

# UTjournal

The Publication for The University of Tampa WINTER 2014



## LEARNING TO LEAD

Lessons in standing out  
from the crowd



## UT's International Advantage



WHEN I SERVED AS A FACULTY MEMBER, AND THEN DEAN, OF UT's College of Business in the 1980s, one of our research areas focused on why companies often failed in their efforts to expand globally.

We found time and time again that companies failed in their global initiatives because their employees largely did not have a solid understanding of other cultures, much less how to succeed in business in other countries.

Since that time, as a University we have spent considerable resources preparing our students — both at the undergraduate and graduate levels — for living and working in the global society, and teaching them about the nuances of global markets and cultures so that they can confidently navigate the global business landscape. For instance, in Assistant Professor Yun-Oh Whang's Global Marketing class, students are taught how to act in social engagements in Asia that are so critical to successfully negotiating business deals.

Today it is easier than ever for students to learn about other cultures. But, teaching students to become global business leaders requires outstanding commitment by the institution and the student — inside and outside the classroom. Here are just a few examples of our successful international program:

- Students have access to more than 1,000 education abroad opportunities in 70 countries.
- Numerous languages, including Chinese and Arabic, are taught in our state-of-the-art digital Language Learning Center.
- Classes, such as Global Organizational Behavior, teach students how ethnic and national cultures impact behaviors in organizations.
- Travel Courses Abroad, which feature a travel component at the end of the semester, are offered to nearly 15 countries.
- UT sponsors 50 international events on campus, such as the Global Scholar Speakers Series, each year.
- UT's Certificate of International Studies, one of several international certificate programs, is available for students in all majors.

Our efforts have been rewarded. The combined international business program is now the largest major at UT. We have successful alumni working in businesses around the globe. And, last year UT was a finalist for the prestigious Senator Paul Simon Award for excellence in Campus Internationalization.

Most recently, our newest residence hall, West Kennedy Hall, was designed with an international theme, intended to educate students about global cultures and traditions. Perhaps my favorite component is on the 11th floor, where winners of UT's popular International Photography Contest are exhibited. Every year hundreds of UT students go abroad, and this contest is a great way for them to visually present what they've learned.

We will continue to take advantage of all opportunities to increase students' international knowledge. In order to survive, companies must succeed in global markets. As a result, they seek graduates who possess skills in understanding people of different cultures.

UT has a competitive advantage over other universities in this area, and as a result, our graduates have a competitive advantage in the global workplace.

RONALD L. VAUGHN, PH.D.  
*President*

## UTjournal

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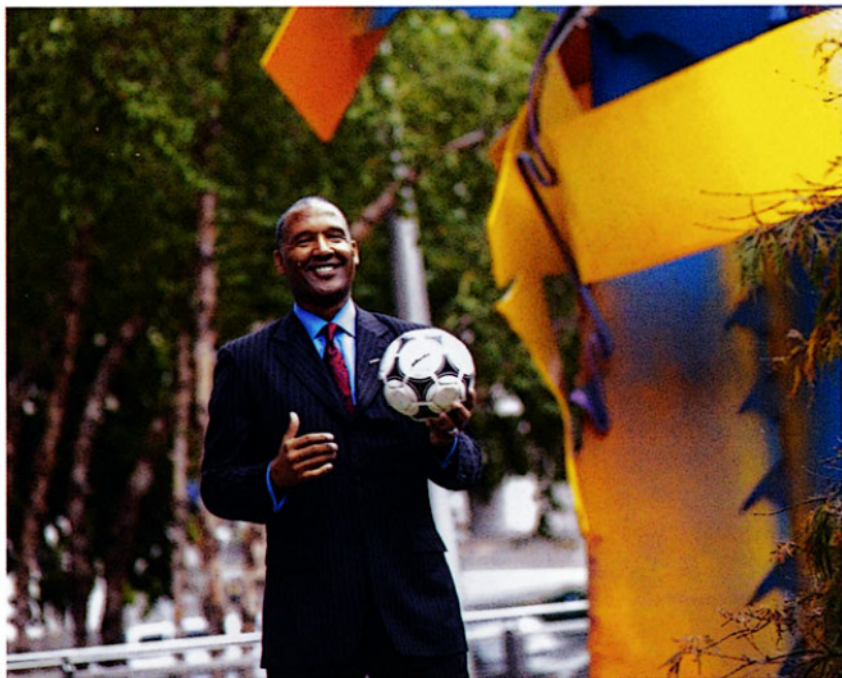
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New multipurpose building announced, Urban Bush Women coming to UT, balancing fandom and family, swimmer comes back from rare disorder.



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The inaugural Minaret Mingle was held this fall to thank members of the Minaret Society.



## 40 minaret moment

Decking Plant Hall for the dance.



# news of note

The new multipurpose building will help meet academic and administrative space needs.



## Room to Grow

*New building to include academic, administrative space*

IN NOVEMBER, THE UNIVERSITY announced plans to build a new, seven-story, multiuse structure on campus that will include three floors of academic and administrative space and four floors of parking. The structure will extend from the Thomas Parking Garage toward the south side of campus.

The three stories of the new facility — approximately 60,000 square feet — will house additional classrooms,

faculty offices, student meeting and study areas, a Campus Safety Center and a state-of-the-art home for UT's Sykes College of Business Entrepreneurship Center. The new facility will also enlarge the Thomas Parking Garage by 400 spaces to accommodate a total of 1,200 parking spots.

And, for UT students needing a late-night coffee break, a café with indoor and outdoor seating will

be situated on the first floor.

The Campus Safety Center will also be situated on the first floor as a highly visible and accessible space for the Office of Campus Safety. It will be equipped with a 24-hour dispatch center and functionality to respond to any incident on campus.

Classrooms in the new building will be constructed with active learning in mind, with built-in multimedia projectors, A/V systems and flexible seating arrangements.

The Entrepreneurship Center will be creatively designed to bring together prospective student entrepreneurs, educators and experienced executives to generate, define and develop entrepreneurial concepts and to launch new ventures.

"With this facility we hope to carve out a unique educational niche for interaction between UT's entrepreneurially minded students and the Tampa Bay entrepreneur community," President Ronald Vaughn said. "This strong entrepreneurial environment will keep more bright young minds in the Tampa Bay area after graduation and contribute to economic development and startups in the region."

The parking garage expansion is expected to be completed in late 2014, and the academic and administrative spaces are expected to be completed in early 2015.



