An aristocrat in his homeland, he started out penniless, working in a candy store. He saved enough money to open a general store in Pennsylvania, and eventually bought a steam-driven carousel.

Julius Reithoffer purchased more rides and took them to community fairs using farm wagons first and then





Clockwise from left: The first steam-driven carousel owned by Reithoffer Shows had hand-carved wooden horses from Germany. The company survived the Depression by dividing into traveling units that could play multiple dates simultaneously. Reithoffer brought the Super Himalaya to the Florida State Fair in February. At right: The use of rubber-tired Packard trucks like this one helped the show expand its route in 1918.

the railroad. His son, P.E. Reithoffer, expanded the company by employing a fleet of rubber-tired Packard trucks, and then splitting the company into traveling units to keep it afloat during the Great Depression.

After World War II, P.E. Reithoffer Jr., Rick's father, modernized the company and made portable many theme park rides that used to be anchored. He figured out how to transport these gigantic "super spectacular" rides and expanded the show to Canada and down to Florida.

"My dad brought the show into the 21st century," Rick Reithoffer said. "He was the first one to bring the Super Himalaya to the United States from Europe, and he portabalized it."

He established relationships with ride manufacturers in Europe — Germany, Italy and Holland — and they shared their blueprints for rides. Rick still travels to Europe to find new rides,

often debuting them one or two years ahead of his competitors.

TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW

Reithoffer, who got his degree from UT in industrial arts, knows how all the rides work. He has to know electronics, pneumatics and hydraulic systems.

"There's never a time when I can't be brought into play," he says. "I have to know them all, from the kiddie rides to the merry-go-round to the spectaculars."

Some of them cost upwards of \$1 million. Reithoffer stores them on a huge plot of land in Gibsonton, where they are rehabbed, repainted and ready for action. Rows upon rows of giant rides and rainbow-colored ticket booths lay in wait for the next big show.

A few employees live with their families on the grounds. They travel with the show, and they cart all their equipment with them. There is an

accredited Christian school for the children who travel with the show.

Certain employees travel ahead of the show, getting to the fairgrounds two weeks in advance to prepare. Those driving the rides will get there on a Monday, set up is Tuesday through Thursday and the fair will open that weekend. It can be a logistical nightmare, Reithoffer says.

"People think we're in the entertainment industry, but we're actually in the trucking industry," Reithoffer quips.

All the drivers, whose sole function is to drive the equipment between shows, have to have commercial driver's licenses. Reithoffer also has a foreman, skilled laborers to assemble the rides and crew members to run the rides. He estimates he has about 200 employees, and they hire additional, local workers in the towns where fairs are held.



SAFETY FIRST

Once the rides are assembled, they have to be inspected, which is usually done by a special bureau of each state's Department of Agriculture. Since the rides are taken completely apart and reassembled nearly every week, the inspection process is tough, but these temporary rides can be safer than theme park rides, which aren't inspected as often, Reithoffer says.

"It's just like your personal vehicle," said Allan Harrison, chief of the Florida Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fair Rides Inspection. "You get your oil changed every 3,000 miles. With the wear and tear and stress on the rides, it helps to have another set of eyes looking at them."

It's required by state law that every company at every fair is inspected, he added.

"Reithoffer is one of our premier companies in Florida," said Harrison.

"We permit and inspect over 100 of their rides each year."

Harrison said Reithoffer has a good record with the bureau and has a veteran workforce. He added that he knows all Reithoffer's managers on a first-name basis. He even used to inspect in the field and said Reithoffer would always be there to speak with inspectors.

Reithoffer Shows has worked some of the same fairs for years. The Reithoffer family has been a large part of the Georgia National Fair from its very beginning, more than 21 years ago, said Bob Irwin, chief operating officer of the Georgia National Fairgrounds & Agricenter.

"The key to a really good fair is offering the full spectrum of sensory overload through sights, sounds, smells and experiences and even sneaking in a little education in the process," he said. "A great ride company is such an inte-

gral part of a fair, and Reithoffer Shows certainly lives up to their name as 'The Aristocrats of Show Business.'"

OFF THE ROAD

Though he's proud of his family's showmen past, Reithoffer was reluctant to live in Gibsonton because of its reputation as a carny destination, and all that that implies. (The town once was home to a number of sideshow performers, including "Lobster Boy" Grady Stiles, whose wife hired a hit-man to kill him.)

But many shows spend the winter in Florida, since the weather is good in the off-season and allows for year-round repairs. Gibsonton even has special zoning to allow residents to repair and store rides and food carts within their neighborhoods. Drive down the road in Gibsonton, and it's not long before you see a ride at rest or an idle food cart in someone's yard. The

"WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN MAKING PEOPLE SICK. WE WANT RIDES THAT PEOPLE WILL RIDE OVER AND OVER AGAIN."

— RICK REITHOFFER '71



International Independent Showmen's Association is working on a museum, and Reithoffer has already donated a number of historic items for display.

Reithoffer has a nice-sized home on four acres of riverfront property along the Alafia River. A \$15,000 carousel horse graces his living room. He takes his boat out but can't stand the no-wake signs.

"Rick doesn't do anything slow," an employee says.

Reithoffer says he likes to work hard and play hard. He's on the road seven months a year, traveling to shows, and during the winter he travels to fair conventions. In his off time he goes to the Bahamas to go spearfishing or to Argentina to duck hunt. He also makes a point to take his wife on a romantic vacation at least once a year to places like Greece and Italy.

THE NEXT GENERATION

On a recent work trip to Italy, he read children's faces to gauge their enjoy-

ment of each carnival ride. When a little girl exited one ride, he asked if she'd ride it again. "Of course," she answered.

"We're not interested in making people sick," said Rick. "We want rides that people will ride over and over again."

Rick's given the ride-testing duties over to his children: Ricky, who just received a degree in business management from the University of Florida, and Matthew, who's still in school.

Rick runs the Blue Unit, along with his nephew, cousin and her husband. His brother, Pat, his sister, her husband and their daughter run the Orange Unit. His wife, Maryann, is the secretary and treasurer for the company. His brother's four children are also involved in the business.

He's hoping they'll help the business evolve, sooner, rather than later.

"Everybody's got a good idea," he says. "There's no reason not to listen. I'm hoping they'll make me a better showman."

Above: This antique bandwagon used cardboard sheets to make carnival music, until rats ate the billows. It's now exhibited at the Museum of the American Carnival in Gibsonton. At right: The company recently purchased a 150-foot Ferris wheel with an LED lighting system. The lights alone cost \$250,000.

As he grooms his children and nephews and nieces to take over the business, business isn't slowing down any. The North Carolina State Fair had record attendance in 2010, with more than 1 million people attending, and the Georgia National Fair also hit record highs last year. At the Florida State Fair in February, where Reithoffer Shows provided the biggest Ferris wheel, attendance was up 37 percent from last year, and more than 486,000 people visited the fair in 12 days.

While there's a lot of competition today for children's limited attention — Facebook, texting, Angry Birds — it doesn't seem like fairs are going anywhere anytime soon. **UT**




.....
THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!
.....



TECHNO- TAINMENT



When Pac-Man stormed America to take a bite out of home entertainment, gaming's golden boy appeared to scuttle past Professor Don Marinelli '75. **BY PATRICK FLANARY**



NEW TECHNOLOGY STIRRED LITTLE interest in a drama teacher who demanded entertainment from the stage rather than the screen. And so when the first wave of campus-issued computers arrived at Carnegie Mellon University in 1982, Marinelli shoved the machine into the corner of his office, where it remained untouched for a year. What would he ever need with a computer and monitor?

For a traditional thespian, the irony of one day becoming the country's godfather of entertainment technology was simply cosmic.