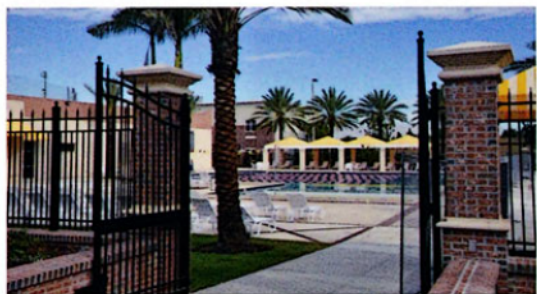
## URBAN BUSH WOMEN COMING TO UT

Internationally renowned dance company Urban Bush Women will visit UT March 25–31, 2014, for a community engagement residency. Urban Bush Women was founded in 1984 by Jawole Willa Jo Zollar, the Nancy Smith Fichter professor of dance and Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor at Florida State University. Based in Brooklyn, Urban Bush Women uses art to address social issues and encourage civic engagement. For more information, go to [www.urbanbushwomen.org](http://www.urbanbushwomen.org).



**"Every academic year there is an undeniable buzz at the start of the year, and this year, the energy is particularly noticeable."**

**— PRESIDENT RONALD VAUGHN  
AT THE GRAND OPENING OF WEST KENNEDY HALL**



(Clockwise from upper left) The Aquatic Center got a facelift over the summer. The University held open houses for West Kennedy Hall in September and the new Academic Success Center in October.

## New Additions to Campus Add to Buzz

THE USUAL SENSE OF EXCITEMENT AT the start of an academic year was heightened this fall by the opening of several new or revamped facilities for students.

"Every academic year there is an undeniable buzz at the start of the year, and this year, the energy is particularly noticeable," said President Ronald Vaughn at the Sept. 12 grand opening of West Kennedy Hall.

Guests who attended the event reminisced about their own dorm rooms as they toured UT's biggest and newest residence hall. Their memories likely won't compare to those of the students living in this upscale accommodation.

Vaughn said the 528-student residence hall was designed to promote student community and interaction, with many nooks for residents to gather. There is an international focus as well, through artwork and design, meant to expand on the University's

academic efforts to internationalize students for a global workforce.

Located on Kennedy Boulevard near North Boulevard, West Kennedy Hall has sweeping views of campus and downtown Tampa from the two large multipurpose rooms on the 11th floor.

The residence hall was built with construction techniques that make the building a candidate for LEED certification, including a solar thermal array on the roof that utilizes the sun's energy to heat water for the occupants' use.

A short walk north of West Kennedy Hall is UT's new Academic Success Center, which brings together three critical student support offices — Academic Advising, the Academic Center for Excellence and Student Success.

In years past, students would have to go to three different buildings to access the services offered by these offices. Over the summer, the three offices were brought under one roof

in the newly renovated North Walker Hall to make it easier for students to get the academic help they need.

"Once students are here, we can help them to understand what academic services are available and how to find a resolution, whether it's a need for academic support services or just information about policies and procedures," said Michael Ranahan, director of academic advising. "Students are more likely to find the support that will help them if they are not sent across campus to find a service or to file a form."

In addition to these new facilities, the Aquatic Center was spruced up over the summer and into the fall. The revamped space includes new locker rooms and bathrooms as well as new furniture and cabanas for pool-side lounging. Recently lighting was installed that will enable the University to schedule occasional nighttime events at the center.



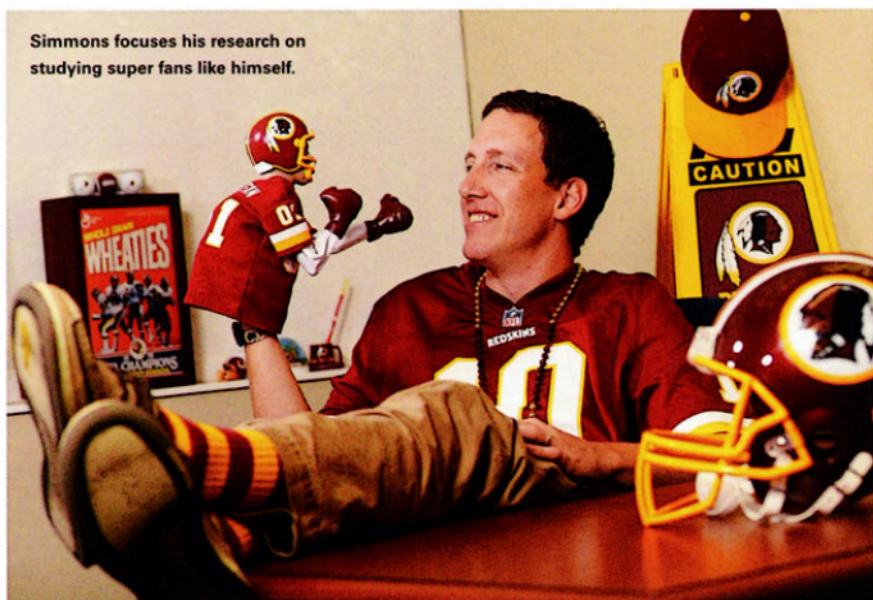


## A Glimpse at Complexities

IN THE SPRING OF 2012, PRANJAL GUPTA, ASSOCIATE professor of marketing, wandered the streets of Chefchaouen in the Rif Mountains of Morocco, admiring the town's clean air, hilly terrain and sky blue plastered walls. Gupta was in Morocco as part of a CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar exploring the historical, cultural and social links between Spain and Morocco and the present day challenges in these relationships.



Simmons focuses his research on studying super fans like himself.



## Studying the Super Fan

IF YOU TAKE A LOOK AROUND JASON Simmons' office in the Dickey Health and Wellness Center, you might notice his affinity for a particular football team. The assistant professor of sport management is a self-declared lifelong Washington Redskins fan.

"I arrange my weekends around their games," he said. "I've turned down plans if they conflict with game time, and I even left a wedding early once to catch a game."

Realizing he likely wasn't the only one with these tendencies, he began to wonder how others balanced fandom with other aspects of their life. So when the time came to choose a topic for his dissertation, he set out to discover the consequences of being a super fan.

Simmons' research included surveying 466 attendees at an NCAA Division I intercollegiate football game. What he found was that die-hard fans who identify strongly with their team experienced greater levels of conflict in their personal life, especially with the amount of time spent following their team.

"As fans become more identified with their team, the amount of time,

energy and money they devote to following their team also increases," said Simmons. "The potential for conflict exists when the resources devoted to being a fan drain from, or interfere with, those necessary for family role responsibilities."

He stated that while there have been numerous studies on conflicts between work and family roles, and leisure and family roles, this is the first study he's aware of to examine conflict among sport fans.

Simmons' research, "Differences in Fan-Family Conflict Based on an Individual's Level of Identification with a Team," was recently accepted for publication in the *Journal of Sport Behavior*. His next project is to interview highly identified fans to better understand how they make these roles work together.

"My wife is supportive of my fandom — to an extent," said Simmons. "What we're trying to hone in on with these subsequent studies is exactly how the fan role affects family role demands and the consequences of that conflict on fan and family role functioning."