When he was snubbed for a promotion within his department in 1995, the tenured drama professor resigned. It forced him to examine his role at CMU, a university lauded for its

theatre and technology programs. The two fields seemed to be racing toward a relevant, singular art form, he realized. *Jurassic Park's* computerized effects and Sonic the Hedgehog's video-game fame proved it. And while CMU students were making this sort of technology on one end of campus, America's oldest drama program thrived on the other.

That was it: Marinelli had to get these two together.

As audacious and intimidating as the idea seemed, the drama professor boldly ventured from the College of Fine Arts into the great unknown — the School of Computer Science. There Marinelli eventually crossed paths with Randy Pausch, who had worked with theme-park designer and developer Walt Disney Imagineering.





The pair was something of a mismatched partnership: Pausch was a lanky, clean-cut scientist nearing 40, Marinelli a stocky, aging hippie with hair that poured over his shoulders. Together, though, the two men would transform how society imagined, created, and enjoyed the media of the future; they launched Carnegie Mellon's Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) in 1998.

"The dynamic between the two of them was healthy tension," remembers Ian McCullough, the first drama student to graduate from the ETC. "And through these tensions, through these oppositions, comes this energy, this fire that is Don Marinelli."

In his 2010 memoir, *The Comet & the Tornado*, Marinelli candidly reflects on his relationship with Pausch, his close friend and ETC office mate for six years. By all accounts, Marinelli was indeed the tornado to Pausch's comet, a whirlwind of theatrical fervor and raw temperament versus a glorious burst of analytical reason and scientific passion. It was a right-brain/left-brain connection. Or, as McCullough observed, "the simultaneous collision of structure and chaos." Pausch, who became a YouTube sensation in 2007 for his acclaimed "Last Lecture," died of complications from pancreatic cancer the following year.

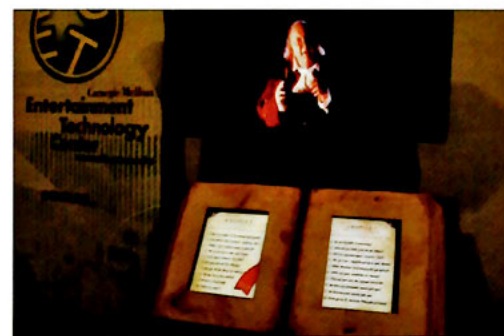
Above: Marinelli said the starship bridge blew William Shatner's mind during a recent visit to the ETC. At right: Synthetic interview technology allows visitors to have a chat with the founding father in "The Ben Franklin Experience."

Since 2001 almost 400 students have earned the master's of entertainment, a comprehensive discipline of improvisational acting, virtual storytelling, and game design.

"You all know more than I do about video games," Marinelli admitted to his first class, before he added, "I just happen to know more about everything else."

Theme, characters, plot. It all plays into how ETC students innovate and build ideas that ultimately set the bar for development in the worlds of animation, special effects, and wireless technology. Field trips to places like Pixar and DreamWorks are common and project teams often partner with companies like Lockheed Martin and Electronic Arts. The ETC operates more like a Hollywood studio than a college classroom; it provides a stage for computer science to moonlight as a performing art.

"It's not about writing research papers," said Asi Burak, who created



a game called "PeaceMaker" while at the ETC. "It's not about the way you articulate necessarily what you did. It's really about making stuff that is engaging and speaks for itself."

Burak now serves as co-president of Games for Change in New York City. Rooted in the ETC, the company leads the world in social-impact video-game development.

Marinelli is giddy at the prospect of opening satellite campuses in Barcelona and Seoul. He's already established an ETC presence in Singapore, Japan, Portugal, and Silicon Valley.

"Interactive digital media is the common language of young people all over the world. And that's really my motivation," he says.

As a group of Ukrainian visitors heads out from his office on a February afternoon, Marinelli, 57, overlooks the city he's called home for 35 years and plots his next move. The model trains

MARINELLI WAS INDEED THE TORNADO TO PAUSCH'S COMET, A WHIRLWIND OF THEATRICAL FERVOR AND RAW TEMPERAMENT.

adorning the windowsill symbolize Marinelli's passion for global travel, while the nodding Pirates bobblehead dolls seem to approve of what's kept him grounded here in Pittsburgh.

Marinelli met his wife while pursuing his Ph.D. in theatre at the University of Pittsburgh, not long after he earned his bachelor's in drama and psychology from UT in 1975.

"I still remember the first time I walked into UT, and it was a themed environment. It was before Disney World. And I was like, wow, these classrooms are themed? And it's an old majestic hotel that looks like it's from the 'Arabian Nights'? Tampa U for me was a living, breathing, educational theme park."

Marinelli was inspired to incorporate a similar concept at the ETC. Guests exit the elevator and immediately encounter a starship bridge fea-

turing 12 screens. Each boasts interactive games and animated planets.

"They're like, 'Oh, my God. Where am I? I've just entered a whole different world.' And I'm like, 'Yep. Just like I did in 1971 when I walked into Tampa U,'" Marinelli marvels.

Figuring he'd be forever pigeonholed as a short, chubby Italian character, Marinelli decided to also study psychology while at UT, a field that offered more post-college security. He even got his master's in clinical psychology at Duquesne University. But the theater bug never relented, so Marinelli went for his doctorate at the University of Pittsburgh before he joined CMU's School of Drama in 1981.

As the ETC's executive producer, Marinelli flew to Asia to talk expansion opportunities. A visit to Microsoft's Seattle headquarters followed; he's got

a project team there in residence this semester. Then it was off to the video game developers conference in San Francisco, before Marinelli hopped aboard a flight to Bradenton for Pirates spring training.

With 150 students enrolled from two dozen countries this year, the ETC has revolutionized the way we interact with each other, from our wireless phones to our diplomacy. And to think it stemmed from the mind of a UT alumnus who shunned his first computer 30 years ago.

"For me, coming from drama, we closed shows all the time. You open, the reviews are terrible, and guess what? You post a closing notice," says Marinelli.

"Fortunately, 12 years later, we're doing very well. We're kind of like *Phantom of the Opera*," he muses. "We're still running." **UT**

UT Creates New Media Producers

UT's major in new media production prepares students for a variety of careers in entertainment. Formerly known as the EMAT — electronic media, art and technology — degree, the Bachelor of Arts in New Media Production helps students understand the logic and process of interactive content creation, digital design, writing for electronic media, digital music production and programming in networked environments.

"In other words, our students learn how to 'speak' the language of the communicator, the programmer, the musician, the writer and the digital artist so they can work effectively and collaboratively in digital advertising, software design, online production and electronic recording and mixing," says Associate Professor of Art Santiago Echeverry, coordinator of the program.

"The program is also preparing our students for a very competitive academic future in graduate schools."

A sampling of courses from five different departments in two different colleges makes it a truly interdisciplinary program. The students follow a structured core curriculum made up of the most relevant courses at the University, and then can choose a concentration in one of the five departments. The major must be flexible, so coordinators can integrate any course that would be helpful in the field.

"So students are not tied to one department or one college, and they get some of the best courses that UT offers," Echeverry said "This is why the major has consistently attracted Honors Program students, as well as very mature and dedicated students. They also know they will learn a diversity of skills that are totally necessary in today's world."

By the end of the program the students have a portfolio of work that includes digital art, interactive programming, electronic music and Web design using current approaches and technologies. Echeverry says the students in the major come away with a sense of independence, maturity and self-motivation.

"These extremely devoted, motivated and talented students create their own support network and help each other constantly, he says. "Believe me, sharing sleepless nights in the labs coding, rendering, programming and designing ends up generating a long-lasting sense of community."

For examples of student work, visit tinyurl.com/studentgame, www.jlstoll.com or youtu.be/9TOBIJx_z2Y. Or scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone. Free code-scanning apps are available for download.