## THE CLASS OF 2017

15,345

Applications received

1,590

Freshmen enrolled

2 valedictorians,  
2 salutatorians

11% international  
students

TOP COUNTRIES:

Bahamas, Kuwait, Jamaica, Venezuela, Cayman Islands, Egypt, Switzerland, Peoples Republic of China, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago

19% qualify for  
the UT Honors  
Program

Up from 18% in 2012

MOST POPULAR MAJORS:

marine science-biology, nursing, management, psychology, sport management, biology, criminology/criminal justice, marketing, finance, accounting



## spartan sports



Glenday's goal for the season is to beat her personal bests.

## The Come Back

*Heather Glenday '14 is back on top after being sidelined by a rare condition*

SHE HAS SCARS.

She's also an All-American.

Here in mid-October, the swim team is gearing up for another grueling season. Their star swimmer, Heather Glenday '14, an All-American now three years consecutively, could be forgiven for having low expectations considering the kind of journey she has taken to get to her senior season at UT.

"I would like to do personal bests," Glenday says without missing a beat. "I know for sure I want to go underneath

10 minutes in the thousand (freestyle), because last year I hit 10 minutes flat and that was so disappointing. I would like to try for the 200 free record if possible, but I mean, I guess that's a big goal."

This is not a young woman who is easily slowed.

Glenday was an All-American in the 1,000 meter and the 500 meter individual freestyles as well as in the 800 and 400 meter freestyle relay last season.

To think: less than two years ago, she was hospitalized for a condition that sprouted from nowhere and could've seriously dented her chance at a successful senior, let alone junior, season.

Glenday had just taken her required two weeks off from the pool after her sophomore year nationals, and was beginning her offseason summer workouts.

"The entire time after I came back I was just kind of complaining a little.





After surgery, Glenday said swimming again felt odd.

I didn't really have any way to describe it," Glenday said. "My arm just felt odd."

Then, during one morning practice, she noticed a big issue.

"My arm was completely swollen," she said. "I looked like the Hulk on my right side. I was like 'I don't think this is right.'"

At first, her teammates poked fun at her in the water, but she was eventually sent to Scott Brickett, UT's head trainer, who told her to visit the hospital as a precaution. Innumerable tests, an MRI and two ultrasounds confirmed Glenday had a blood clot underneath her collarbone known as Paget-Schroetter Syndrome.

The human collarbone and first rib make a "sideways V" in the chest which for non-swimmers isn't an issue, she says.

"As I was swimming, those bones were being squeezed together with every stroke I took," Glenday explains.

That squeezing affected a vein in the area causing a clot. The issue isn't unheard of for swimmers and baseball players who use their arms in repetitive motions.

Glenday was put on blood thinners for a week until it was time for surgery. Her friends and teammates were briefly left in the dark.

"She called me at 11 p.m. to tell me that she wasn't coming home," said Cat Patrell, a senior swimmer who was rooming with Glenday at the time.

Glenday said she didn't tell any of her friends originally because she

didn't want them to worry.

"It was nerve racking," Patrell said. "There were days we couldn't even see her. I almost didn't want to go to school just thinking about her."

Although the week on blood thinners included lounging in the hospital passing time playing *Spongebob Squarepants Monopoly* and other board games, the tough days were after the surgery.

Glenday had a right rib removed so it would no longer squeeze the vein and also received a vein graft from her ankle. She had to refrain from swimming for a month and remained in the hospital for a total of almost two weeks.

Once cleared though, she headed straight for the pool.

"We were all amazed at how she came back," said Allison Noe, another senior swimmer. "When she came back to Tampa, she was practicing and doing weights like nothing even happened."

Glenday's work ethic and competitiveness, Noe says, is what set her apart.

"She's one of the most competitive people I know," Noe said. "It's really cool to see her swim and when someone's next to her and they're leading, she'll just speed up. Her heart is always in it 100 percent."

With just a year left at school, and a national championship under her belt (in the 800 free relay), Glenday has learned a lot about overcoming adversity. When she got back into the pool for the first time after surgery, it couldn't have felt funnier.

"They took a couple muscles out of my chest and my neck, so I was very uncomfortable in the water at first," Glenday said. "I had to get that feeling for the motions back. It was actually odd for me to be swimming again."

Her times so far are ahead of where they were this time last season.

"She just keeps cutting down her times," Noe said.

— MILES PARKS '13



## WOMEN'S LAX TAKES THE FIELD

Spartan history will be made on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2014, when the UT women's lacrosse team plays its first regular-season game against nationally-ranked Rollins College at the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex.

The team played four pre-season games this fall, including a Red and White Scrimmage, trips to Coastal Carolina University and Florida Southern University along with a home contest against Rollins. Their spring schedule includes 17 regular-season games.

Tampa carries a roster of 34 student-athletes who hail from nine different states. New York is represented by 13 players and six are from Florida.

Head coach Kelly Gallagher organized and began training this inaugural team during the 2012-2013 academic year. Gallagher enjoyed success as an assistant coach at both the NCAA Division I and II levels, most recently serving as the top assistant at Limestone College. She has coached several All-Americans and participated in NCAA Tournament action.







BY JEN A. MILLER '02  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

# In Reality

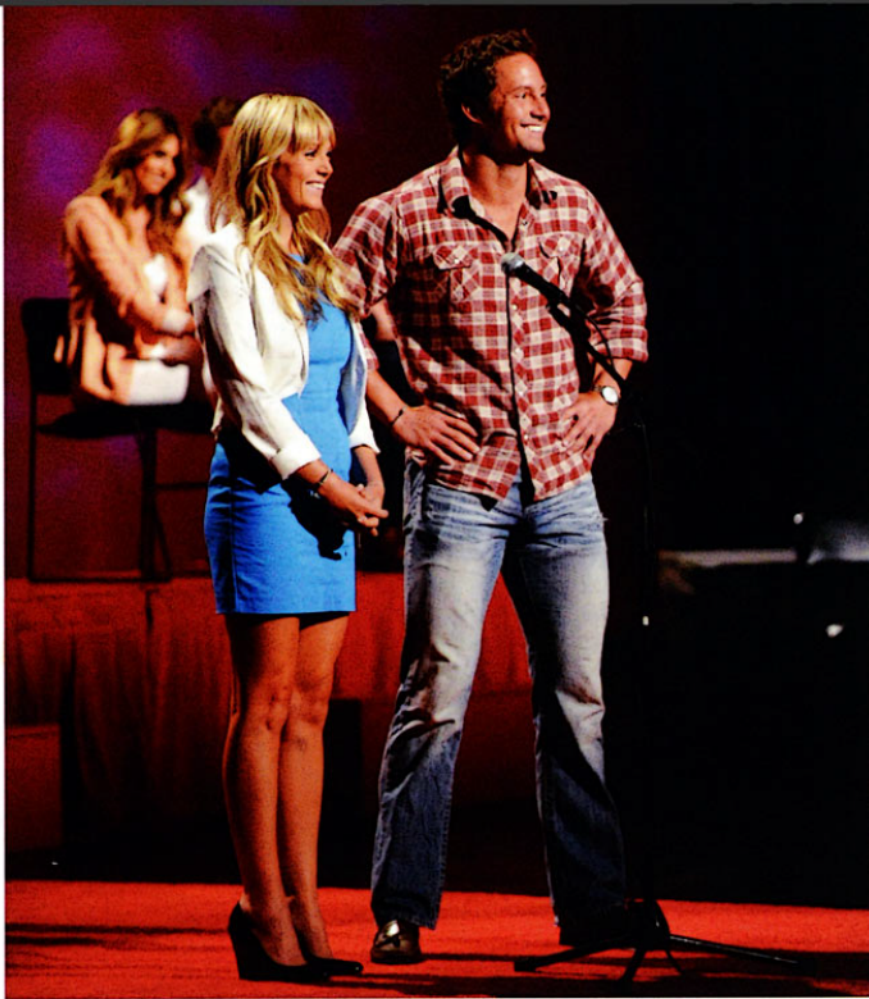
Using a cultural phenomenon as a stepping stone