Make 'em LAUGH

Actor Justin Lore '05 has made a career out of
“playing” around. **BY ROBIN ROGER**

WHEN DAVID ISELE FIRST MET JUSTIN Lore '05, he knew he had found a special talent. He asked the freshman if he would sing with his wife at a wedding where the couple had requested a soprano and a tenor.

“He sang in the church, and he blew the roof off,” said Isele, professor of music and composer-in-residence at UT. “I thought, ‘This kid’s going someplace.’”

Not only did Lore have a natural instrument, but he took advice and internalized it well. Isele helped him work on technical things, like how to sing without damaging his voice, and helped him build his repertoire.

Six years later, Lore was back in Tampa, blowing the roof of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts for a starring role in a production of “Forbidden Broadway,” which satirizes musicals from “Cats” to “Chicago.” The show sold out several nights in

its five-month run and received rave reviews and standing ovations.

Lore, who was the star in almost every musical while at UT, still credits Isele with his success. And success is hard to come by in the musical theater business, where competition is steep.

“I’ve been very lucky this year to keep working,” he said. “One job ends, then on to the next. It’s been very hard recently with the economy for theater performers. Theaters have closed down, and jobs have been pretty scarce, especially with the number of people all going for the same job.”

Lore has worked pretty steadily since graduating from UT, first with a theater in Quakertown, PA, then with the Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, PA, a theater in Texas and then a two-year stint on Disney Cruise Lines. The cruise line was the highest paying job, he said. He played Simba, young Hercules and Aladdin during

the shows at night, and the rest of the day he had free.

“People snub their nose at cruise jobs, but everyone’s vying for them,” he said.

In “Forbidden Broadway,” Lore played a number of recognizable characters from famous Broadway shows, from Frankie Valli in “Jersey Boys” to the Phantom of the Opera. The show requires a lot of stamina, because actors must perform a quick change act between scenes to change character and then sing variations on hit numbers from each show, which usually include high — and loud — sustained notes.

“We’re belting it out, night after night, screaming our faces off,” Lore said. One cast member lost her voice.

There is a set show, “Forbidden Broadway: Greatest Hits,” and songs are added or taken out depending on the audience. Several of the shows



spoofed — “The Lion King,” “In the Heights” and “Wicked” — have shown at the Straz Center, so local audiences were likely to have seen them.

“Even if people don’t get something, they still laugh, and they still think it’s funny,” Lore said.

Lore will perform in the “Music Man,” at the Broward Stage Door Theatre in Coral Springs, FL, and there’s talk of a return engagement of “Forbidden Broadway” at the Straz Center in June.

In August he’ll perform at Straz again in a new ’80s-themed musical called “Totally Electric,” about a high school show choir, which was written even before “Glee” became a hit.

Originally from Blackwood, NJ, Lore usually auditions in New York City, where he shares an apartment with four other people, and then travels to shows all over the country.

“It’s exciting,” he said. “Because you never know where you’re going to be next.”

Other successful performing arts majors include Jackie Schram ’09, who was just cast as the lead in a national tour of “The 39 Steps,” a comedic stage adaptation of the Alfred Hitchcock film; Leah Monzillo ’05, who was cast in an ensemble part in *Jekyll & Hyde* at the Westchester Broadway Theater and Michele Wolding ’09, who landed a supporting role in the award-winning TV show “Glee,” as a Cheerios cheerleader (*see page 35 for note*). **UT**



Manning '02 returned to New York City after his mother died. He lives in Brooklyn and continues to write. He provided the photos of him and his mother that appear on the following page.

In his new memoir, Sean Manning '02 writes about leaving his career in New York City to care for his ailing mother.

DIFFICULT "THINGS"

BY JEN MILLER '02 PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAD DECECCO



WHEN SEAN MANNING '02 WAS 26, his mother suffered a heart attack. While she was recovering from the attack and double-bypass surgery, doctors found squamous cell cancer in her left ovary, possibly a result of radiation treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma she had while Manning was a toddler. By the summer of 2007, the cancer had infiltrated a nearby lymph node and then metastasized to her liver.

Manning moved from New York City

back to Akron, Ohio, the day she had the heart attack and, almost every day, stayed with his mom at the Cleveland Clinic until she died in December 2007. In March 2008, he started writing what became *The Things That Need Doing*, a memoir published in December. An excerpt is on the following page.

Manning, 31, earned his MFA in fiction writing from The New School, in New York City. His entrance into book publishing was through editing

non-fiction anthologies: *The Show I'll Never Forget*, which asked writers to remember their top concert experiences; *Rock and Roll Cage Match*, where writers pick between musical rivalries; *Top of the Order*, which asked sports writers to share their favorite baseball players of all time; and *Bound to Last*, which includes essays by authors about their most cherished books. His memoir was reviewed by *The New York Times*. **UT**

I Knew Him When

Sean Manning hasn't changed much since we were both on the editorial staff of the *Minaret* in 2000. He's not, however, the same 21-year-old who tried to convince me to put PG-13 pictures in the paper for fun. He's matured. Exponentially.

His latest project, though, hits as close to home as possible. *The Things That Need Doing* is a heartbreaking story that will be familiar to anyone who has spent hours waiting in the hospital: dense packs of medical terms that are impossible to understand, the incremental progress based on levels and charts and percentages, the rising and fading hope that today will be a good day, and the disaster of knowing that despite all the tests and doctors and procedures and prayers, the person who matters the most cannot be saved.

"I wanted to help get rid of it all," he said as to why he wrote the book. "I don't necessarily believe in catharsis. There's a lot of wonderful people who helped me, and I knew that I was going to start repressing. I wanted to get it down and talk about what they had done."

Woven in, too, was the story of Manning's upbringing in northeastern Ohio, growing up as a child of divorce and how he became a New York writer on a path that ran

straight through UT. Though he admits to spending a lot of time reading in the library (and maybe napping on a library couch), he said that the UT English program allowed him to wander through literature and explore.

The program size helped too. "If you didn't know everyone by name, you at least knew them by face."

Manning had been that face I sort of knew before 2000, when he became assistant editor to the *Minaret* while I was editor. Together, we helmed the paper through the 2000 election and the rapid expansion of the UT campus.

"It was like four years of independent study," he says. He credits the *Minaret* with giving him the discipline to conceive, organize and execute his own book projects.

Manning moved back to New York in April 2008 to work and write. He's focused right now on promoting *The Things That Need Doing* and figuring out what the next project will be. — JM