WHEN REALITY TV FIRST LIT UP OUR television screens is up for debate. Was the first such show PBS' *The American Family*? Or did *Candid Camera* whet our appetite for genuine, unvarnished human reactions?

Whichever was ground zero, reality TV is a part of our entertainment landscape, and UT alumni have been part of the movement, using shows like *The Bachelorette* and *Shark Tank* to spring into bigger, better things.

Who knows — maybe one of your classmates will be the next person to accept that rose.





### A BACHELOR GOES COURTING

Coming home to Tampa has been a recurring theme for Nick Peterson '10. He was born here, moved back when he was 7 after living in Dallas. Then after two years playing baseball at Appalachian State University, he transferred back to his home town and UT for both the school and, well, somewhere that was warmer after "two seasons in the snow, and on a losing team to boot."

Out of college, Peterson was drafted by the New York Yankees, but when baseball didn't work out, he found a different, unexpected path: reality TV.

After appearing on the seventh season of *The Bachelorette* and then winning the third season of *Bachelor Pad*, he's back in Tampa and working on his next big thing — both in front of and behind the camera.

He can thank a friend for getting him into the business — and his mom.

"A buddy of mine told me I should apply since I was always single, and then the very next day my mom said the exact same thing. Apparently my friends and family don't have much faith in me finding a girlfriend on my

own," he joked (and clarified that he is, indeed, very picky).

He went to a live audition in Atlanta, and 10 months later "found myself getting out of a limo at the Bachelor Mansion." On his season, which had the Bachelorette and contestants travel the world, he was eliminated in the fifth round, in Thailand. Still, he said, "I had a blast despite going home single."

So when ABC called him again to be on *Bachelor Pad*, he jumped at the chance. He won \$250,000, stirring up a little controversy along the way. The couple who won the show could either split the money or take it all; Nick decided to keep it while his partner decided to split, which meant he kept the money, and she went home empty handed.

After *Bachelor Pad*, he decided to work on both sides of the camera. At the time we spoke, he had just finished filming the pilot of *Courting America*, where he travels from city to city and "goes on dates with celebrities to see if I can handle their lifestyle and the activities their cities have to offer,"

he said. He can't say too much at this stage because the show is still being pitched, but he said they filmed in Nashville and Miami, and that fans can follow the show's progress on Twitter at @CourtingAmerica.

Peterson said that his UT degree in entrepreneurship is helping him get his own production off the ground as well as a personal training business (he offers both one-on-one and small group sessions at a private studio in South Tampa). He also learned a strict work ethic while juggling class, baseball, homework ... and the occasional line dance at the Dallas Bull.

### GOING BEHIND THE CAMERA

When I first called Samantha Larsen to talk about her work in reality TV, she apologized her way off the phone. Turns out she was in an audition, and apologized — again, profusely — after. "Acting is a hard life, and nothing's guaranteed," she said when we caught up the next day.

Not that she's complaining. She loves what she does, which has gone well beyond appearing on shows like *Who Wants to Marry My Dad?* and *Jilted?* Her entertainment career touches a little bit of everything: stand up, movies, recurring roles on sitcoms, and she's now working on two shows where she'd carry a new title: producer.

Larsen '91 came to UT from New Jersey because she wanted to be a dolphin trainer, then switched her major from marine biology to liberal arts.

After graduating, Larsen moved to New York City and took an improv comedy class, which led her to stand up, which she still does. She's a regular at the different locations of the Improv chain of comedy clubs.

After working in New York, she moved to California, and one of the first things she booked there was *Who Wants to Marry My Dad?*, a reality show that ran on NBC in 2003 and 2004 where daughters tried to find brides for their fathers.



**"A buddy of mine told me I should apply since I was always single, and then the very next day my mom said the exact same thing."**

— NICK PETERSON '10



(Left to right) Peterson was the winner on season three of *Bachelor Pad*. In addition to her acting gigs, Larsen regularly performs stand up at Improv comedy clubs. Mastronardo (far right) successfully pitched the sharks on ABC's *Shark Tank*.



In 2010, she appeared in *Jilted?* Each episode featured a woman who was tired of waiting for her boyfriend to propose, so she did it herself. The twist: the wedding was planned in a week, and the tension hinged on whether or not the boyfriend would show up. In Larsen's case, the pair had been planning to get married in Las Vegas when their friend, a casting director, asked them if they'd be on the show.

She's found real success, though, on scripted television, and has had recurring roles on *My Name is Earl* and *Animal Practice*. But the fickleness of the industry is what has pushed Larsen to producing.

"If the show's going under, the show's going under," she said. Even though her work on *My Name is Earl* and *Animal Practice* was well received, both shows were cancelled, which meant she was cancelled, too. "When it happened a second time, I said I'm going to write my own."

She's currently working on developing a network sitcom and a crime show, which will be making the pitch rounds soon.

"When you're an actor, you're at the whim of what other people write or how they see you, but when you get behind the camera and write and direct and produce, that gives you longevity in the business," she said.

#### SWIMMING WITH SHARKS

Danny Mastronardo '07 had no complaints about his first job after graduating from UT with a degree in communication: he went right from being a UT student to the marketing director for an industrial park in Dade City.

"I was set up with a full-time job, company car and a few employees under me," he said. "It was a great job, and I was very happy with it."

## The Skinny on NDAs

Anyone who appears on a reality show — even people who work behind the scenes — is required to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), which Paul Hillier, assistant professor of communication, said can be basic or extreme. The more extreme contracts are built air tight to prevent tricks of the trade from being made known to the public.

"Not all reality TV shows are the same in terms of approach, but for many programs in the genre, participants are often fed lines of dialogue, encouraged to do particular things by producers, and scenes and scenarios are often rehearsed in advance or re-shot," he said.

The most faked reality? Fights.

And while many viewers know that this reality isn't real, the producers of these shows still don't want to tip their hands. "One way they do that is by ensuring the participants don't publicly talk about the process," he said.

These NDAs can also restrict or limit participants appearing on another TV show — reality or not — and many also make them sign away rights to their likeness. So, for example, if Bravo wanted to make a cartoon of *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, they can. "They can simply do whatever they want with the footage obtained," said Hillier.



But about two years in, he found himself looking at the clock every afternoon. "Do I really want to do this and wait for the time to call it quits?" he asked himself.

The answer was no. Mastronardo left that plum job to take a leap and to start Nardo's Natural Organic Skin Care Products with his brothers, a business that came out of the kitchen of their parents' St. Petersburg home.

Mastronardo is from the Philadelphia area, but his brothers decided to live together in their parents' Florida home after they all graduated from college (Mastronardo was living in North

Tampa at the time, but eventually moved in, too). His brother DJ, who had a background in health and nutrition, started cooking with coconut oil. "He was eating it, putting it into his eggs, his hair," said Mastronardo.

If DJ had a little bit of residue left over, he'd rub it on his forearms. That became the basis for their first moisturizer, and they hit big with their first client: the Loews Don CeSar, a luxury hotel in St. Pete Beach. They chose it for a simple reason: it was across the street.

"We were young and immature," Mastronardo said of that pitch meeting.

The moisturizer became the top-selling product at the hotel, and the brothers secured contracts around the state. Mastronardo said what he learned while at UT in communication classes was applied right to selling the product: he was in charge of logo design, public relations, marketing and advertising.

They were doing well, but the company really took off in March 2012 when they appeared on *Shark Tank*, the ABC reality show where entrepreneurs pitch their products to self-made tycoons in hopes of gaining funding and/or mentorship. The brothers struck a deal with Barbara Corcoran, a real estate mogul. She gave them \$75,000 for a share in the company.

"What we were looking for — money aside — was just guidance," he said, and also admitted the guys needed some help in appealing to the other gender. "We are men in a woman's world, and we needed a woman's touch."

So far, the arrangement has worked out well. In addition to the free advertising they received while on *Shark Tank*, their product has been featured on *Good Morning America*. After its first appearance on the morning show, they saw "sales over six figures in less than 24 hours," he said. They've also signed David Price of the Tampa Bay Rays as the spokesperson for their Muscle Rub.

Then in March 2013, Mastronardo's youngest brother, Keith, was killed in a motorcycle accident.

"When our youngest brother passed away, we had many thoughts racing through our minds. It was difficult to accept what was happening," said Mastronardo. "As a unit, my brothers and I stuck together and now work harder than ever to make our brother proud."

Mastronardo says he's been contacted by another production company about appearing on a completely different reality show, and he's considering it. But for now, he's focused on the company as is — and maybe a little more star power in his future. **UT**



## Love to Hate It

**Reality TV is here to stay** for a very simple reason, said Paul Hillier: money.

"A lot of people want to chalk up the growth of reality TV to audience demand, and that's partly true," said Hillier, an assistant professor of communication whose dissertation was on reality TV as popular science.

"But the growth of reality TV is really because it's just a lot cheaper to make."

Most contestants are paid peanuts, and reality shows don't require expensive costuming or sets, which keeps production costs low.

Plus, Hillier said, opportunities for product placement in reality shows are huge (think *American Idol* judges always drinking from Coke cups or *America's Next Top Model* contestants vying for a CoverGirl ad campaign), and much more accepted than when they're trotted out in scripted shows.

And not all reality TV is table flipping real housewives either, he said. Shows like *Shark Tank* and even *Duck Dynasty* showcase the lives and talents of successful entrepreneurs. Plus reality shows have introduced us to people who went on to bigger, better things, like *Project Runway* winner Christian Siriano, who now sells his line at Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, and actress/singer Jennifer Hudson, who may have lost *American Idol* but more than made up for it by winning an Academy Award.

Even though shows like *American Idol* or *The Bachelorette* don't bring in huge viewership numbers like they did when they first debuted, Hillier said they're still popular with audiences because "we love to hate reality TV," which explains why people complain that they're sick of the Kardashians but still tune in to E! to watch their shows, even if we're well aware that the "reality" has been altered to ramp up the soap opera factor.

Even if we're tweeting our disdain, we're still watching — and sharing — and that keeps the reality world turning.



Juggling it all is lesson one  
for students at the top



# LEARNING TO LEAD

BY JAMIE PILARCZYK



# CADET IN COMMAND

AT 5:45 A.M. CAMPUS IS QUIET. THE LIGHTS ON THE INTRAMURAL field glow in the darkness as ROTC cadets start trailing in, gathering by the field for their morning physical training. While the sleepier ones find a place to sit along North Walker Hall, Melanie Hindley '14 stands right in the middle, discussing strategy for the day's workout.

Hindley is the cadet commander. In ROTC terms, she is the one in control, the top of the pack. She holds the post for one semester before passing the torch on the leadership position that puts her in command of approximately 80 cadets.

"I'm the one responsible for their success or failure," Hindley said.

As the cadets lined up on the intramural field, Hindley joined a group of 14 — deemed elite — for their own separate workout: circuit training at the gym in the Schoomaker ROTC and Athletics Building. It wasn't long before Hindley started sweating while swinging

kettle bells, lunging down the hallway and grunting through pullups, triceps dips and pushups. It's just one of the five mornings a week the cadets workout together.

To begin her busy day, Hindley has a strategy for waking up. She assembled her bed as a loft and put her alarm clock underneath. As such, she has to get out of bed in order to turn the alarm off when it rings at 5:15 a.m. She aims to arrive at the intramural field from her Res Com apartment by 5:45 a.m., "which is early. Ten minutes early and you're actually late." By 6 a.m., her day has begun in full swing.

During the four years students are in the ROTC program, they progressively gain leadership experience and responsibility, from overseeing 11 cadets in a platoon to overseeing multiple platoons, making sure the cadets are wearing the right uniform, are showing up on time and keeping track of their travel schedules.

"Eleven people is a lot to keep track of, especially if they're problem children," said Hindley.

By their senior year, the students run the program with staff providing mentorship.

"People usually don't realize that, and it's a quintessential part of the ROTC experience," Hindley said.