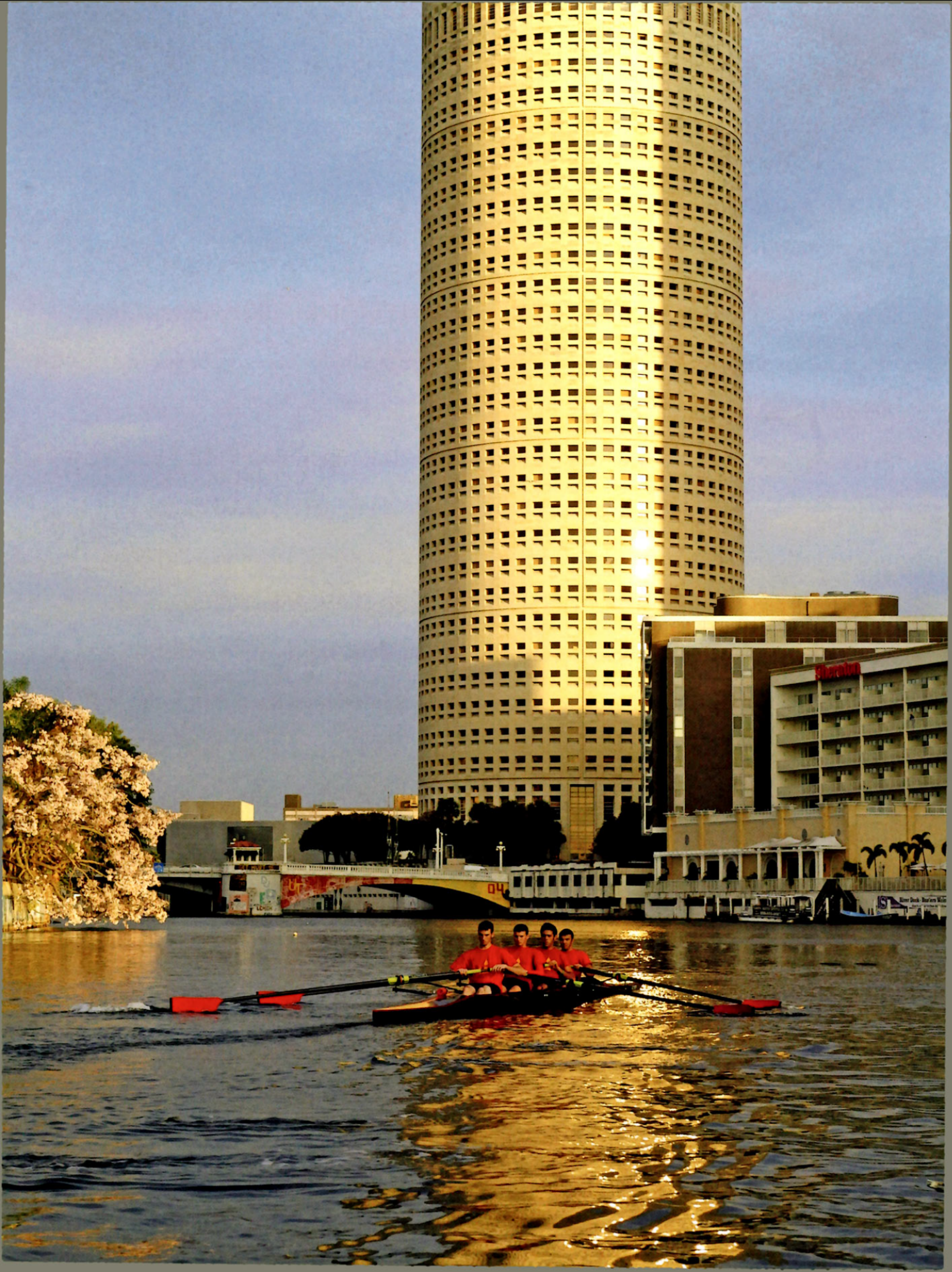
Note: Jen A. Miller '02 is author of The Jersey Shore: Atlantic City to Cape May. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, USAirways Magazine, Continental Magazine and the St. Petersburg Times.

The Things That Need Doing

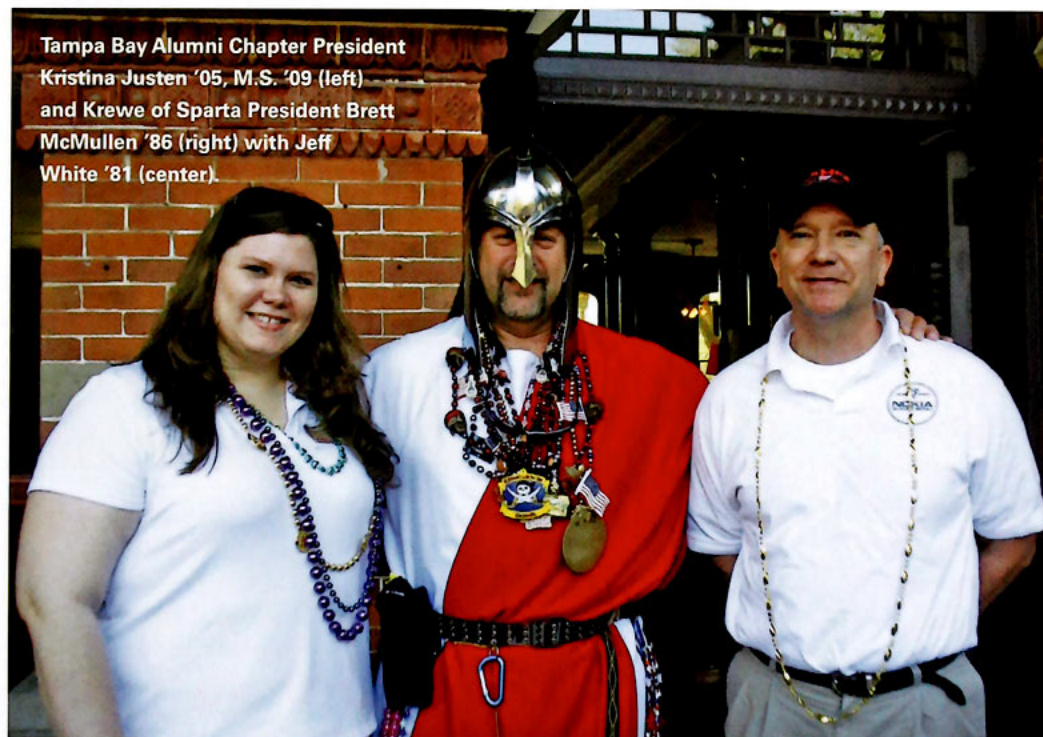
BOOK EXCERPT BY SEAN MANNING '02

It was the second biopsy in three days. Mom didn't know about either of them. Until the results were back, the doctor on rotation saw no use in discouraging or scaring her any more than she already was. But I knew, and herein lay my central dilemma, in this instance as well as with respect to the whole damn mess. Be it a bad dream, a bad breakup, an impending term paper or article deadline, or the feared contraction of a sexually transmitted disease, whenever the least bit worried or afraid, I'd always scurried to Mom for reassurance and guidance — a dependence more pronounced because of the divorce and being an only child. Now, more terrified than ever, I couldn't. Not really. Sure, there were those times I allowed myself to crack, when I'd scoot the high-backed chair as close to the bed as it'd go and lay my head on the mattress edge or on her distended stomach even and let her stroke my ever-lengthening hair. But, with a couple exceptions, that's exactly what I was doing — allowing, letting; those times were intentional, not involuntary, meant to help her as much as myself, remind her of the fact that she wasn't just some sick person stuck in a hospital, that she was a mother, my mother, that she had a purpose, that she was still needed.

Because she was — God, was she ever. Her mere presence, the fact that she was simply still alive, was a comfort exceeding words. But when it came to instilling confidence and deflecting fear, our roles had unquestionably reversed.



alumni report



Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter President Kristina Justen '05, M.S. '09 (left) and Krewe of Sparta President Brett McMullen '86 (right) with Jeff White '81 (center).

A New Chapter

THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE IN THE Tampa Bay area may have noticed something new about your local alumni chapter. Effective this past fall the board of Tampa Alpha voted to rename the group the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter.

Tampa Alpha was the first alumni chapter created after the UT Alumni Association went national in 1969. Since it was the first regional chapter, it became Tampa Alpha (named after the first letter in the Greek alphabet) and was followed by Washington, D.C. Zeta, Atlanta Theta and New York Sigma (just to name a few). All of the other regional groups have since dropped their Greek letter designation, but Tampa Alpha remained.

While many alumni take pride in Tampa Alpha's history, recent graduates didn't know what Tampa Alpha meant.

"This past summer we sent out a survey to all alumni in the Tampa Bay area and found that most were not

aware that there was a local chapter," said Kristina Justen '05, M.S. '09, chapter president. "The board felt that one major factor was the name Tampa Alpha, which became a bit of a stumbling block for recent grads. We decided that while the Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter is a bit wordy, it really does get the message across."

This year the board worked hard to re-energize the chapter by changing the name, updating its mission and adding events to reconnect with local alumni. Monthly meetings were replaced by social events, and business is now handled by the board.