Hindley came to UT from Virginia and is studying government and world affairs, though she feels her work with ROTC could have earned her another

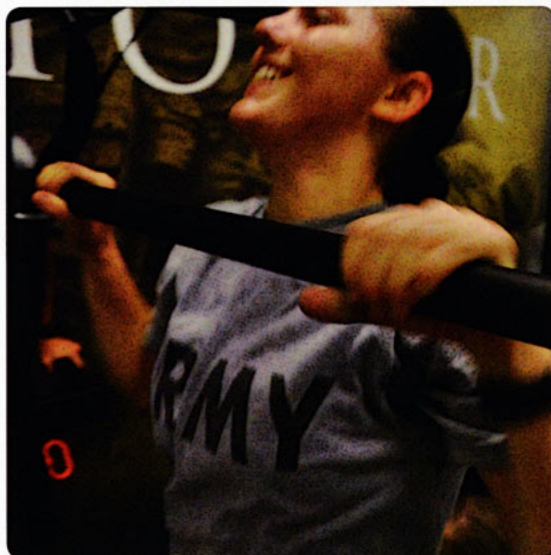
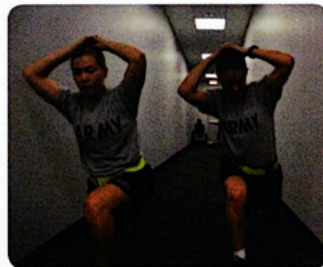
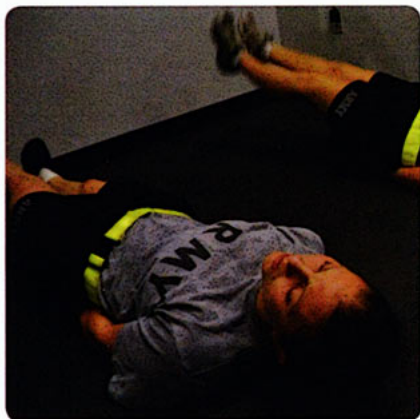
## A TYPICAL TUESDAY

**0515:** Wake up, prepare for PT  
**0545:** At IM field before PT ensuring all PT prep is correct  
**0600:** Begin PT (Ranger Challenge) 'til 0710  
**0720-0820:** Hygiene time, Breakfast  
**0830-0945:** News (C-SPAN and Tampa Bay local news)/homework or dorm maintenance (ResCom)  
**1000-1200:** Government Class-Research Methods

**1200-1345:** ROTC work, maintenance, communication, planning, homework  
**1345-1700:** ROTC Class (Sync Meeting, Lecture, Current Events)-MS3 Briefing observation and critique  
**1700-1750:** Snack, Stretch, Prep for Dance  
**1800-2000:** Dance Happening Rehearsals  
**2000-0000:** Homework/Dinner/Free Time



# "MY WORK HISTORY HELPED ME EARN THE FULL-RIDE SCHOLARSHIP I GOT HERE. I'VE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE." — MELANIE HINDLEY '14



diploma, or a military science minor if UT offered it. Students who join ROTC in their freshman year have four years of physical training sessions five days a week, class once a week in subjects like training leadership procedures and land navigation, a lab that gives them practical practice in faux missions and multiple weekend training events throughout each semester.

"By the time you become a junior and senior, your time commitments greatly increase, because it's on your own time to be communicating with the squad and other leaders," she said.

In addition to the leadership aspect, Hindley said one of the best things about the ROTC program is the summer training.

"They are fun and difficult, which is the appeal about the Army for most of us," said Hindley, who attended the Leadership Development and Assessment Course in Washington this summer, a requirement to pass in order to receive their commissioning. She also traveled to Thailand at the end of her sophomore year where she worked with the Thai military, teaching cadets English and participated in the U.S. Army's technology showcase for the Thai military.

"Because I was on active duty to be there I was paid, but I got to travel the country and establish lasting connections with the future Thai Army officers," Hindley said. "The trip

was absolutely fantastic."

Hindley is no stranger to military life. Just to name a few, her dad is a retired Army lieutenant colonel, her step-mom is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, her mom is retired from the Air Force and her step-dad is retired from the Navy, her grandfather fought in World War II and accompanied Nixon to China, her younger sister recently enlisted in the Army National Guard and her cousin was just commissioned as a second lieutenant from UT this past summer.

She said her confidence and leadership didn't surface until she came through UT's ROTC program, though she was a hard worker back home. She's worked making funnel cakes, selling plants at a nursery and as a waitress while going through high school.

"My work history helped me earn the full-ride scholarship I got here," Hindley said. "I've been very fortunate."

Her first two years at UT she spent

learning how to be a coxswain for the crew team. In the spring semester of her sophomore year, she spent every morning on the river as part of the varsity women's crew team, making it to nationals. It forced her to skip ROTC intramural field workouts, though she was working up a sweat just the same.

When she's not wearing camouflage, she has found her passion in performing arts. She's taken beginner and intermediate jazz, which increased her flexibility, and two semesters of ballet so far. She danced in two Dance Happening pieces last spring semester and was in two — African and experimental — this fall.

"It's definitely a release," said Hindley, who was the lead in her high school performance of *The Sound of Music*.

UT has given Hindley a balance of her two loves — the arts and military.

"Joining ROTC has been one of the best decisions I've ever made," she said, "and I definitely recommend it to anyone looking to become a leader."

Hindley's day begins with physical training at 5:45 a.m. with her fellow ROTC cadets. As cadet commander, she oversees approximately 80 cadets. Despite a hectic ROTC and class schedule, Hindley finds time to pursue her other passion, dance, and performed in the fall's Dance Happening.



# ATHLETE IN THE ZONE

ON A MONDAY IN LATE SEPTEMBER, THE VOLLEYBALL COURTS INSIDE the Martinez Athletics Center slowly fill with athletes. Girls in spandex shorts and red T-shirts grab volleyballs from a basket, aiming and serving one after another. Frances Cardenas '14, who plays libero as a defensive specialist, is one of the shortest on the court where teammate's legs stretch up to Cardenas' waist. Though shorter, she is strong and fit, with the hours spent lifting in the weight room showing on her physique.

About 30 minutes into the practice, Cardenas' brown forearms have taken on a pink hue from the hits. She constantly talks up her teammates and when they've done a good job, a slap on the butt isn't out of the ordinary.

Cardenas grew up on courts like these in Puerto Rico. The squeaking of shoes, the calling of the ball, "Mine! Mine! Mine!" and the fluorescent lights beaming overhead as natural to her as birds chirping and sunlight. This is Cardenas' world.

"Sports has been my life," said Cardenas, who started playing when she was 7. "I believe it's not only physical toughness but mental focus too."

It's why she wants to go to graduate school to study sports psychology.

"I want to help athletes reach their full potential," said Cardenas, who also

serves on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, a group of UT athletes serving as liaisons between the athletes, the administration and the NCAA.

When walking on campus she knows about every other person she passes, other UT athletes, friends or members of the Spanish-speaking community on campus. If she hears her native tongue, she introduces herself immediately, whether to classmates or the custodial staff at Martinez.