For instance, in January the chapter held a golf-themed pub crawl, which included popular UT hangouts MacDintons and The Rack. The chapter also teamed up with UT's Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies to do lunch-and-learns at local businesses, such as Franklin Templeton Investments and

Raymond James Financial. The chapter also attended several sporting events, such as a Buccaneers game in December and a Lightning game in March.

"We hope that by offering a diverse range of events, alumni from any generation will find something appealing and will attend," said Justen.

The group has continued to offer its trademark events like the Gasparilla Brunch in January and the Brian Claar Golf Classic in April. In its 20th year, the golf tournament is the predominant fundraiser for the chapter. The proceeds from the event go to the Annual Fund, as well as the chapter's endowed scholarship, which ranged from \$2,500 to \$10,000 annually. Since its inception the chapter has contributed close to \$700,000 to the University.

To encourage alumni to join, the chapter has kept the dues the same since the organization began. For \$25 a year, or \$40 for joint membership, members get free or discounted admission to events and socials throughout the year. For example, admission is free to the Gasparilla Brunch (a \$40 value), and the golf tournament is \$25 off.

The chapter also increased its communication with members by sending out a monthly Spartan Connections e-newsletter.

If you would like to join or learn more about the chapter, go to alumni.ut.edu or contact Justen at tampabayalumni@spartans.ut.edu.

For information on how to start a chapter in your area, contact Jessica Burns '04, M.S. '08 at (813) 258-7481 or jburns@ut.edu.



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

class acts

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

60 **Dr. Patricia Manning** received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Jess Parrish Medical Foundation for her contributions in making a positive difference within the community of Brevard County. Since Patricia retired from teaching, she has diverted all of her energy and passion to educating the community.

69 **Joe Virgilio** became a proud grandfather of identical twin boys. Joe is retired from elementary and middle school administration after more than 36 years of service.

70 **Margaret A. Jones**, asset servicing professional for MMC Inc., has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in mortgage management.

73 **Jay Scherline** received the 2010 Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth from the Boy Scouts of America. The award is presented by the National Council for distinguished service to young people in a local council. Jay is an attorney with Scherline & Associates in Allentown, PA.

76 **Sean Evans** just returned to Las Vegas from his second deployment to Iraq. He served as a senior advisor in the ITAM-INTEL JSS Shield Advisory Team.
E-mail: oceans54@gmail.com

Tom Feaster MED was inducted into the Marietta College Athletics Hall of Fame. Tom was a member of the Marietta College crew team from 1966-1969 and served as a captain during his senior season. He resides in Tampa.



David Tedford '87 (left) spent time with Victor Rincon '83 in Puerto Rico.



Welcome to the Golden Years

(From left) Rosemary Hurley Leathers '58, Howard Waddell '58, Kay Waddell and Doris Cothorn Sempert '57 gathered at the Golden Spartan Society Lunch in February to honor the Class of 1961. The Golden Spartan Society recognizes alumni who graduated from UT 50 plus years ago, and the group meets each spring to induct a new class.

81 **Leilani Gordon** recorded her 400th victory as coach for the girls basketball team at Riverview High School in Riverview, FL.

82 **Alan Charles** emerged victorious in the Monticello Raceways Heritage Drivers Harness Racing Series Final in Monticello, NY. He reined Daisy's Shark to a six-length victory in this annual race dubbed the All America Cup. He resides in New York.

84 **Paul Duncan** was a finalist for Hernando County Teacher of the Year. He teaches seventh-grade math at Powell Middle School in Brooksville, FL.

Bob Pette was hired as vice president of professional solutions

and services for Perceptive Pixel Inc., the leading developer of advanced multi-touch solutions.

85 **Dawn Clark and Chris "Spider" Haggblom** were married on Oct. 16, 2010, in Sebastian, FL. The best man was **Brett McMullen '86**, and the matron of honor was **Stephanie Tripp '83**. Dawn was editor of the *Minaret* and Chris was editor of *Quilt* when they were students at UT.

87 **John T. McQueen** was named president and CEO of the Anderson-McQueen Family Tribute Centers in St. Petersburg. He is a lifetime member of the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice and serves on the board of trustees,

UT COMES TO YOU For regional events in Atlanta, Philly and New York, visit alumni.ut.edu.

is an adjunct instructor at St. Petersburg College, and is the owner and president of Sunnyside Cemetery Inc. He is also founder and president of Affordable Memorials. E-mail: twhittaker@pinstripemarketing.com

David Tedford traveled to Puerto Rico with his wife Linda to celebrate their 19th wedding anniversary. While there, his tour guide was his roommate from UT, **Victor Rincon '83** who lives on the island. Both families had a great time together, and Victor brought them to all the local spots. E-mail: david.tedford@rentsysrecovery.com

88 **Buck Dougherty III** was appointed to the Collierville Construction Board of Appeals. The Construction Board of Appeals meets to hear appeals of decisions and interpretations of the building official and consider variances of the codes.

89 **Lt. Col. Benjamin Lacy** was selected as a state aviation officer for the Florida Army National Guard. He has served more than 20 years and led soldiers in combat and imminent danger.

90 **Ronald Mudry MBA** was named CEO, chairman and president of Tower Cloud, which builds networks for cell phone carriers. He brings 27 years of experience in the telecommunications industry to the company.

93 **Cathy Bellatin, Julie Fowler Bosselman, John Holton, Todd Jordan, John Koutroumanis, Karen Pigeon Liebel, Anthony Newman and Kelli Stover-Anderson** got together for a reunion in Tampa this fall. Joining them were **John Jackson '95, Dean Koutroumanis '89, MBA '91,**



spartan spotlight

Deloris Carter '50

Twirler Extraordinaire

When 130 women came to a reunion of Deloris Carter's baton twirling pupils, she was pleased, but not surprised.

"It's pretty hard to surprise somebody when hundreds of people know about it," Carter '50 said of the reunion planned by her daughter.

And the 130 who showed were only a fraction of the thousands Deloris estimates she taught in her 63 years as a twirling instructor.

Starting in high school and continuing while she was a student at UT, Deloris taught students in Plant Park. She called her UT pupils The University of Tampa Twirlettes.

She continued to teach after graduating and held a baton twirling camp for 25 years. Girls would come from all over, including the Bahamas, Belgium and France.

Every year her students held a "Twirlarama," showing off what they'd learned. Deloris taught baton twirling, fire baton, fancy strutting, majorettes and modeling.

She took her students to march in parades

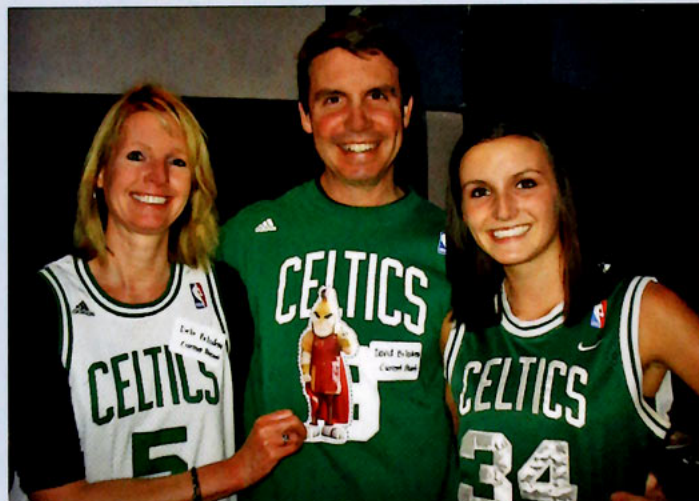
like Gasparilla and the New York World's Fair.

But twirling's not all she taught. Deloris taught English and social studies in elementary, middle and high school for 30 years. With a master's degree in counseling and guidance and a license to practice psychotherapy, she was director of the guidance department for Eustis High School until she retired in 1992.

"People often ask me why I taught little children for so many years," she said. "When you're teaching school the children don't always look happy – but when you're teaching twirling and you look behind you, they're always smiling."