Cardenas' journey to UT was a bit of a fluke. She applied to the school her senior year but didn't consider playing volleyball. When she got her financial aid package, it wasn't enough to cover her expenses, and so she wrote off the idea of coming to Tampa. However, in her last club tournament in high school, she travelled to Orlando in June

where Head Volleyball Coach Chris Catanach '83 and Assistant Coach Jeff Lamm were watching and recruiting. They asked her to tryout and later offered her a two-year scholarship that would kick in her junior year if she wanted to play for UT.

"My dad told me that we'd make it happen," so she accepted. By August she was at UT, ready for practice. "I was lucky. I just never thought it could happen to me," Cardenas said.

Cardenas starts her day at 7 a.m., setting not just one but four alarms on her iPhone to make sure she gets up. She has five classes during the week from about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., helping her earn a psychology degree with a minor in writing. After class she heads to MAC to change and ready herself for practice, which runs from 2–5:30 p.m.

About three days a week the team lifts weights, plugging in their smartphones to provide a soundtrack for their workouts, either Beyoncé or country. "They never let me listen to Spanish music," she laughs. But it's serious and competitive in the weight room; Cardenas not one to be shown up by an underclassman lifting more weight than her.





Between volleyball practice and training, studying and classes, Cardenas has a full day. She still finds time to catch the women's soccer game, eat a healthy dinner and take part in the Relay for Life planning committee.



"We push each other," she said. "We know that if we push it, we'll get better and be one step closer to the national championship."

After practice she'll shower in the locker room and then linger in the training room. "I love it. I love talking to people." It's also where she gets ice treatment for her knee, a therapy needed following a torn

PCL this past spring.

Since she doesn't have a car, she either rides her bike to her off-campus apartment or waits for one of her roommates, all of whom are on the volleyball team. In the off-season, she spends more time coaching competitive youth volleyball.

"By 11 p.m., I'm dying and in my bed," Cardenas said.

Her days are exhausting, but Cardenas doesn't know what she'd do without volleyball or her teammates, who spend most of their days together, either at practice or living together and hanging out.

"I'm scared that the season is going to end in December. I'm not going to know what to do," Cardenas said. "It's like saying goodbye to your family."

## HOW I SPENT SEPT. 25, 2013

- |              |                                                                          |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>7:15</b>  | First alarm                                                              | <b>2:15</b>  | Time to work out!                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>7:20</b>  | Second alarm                                                             | <b>3:15</b>  | Volleyball practice. This is the part of my day where I forget about everything else. I forget about school, about anything outside of "not letting the volleyball touch the floor." |
| <b>7:25</b>  | Third alarm                                                              |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>7:30</b>  | Fourth alarm, finally get out of bed and get ready                       | <b>5:30</b>  | Shower and ice knees again, grab sushi at Morsani Hall and eat outside watching the women's soccer game                                                                              |
| <b>7:50</b>  | Ride bike to UT                                                          | <b>7:30</b>  | Walk to the Brevard community room for a Relay for Life meeting (Activities Chair)                                                                                                   |
| <b>8:15</b>  | Practice volleyball serves — 150 balls — at Martinez Athletics Center    | <b>9:30</b>  | Get home, shower and put on my pajamas. Chill in my kitchen with my roommates and get some readings done for my classes (Psychopharmacology and Sexual Harassment Seminar).          |
| <b>9:00</b>  | Ice and stim treatments for knees, shower and dress                      |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>9:30</b>  | Grab breakfast at Einstein's Bagels in the Vaughn Center                 | <b>11:15</b> | I head upstairs and go to bed. :-)                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>10:10</b> | Fiction Writing class                                                    |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>11:30</b> | World Literature class                                                   |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>12:40</b> | Lunch in the caf and socializing with friends                            |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1:20</b>  | Head to Martinez, change into practice clothes and relax before practice |              |                                                                                                                                                                                      |



# PRESIDENT ALL AROUND

PATRICK “PK” CREEDON ’14 HAS SEVERAL TATTOOS, THOUGH MOSTLY hidden unless you see his Facebook profile. The one peeking out from under his bicep is more than just a picture of the Chicago skyline with the word “dash” scrolled across.

“It’s a reminder of where I come from,” said Creedon, an Illinois native.

As for dash? It comes from a poem by Linda Ellis that inspires people to live the most out of every day, to fill in the gap on one’s tombstone from the birth date to the date of death — the dash that’s in between. Creedon’s family read the poem at his grandmother’s funeral, and since then, at least five members of his family, including his dad, sister and brother, have gotten tattoos of the word dash.

“It’s a family thing,” Creedon explains, “to live out your dash.”

Creedon certainly has taken that to heart. An adrenaline junkie, he’s jumped from airplanes and off of cliffs. He spent his first semester as a UT freshman studying abroad in London. In his junior year he landed an internship with the United Way NFL Partnership where he continues to work with the Davin Joseph

Foundation to reduce the high school dropout rate and increase community volunteerism. His internship evolved into a job with the United Way as a project manager, working with United Ways and NFL teams across the country while supervising 32 college interns.

His senior year, Creedon is serving as the Student Government president, a Diplomat and a recruiter for admissions, traveling to a dozen cities in the spring to speak at admitted student receptions.

If he has down time, Creedon fills it. Whether it’s trying out a different Florida beach every weekend with his roommates, working out at the McNiff Fitness Center regularly or prepping for conference calls or meetings with UT senior staff. The reminders and calendar on his iPhone “are my life.”

“I like when things get thrown at

me; I love the challenge of making opportunities out of obstacles,” said Creedon, an international business and marketing major. “I thrive off adrenaline, which is why I enjoy performing and public speaking.”

As Student Government president, Creedon will have lots of opportunities for speaking to crowds. It’s one of the main reasons he ran for the position — to bring people together and increase involvement.

On a random September afternoon, he walks the Vaughn Center barefoot with “UNICEF” written with Sharpie on the outside of each foot. He’s supporting the student campaign to raise awareness about the diseases that impact children in underdeveloped nations with insufficient resources to buy things like shoes. It’s just one way Creedon stays involved.

“What made me want to run is the amount of leverage Student Government has,” said Creedon. “I want to bring my experience to the position to bring people together; to bring more passion to the student body through Student Government.”

**“I LIKE WHEN THINGS GET THROWN AT ME; I LOVE THE CHALLENGE OF MAKING OPPORTUNITIES OUT OF OBSTACLES . . . I THRIVE OFF ADRENALINE, WHICH IS WHY I ENJOY PERFORMING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING.” — PATRICK “PK” CREEDON ’14**





Creedon begins his day around 8:45 a.m. where he checks his email — from five different accounts — from his bed. By 9:30 he meets his workout buddy at the McNiff Fitness Center and is in class by noon. He typically has a Student Government meeting or work conference call around 2 or hosts office hours in Vaughn, then back to class at 4 p.m.