After retiring, Deloris opened an antique store called the Umatilla Antique Market and Bookstore right next door to an Ace Hardware store owned by her husband and son.

"When you're a little girl, you have a playhouse," she said. "As a big girl, I have 5,500 square feet of gifts, antiques and used furniture. That's where I spend my time now."



The Luck of the Irish

During an alumni and parent event, current parents Debra and David Bilodeau, and their younger daughter, Christina (right), enjoyed meeting Flat Sparty and other families at The Greatest Bar before the Boston Celtics game March 4 against the Golden State Warriors.

Mark Liebel '94 and Megan Stover Tercha '95. The group had dinner at Antonio's, which is owned by John and Dean Koutroumanis. E-mail: specialevents@humanesocietytampa.org

96 Jen Lehman Mackie MBA '07 and Ryan Mackie '95 are happy to announce the arrival of Keller Grayson Mackie, who was born in May 2010. E-mail: jenleh@hotmail.com

98 Janel Tackney Gonzalez not only welcomed her newborn girl Ruby Nel last March, but she also landed a new position as a Gold Manager with Gold



Turner and Keller Grayson Mackie

Canyon. She and her husband, Anthony, reside in Tampa. E-mail: janel.gonzalez@goldcanyon.us

99 Jacqueline Hoffman completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in August 2010 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and accepted the position of adjunct clinical assistant professor in the College of Nursing, supervising the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program. E-mail: baby.nurse@verizon.net



Stacy Estes '02 and Jason Yates

01 Cheryl Giannino married Rob Thomas from Everett, MA, in July 2010. The couple lives in Hawaii, and Cheryl works as an analyst for First Hawaiian Bank. E-mail: cthomashawaii@yahoo.com

02 Shirnetha Brisbon has expanded her business, D&B Marketing. She has opened two virtual boutiques: Sterling Silver Boutique and Exquisite Favors Boutique. She resides in Tampa.

Stacy Estes married Jason Yates in June 2010 in Tampa. The couple resides in South Tampa, and Stacy is an attorney at Mandelbaum, Fitzsimmons & Hewitt P.A. E-mail: sey@manfitzlaw.com

Jeff Grim is going to Antarctica to study a unique fish that has transparent organs and blood. Known as "ice fish," these fish have adapted to the coldwater temperatures by having larger hearts, more blood and antifreeze proteins.

Jen Miller has released the second edition of her book *The Jersey Shore: Atlantic City to Cape May*. The first edition was called a must-read by AARP. For information on the book, visit Jen's blog at downtheshorewithjen.com. (See page 35.)

Ricardo Villarreal MBA is directing his second documentary, this time about the benefits of exer-

cising to fight Parkinson's disease. To learn more about the film, visit www.ridewithlarrymovie.com. Ricardo resides in California. E-mail: Ricardo@skovi.com

03 Lynley Weade Fischbach and Jason Fischbach welcomed with love their first son, Sebastian Paul Fischbach, on Dec. 1, 2010. Mother, father and baby are all doing fine and reside in Brandon, FL. E-mail: lweade@czgraphics.com

Luke Medvey is serving as a logistician in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under the U.S. Embassy for Security Cooperation and is helping bring stability to the Middle East. E-mail: Luke.Medvey@gmail.com

Andrew Saltman married Kelly Ann Yee in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, at the world-famous Sawgrass Tournament Players Club. He is currently running for state representative in the Sarasota area and also founded a Sarasota-based sports management company called Solace Sports, which manages contracts in the NFL and NBA. E-mail: saltman@solacesports.com

Bryan Swanson was featured on the Discovery Channel reality show "Hogs Gone Wild." His company, Allstar Animal Removal in St. Petersburg, was the main company featured in the 10-episode series about rounding up feral pigs from throughout Florida.



Lynley Weade Fischbach '03 and her husband, Jason, with their son



Beth Wallace MBA '06 and Brian Metz MBA '06



When Monica Sheridan '05 got married, Josh Jones '08 was a groomsman, Adam Jones '04 was an usher, and Kelly McDermott '03, Deanna (Pollina) Silva '05 and Amanda Matsumoto '04 were bridesmaids. Joelle Maki '06 was the photographer.

04 Kella Dawson Swift and her husband, Curtis, welcomed their first baby, Curtis Brian Swift III, in September 2010. The couple resides in Woodbridge, VA. E-mail: kelladawson@hotmail.com

05 Monica Sheridan married Ryan Cook in July 2010 at Christ the King Church in Tampa. The reception was held at UT, where Monica works as an associate director of admissions. E-mail: mcook@ut.edu

06 Rey Futch became engaged to Christian Urbat of Wernigerode, Germany. Rey is vice president of *Blu Tampa Bay* magazine and the marketing agency Fourthdoor Creative Group. They are planning an October 2011 wedding in Boca Grande.

Brian Metz MBA married Beth Wallace MBA in Napa Valley last spring and started a new job as director of business development for Agile Thought, provider of software

solutions to Fortune 1,000 companies in Tampa, FL. Brian and Beth met at UT in September 2004. E-mail: brian.metz@agilethought.com

Melaura Meyers and Alexa DaSilva '08 are in the doctorate program at Charles University, 1st Faculty of Medicine in Prague, Czech Republic. (See *Flat Sparty* photo this page.)

Sherri Roeding and Adam Everett were married on Sept. 10, 2010, in Ault Park in Cincinnati.

Kali Shelor is a research associate with the Center for Contemporary Conflict, a small Department of Defense think tank in Monterey, CA.

Aaron Stone became the drama teacher at Braden River High School in Bradenton, FL.

Ericka Womack-Brown was one of three female dancing ensemble roles in *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy* at Busch Gardens. Some of the costumes she wore included a unicorn, lizard, emu, giraffe and a butterfly.



The World is Flat

Flat Sparty made his way to the Gasparilla Pre-Parade Brunch on the Plant Hall Verandah, posing with Ginger Lynn '03 (left) and Amanda Devona '04.

David Virgilio '98, MBA '00 posed with Sparty in Auckland, New Zealand, and Alexa DaSilva '08 (left) and Melaura Meyers '06 (right) hung with Sparty in Prague's St. Wenceslas Square.

If you want to appear with Flat Sparty in the *Journal*, simply print page 23 of the Spring 2010 issue at www.ut.edu/utjournal and e-mail your photos to publicinfo@ut.edu.



COME HOME 2011 Homecoming and Reunions will be Oct. 20-23. Go to alumni.ut.edu for information.

spartan spotlight

Susan Barnes '94

Feel the Rhythm



When UT participated in Arte 2010, a city-wide, biennial celebration of performing and visual arts from Latin America, Susan Barnes '94 came back to her alma mater to teach current students a thing or two.

Barnes visited Susan Taylor Lennon's class to give a workshop on Caribbean movement last November. The master dance class "Caribbean Essence" was a menagerie of ages, sexes and cultures, as Barnes brought 11 of her students, from ages 11 to 20, with her on the visit. The Caribbean music flowed out onto North Boulevard like a warm breeze.

Barnes defines her style as a unique fusion of movement that embodies the modern contemporary genre. It's a full body concert using the hips as conductor.

"I'm hoping this lecture demonstration will encourage them to liberate their movements," said Barnes.

She spoke about teaching not just movement but values to her students and

how her life has come full circle back to the University and the professors who inspired her to live her passion.

"I think it was my exposure here at UT that cemented my dream that it is possible to have a career in dance," said Barnes, who received a B.A. in psychology with a minor in dance from UT and her M.A. in dance education from New York University.

She is a founding member and a principal dancer for the Cayman Islands National Dance Company — Dance Unlimited and the owner/director of Barnes Dance Academy Limited (BDAL) in the Cayman Islands.

She credits Lennon, chairwoman of the speech, theatre and dance department, for encouraging her to pursue dance and the small classes at UT for providing the type of atmosphere that encouraged her to grow.

"Her belief in me made all the difference in the world," Barnes said. "Coming from a small environment, it was important that I was nurtured as well as trained. Now I'm doing for my students what Susan Taylor Lennon did for me. How she taught me is how I teach my students."

Lennon thought her current students had a lot to learn from her former pupil.

"On a pedagogical level, our UT students are seeing how much of our movement is influenced by Caribbean movement," Lennon said about Barnes' visit. "My guess is they'll be impressed with how good these kids are. I think this will give our students a good jolt."

Barnes gave another presentation, which was open to the public.

She also choreographed a performance for UT's Evening of Experimental Dance, in conjunction with ARTE 2010.

"Being involved in Arte highlights our internationality of curriculum, and it sends a message to our students that we honor and respect our students that have gone on," Lennon said. "It makes a nice mixing pot of synchronicity."

07 Cherianna Griggs was hired as creative director for yourmembership.com.

Jennifer (Johnson) Lacey started a new company, Sisterly Staging Solutions, a full-service home staging company dedicated to helping home sellers achieve their asking price. She lives in Tampa.

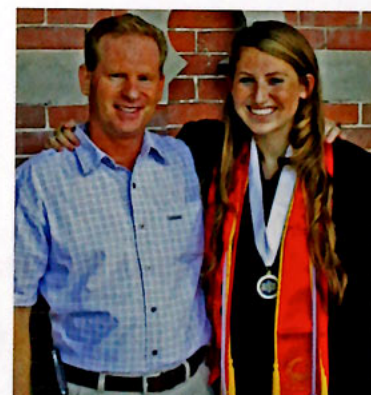
08 Alex McCleery is teaching English in Korea.

Jessie Weissman is a second-year law student at Stetson University College of Law. She is a member of the Trial Team, which is ranked #1 in the nation by *US News and World Report*. Last summer she studied for two weeks with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in Rome on the topic of separation of powers.

09 Casey Albanese graduated last year as



Michele Wolding '09



Clyde Eisenberg '80 and his daughter, Amber '10



(From left) Jacqueline Curley '08, Kim Dawson '09 and Laura Nugent '07 during a visit to China last fall.

a special agent from the agent trainee program for the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration in Quantico, VA. At graduation, he was presented the class award for being No.1 in physical fitness and second place award for firearms. Casey's first assignment is the Miami Field Division.

Peter Arrabal married **Karen Parlee '07**. The couple has a 2-year-old daughter, Mary Grace, and they reside in Bethesda, MD.

Sarah Bernstein is currently working at Edelman, the largest private public relations firm, doing cutting edge social media work on behalf of Fortune 500 companies in Washington, D.C. E-mail: Sarah.h.bernstein@gmail.com

Kim Dawson, Jacqueline Curley '08 and **Laura Nugent '07** visited Beijing, Suzhou, Hangzhou and Shanghai, China from Nov. 10 to 19.

Shannon Grippando is teaching English in Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme.

Justin Pecka is the assistant coach for UT's men's basketball team.

E-mail: justinpecka@yahoo.com

Michele Wolding landed a supporting role in the award-winning TV show "Glee," as a Cheerios cheerleader. She also played a Zeta Beta Zeta in the TV show "Greek," with Spencer Grammer (Kelsey Grammer's daughter).

10 Amber Eisenberg was accepted into the Lake Erie College of Medicine and will begin her studies in July.

E-mail: cbe100@hotmail.com

Alex Hetland MBA captured a bronze medal at the 2010 FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai, representing his home country of Norway.



Bucs, Burgers and Beer

(From left) Eric Rossmeisl '07, Zac Lessin '08, Tristan McMorran and Jessica Gillespie enjoyed the tailgate party on Dec. 5 before heading to the Buccaneers vs. Atlanta Falcons game with other Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter members.

Katie Leonick is a box office manager for the minor league baseball team the Newark Bears.

Alex Monroe started a job at Academy Prep of Tampa as a development coordinator.

Melanie Munger took photos for the *Sunshine State News* during the November mid-term elections, covering rallies for Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and gubernatorial candidate Alex Sink.

Clarine Ovando-Lacroux is in Kenya working with a United Nations program with disadvantaged youth participating in the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. She also won an award for her service from Sociologists Without Borders.

Nick Peterson started his own personal training business in Tampa called Body Shapers. Nick is an NASM Certified Personal Trainer.

Kenny Quirk started a position with marketing agency Chappell-Roberts.

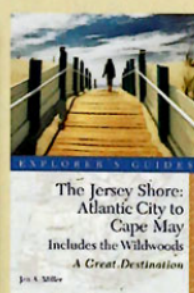
Meghan Sherman signed a contract to play for a professional

volleyball team in Bekescsaba, Hungary.

Ryan Thompson signed a two-year contract to play professional soccer for the Shamrock Rovers of the Irish Professional Soccer League.

IN MEMORIAM

Martha Powell Brincklow '39
Norma Rollins Hackney '40
Frances Piazza Collins '44
Frances A. Moshell '44
Fred McClendon '54
Warren Haasl '56
Henry McFarlan "Mac" Williams '57
Robert Childress '69
Marie A. Mills '69
Martha Holden Turner '69
Richard Bernstein '73
Anne Elizabeth Smith '76
Robin M. Stephenson '85
Robert Hart '87
Norman Thomas Haines '87
George David Rodriguez '87
William Cash '90
Rachel Lisi '01
Travis Wayne Hill '03
Melissa Watson '05



Two alumni recently published books:

The Things That Need Doing by Sean Manning '01 (see feature page 24.)
The Jersey Shore: Atlantic City to Cape May, 2nd edition by Jen Miller '02

brick by brick

David Virgilio '98, MBA '00
outside the offices
of Macquarie Energy in
Houston, TX.

staff member was Dean Bob Ruday. Bob was my strongest ally during my four years in student government. He is a mentor, confidant and friend.

Q: How did UT prepare you for what you do now?

A: My current profession is unique in that universities do not teach their students how to trade hydrocarbons. However, what UT did was prepare me for the challenges I face when structuring complex deals. Additionally, my extracurricular experiences taught me the challenges of dealing with "the customer," which I do each and every day.

Q: How do you stay connected to UT?

A: I remain active by (1) contributing to UT's growing endowment and (2) being a member of the Board of Fellows. The Board of Fellows has given me an outlet to support the University's cause and leverage my relationships in the business community to advocate for UT and help it garner even more financial support.

Q: Why do you support UT?

A: UT served as my extended family and home for six very important years of my life. In those six years, I had the opportunity to associate with amazing faculty, staff, fellow students and passionate supporters of the University. As I became more involved with SG, and thus, more involved with University stakeholder groups such as the Board of Trustees, Fellows and Counselors, I admired their unwavering philanthropic support for the University. I vowed that I, too, would be successful like them and extend my support to the University with the same conviction. I want as many students as possible to experience the same quality education that I experienced.

common good

WHY I GIVE: David Virgilio '98, MBA '00

Majors: Marketing and Spanish

Current Profession: Senior vice president and associate director of energy trading for Macquarie Energy LLC

Q: What do you like best about UT?

A: I was attracted to UT's small size and urban setting. I knew I would get the attention I needed to excel academically while having access to the business community to forge relationships for the future. Plus, who can resist studying in one of the most beautifully constructed buildings in the world?

Q: Favorite place on campus?

A: The Student Union and more specifically, the Student Government Office was by far my favorite destination on campus. As a member of SG, I was

required to spend a certain amount of hours per week addressing students' issues. Given its proximity to the Student Activities Office, *The Moroccan* and *The Minaret*, it was a great place to network with students, faculty and staff. To this day, I miss the relationships that were formed over four years in the Student Union.

Q: Most memorable professor?

A: My most memorable professor was Dr. Martin Favata, professor of languages and linguistics. My intent was to graduate with a single major in marketing. However, after one semester with Dr. Favata, including numerous visits to his office to converse casually with him in Spanish, he convinced me to double major. The most memorable

"To me you all are more than donors; you are teachers. You are teaching a lifestyle of generosity."

—JOSÉ RINCÓN '11

Board of Fellows Celebrate 40 Years

THE BOARD OF FELLOWS, FOUNDED IN 1971, serves to strengthen the ties between the University and the local business community. Fellows serve as goodwill ambassadors within the community and support UT financially. The group includes 130 local business leaders and executives. Key programs are the Business Network Symposia and the Fellows Forum. The January BNS had more than 280 attendees, and this year's Fellows Forum featured CEOs from Publix Super Markets, The HoneyBaked Ham Co. of Georgia and Jabil Circuit. More information about the Board of Fellows can be found at www.ut.edu/board-of-fellows.



Fellows members at a recent social event (from left) Julie Smith, Jackie Buckler (chair), Sarah Brownlee, Steve Murray and John Foster.

GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

Gifts made from Oct. 11, 2010–Feb. 4, 2011.

In Honor

KYLE MADDEN

Linda Madden

DR. MICHAEL MENDELSON

Lynn Mendelson

JOHN AND SUSAN SYKES

The Lowry Murphy Family Foundation

DR. MICHAEL TRUSCOTT

Lt. Col. Jeffery H. Thomason

THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Saoud Alanjari

In Memoriam

WILLIAM "SKINNY" ANTONINI

Avron and June Bryan

SAM BAILEY

Mr. and Mrs. Reg Colvard

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Davis

Sylvia Miller Foster

RITA BODO

Helen Catherine Daley

BARBARA ELIZABETH CASEY

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José Rincón '11 titled his photograph of a boy in Vietnam (in the background) "Tomorrow will be better."

the annual fund

Finding Your Path

IN SPRING 2000, JOSÉ RINCÓN '11 LEFT everything he knew behind. He left his family, his friends and even his native language to come to the U.S. in search of better opportunities.

"There are not a lot of opportunities in Colombia and, at the time, it was not a very safe place to be," Rincón said. "My mom was a single mom, and I didn't want to add any more pressure on her to help me succeed."

Within a month of making Tampa his home, Rincón was employed at a Publix Super Market.

"On my first day, the supervisor told me to re-stock the water," he said. "I didn't know the word 'water,' so he had to show me what he was talking about."

Rincón worked full time at Publix for years while holding other part-time jobs. He clocked more than 70 hours of work nearly every week for almost a decade. But he always found extra time to work on his English.

Eventually, through his job at Publix, Rincón met several police officers.

They helped him secure a job as a 911 dispatcher with the Temple Terrace Police Department, and he found a new love: law enforcement. In 2007, the city had a little extra money and offered Rincón a scholarship to attend Hillsborough Community College (HCC).

He wanted to get his associate degree and become a police officer, but his professors encouraged him to earn a bachelor's degree. He researched a lot of universities, but knew he wanted to attend a school similar to HCC.

"UT had everything I wanted," he said. "The classes were small, the reputation great and professors are known for working directly with students."

The cost presented a challenge to Rincón, who was working full time and had just gotten married. He was accepted to UT's Honors Program and offered a scholarship package that consisted of Annual Fund dollars and endowment funds from the Krewe of Sant' Yago Education Foundation.

Since enrolling at UT, Rincón has

traveled the country attending pre-law events and conferences and presenting papers in New Orleans, Boston and Washington, D.C. Rincón has also been published in UT's honor's magazine, *Respondez*, and taken the photograph for the front cover of the Spartan's Abroad Calendar.

"Through my professors I have discovered my passion for the legal system and now plan to go to law school," he said. "I am hoping to specialize in international law, but I have a soft spot for adoptions too. I would like to have the opportunity to help other children in need find a family."

Rincón has also interned for the re-election campaign of Senator Bill Nelson, meeting politicians like former President Bill Clinton.

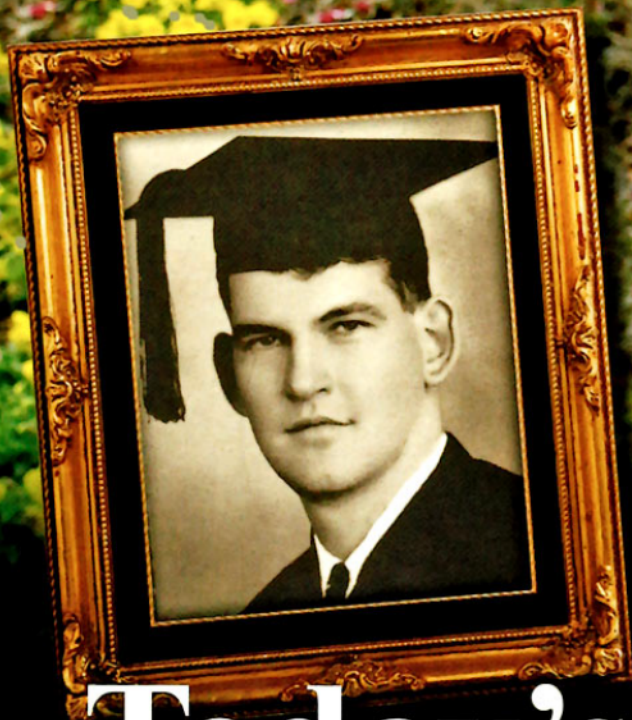
"More than anything, as a new American citizen, I have learned a lot about politics while at this internship," he said. "I have seen first-hand what it takes to run a campaign and how to network. I have gotten a behind-the-scenes look at American politics."

Rincón will graduate in May with a degree in government and world affairs. He and his wife are expecting their first child, Olivia, in June, and he will be sitting for the LSAT in July. He plans to attend the University of Florida College of Law next year.

"There are not many times that you get to thank a person for changing your life," he said. "So many strangers have helped me afford an education. I want to take every chance I get to thank everyone who helped me complete my undergrad education and move on. To me you all are more than donors; you are teachers. You are teaching a lifestyle of generosity. I will never forget the opportunities that have been given to me."



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



Today's Plans Tomorrow's Leaders

During his lifetime, biomedical engineer **Charles Goulding '39** found a way to produce penicillin more efficiently, saving many lives. Today he continues to change lives through the bequests he made to UT in his will: one that provides chemistry scholarships, and another that benefits members of the Native American Pamunkey Indian Tribe. Because of Charles, **Brittany Rubrecht '11** receives a full scholarship to attend UT. One-quarter Pamunkey, she is an advertising and public relations major who hopes to write for a magazine some day.



The University Of
T A M P A

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the leaders of tomorrow.**

For more information, contact Bill Roth in the Planned Giving Office at (813) 258-7373 or broth@ut.edu.



FAIR WEATHER FUN

For years the Florida State Fair was held on what is now UT property, until it was moved east in 1976, to its current grounds. The fair's midway was where the tennis courts and Martinez Sports Center are today. The fairgrounds hosted car races, exhibits and rides like the one seen here, photographed in 1959. Students would walk from their dorms to the fair, and the Gasparilla Parade started and ended at the fairgrounds. You can see the lights from Phillips Field, UT's stadium at the time, in the upper left-hand side, among the palm trees. Towards the right, you can see the covered grandstand, where UT's athletic fields are now.



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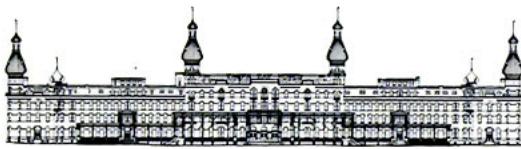
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Katie Kerins '11, vice president of Student Productions, shows off her balloon bracelet at UT's PirateFest, which is held before Gasparilla to provide students with safety tips.