In the last year Creedon has found a passion for dance and from 6–8 p.m. he is at rehearsals for the fall's Dance Happening. At 8 p.m. he'll go to a club meeting, followed by intramural volleyball and then around 10 or 11 p.m. he's at an extra dance practice. In between events he might call his mom or grandma (Creedon has been her shopping buddy since age 4. "We're very close.") to check in.

By the time he makes it back to his room, he checks social media, tries to sneak in a few rounds of Mario Super Smash Brother with his roommates and might even book an impulsive cruise at 2 a.m. with a friend, and then passes out from exhaustion. And this is just one of his crazy weekday schedules.

"I'd say I'm most proud of my ability to balance work with pleasure. Monday through Thursday I may not find much time to breathe, but Friday through Sunday is PK time," Creedon said. "Busy may be an understatement, but I wouldn't have it any other way." **UT**



For Creedon, balancing work and play is an important part of filling his "dash." Most of the week he juggles his duties as president of Student Government with classes and an internship with the United Way. His weekends, however, are reserved for fun and traveling with friends.



## MY MONDAY SCHEDULE ON ANY GIVEN WEEK

**8:00–9:30:** Catch up on emails

**9:30–10:30:** Workout

**11:30–1:30:** Student Government meetings and office hours

**3:00–4:00:** Group project meeting for Management Capstone

**4:00–6:00:** Management Capstone Class

**6:00–7:30:** Student Government Exec Meeting

**8:00–9:00:** Student Government Cabinet Meeting

**9:00–10:30:** Dance practice

**Rest of the night:** Prep time for weekly meetings (both Student Government and United Way NFL job-related) and chilling with the roommates



Thomas Graham '82 reflects back on his journey to the top and the importance of giving others a helping hand.

# REACHING BACK

OVER THE SUMMER, THOMAS GRAHAM '82 TRADED THE TITLE “president” for “vice president” — but it wasn’t a demotion. ¶ Previously president of Pepco Region, Graham was promoted to vice president, people strategy and human resources, at Pepco Holdings Inc. and is now one of nine officers that oversee one of the largest energy delivery companies in the Mid-Atlantic region. ¶ “John Derrick, former chairman, president and CEO, said I’m the only person that could move from being a president to being a vice president, and it’s a promotion,” said Graham.

BY KILEY MALLARD PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS HARTLOVE





Graham near the  
headquarters of  
Pepco Holdings Inc.  
in Washington, D.C.



## "YOU DON'T SELF-SELECT TO BE A ROLE MODEL. YOU CAN ONLY CHOOSE TO BE A GOOD ONE OR A BAD ONE." — THOMAS GRAHAM '82

**G**raham began at Pepco in 1986 as an associate energy analyst. His father had always encouraged him to get a job with the government or a utility company, which he felt would provide a good quality of life.

He quickly began taking on leadership roles, rolling with the inevitable changes and restructuring any large company goes through.

"There were two times in my career when I didn't officially have a job. That was a little awkward," he said with a laugh.

He was eventually named president of Pepco Region, a position he held for eight years through some very challenging times, including the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. As the public face of the company responsible for getting the power back on, Graham faced intense media scrutiny. How did he handle it?

"By answering questions honestly and telling them how I feel," he said. "I was born and raised here, my friends and family live here. When there is an event like Sandy, it impacts me in a very personal way."

Graham said while the company can't control the weather, they can control their response to it, and they have a big commitment to provide reliable service to their 793,000 customers.

In his new role, Graham oversees 4,700 employees in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Washington, D.C. and 4,400 retirees across the country. He is charged with developing and implementing enterprise-wide policies and programs encompassing all aspects of human resource management.

One challenge he'll face in his new position is an upcoming labor shortage in the utility industry when over the next five years 46 percent of utility employees become eligible for retirement. Graham outlined several strategies he is working on as chairman with the Center for Energy Workforce

Development to interest individuals in a career in utilities, such as Troops to Energy, which recruits military veterans.

However, his most significant challenges lie ahead.

"This position is much bigger, but I am excited to wind down my career undertaking my largest initiative yet, a company-wide cultural transformation," said Graham.

Graham usually begins his day between 4:30 and 5 a.m., answering emails and maybe squeezing in a workout. He's in the office between 7 and 8 a.m. and spends the day running to and from meetings. His evenings are often taken up attending political events and addressing his responsibilities as chairman of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. Graham also finds time to serve on the Executive Committee of the Kevin Durant Charity Foundation and was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Old Line Bank.

"No day is the same, and everything requires my full attention," he said.

In his few moments of downtime, he enjoys watching episodes of *NCIS* or *Law and Order*. A self-proclaimed "jock in a suit," he counts the L.A. Lakers, Washington Redskins and the Boston Red Sox among his favorite teams. And whenever he gets the chance, you'll find him on the golf course.

"I knew I was a broken down athlete when I got sore from playing golf," he said.

Graham was born and raised in Washington, D.C., coming along 12 years after his older sister Melanie. His parents separated when he was 7, and his mom worked two full-time jobs to provide for the family.

"I learned my work ethic from watching her," said Graham. "We had a very close relationship."

During his childhood, Graham discovered a passion for both soccer and music. He was goalkeeper at St. John's College High School and played



(Above) Graham roots for his hometown team, the Washington Redskins, with his sons Jeffrey (on left) and Jordan. (Right) In his new role as vice president of people strategy and human resources, Graham oversees Pepco Holdings' 4,700 employees and 4,400 retirees.

clarinet in the band, and he dreamed of having a career as a professional soccer player.

When the time came to choose a college, he first came to Tampa to visit the University of South Florida. Out of curiosity, he asked the cab driver to swing by UT on his way to USF. They stopped on campus, and for Graham it was love at first sight.

"I don't know if it was just the right time of day, but everything looked gorgeous. I remember calling my mom and telling her I knew where I wanted to go to college," said Graham.

He never made it to USF.

Graham said Jay Miller, the head coach of the men's soccer team, took a chance on him and let him join the team as goalkeeper where he went on to be a four-year letterman. One of his fondest memories of his time at UT is winning the NCAA Division II National Championship during his senior season in 1981.

Between soccer — "Jay had us up when it was still dark for training" — playing in the concert band and classes, Graham maintained a pretty demanding schedule.

He laughs about being a "broke college student" and saving his nickels and dimes to buy treats like Hostess





blueberry pies. He recalled complaining to his mother that the food in the cafeteria was not all that good.

"Then she came to visit during Family Weekend, and the cafeteria served steak and shrimp," he said. "My mom turned to me and said, 'What are you complaining about?'"

Though he was undecided when he started his studies, he soon settled on business management. He recalled one particularly challenging finance course in which he was falling behind. He stopped in to see his professor, who assumed he was there to drop the course — "He called me Mr. Graham, the soccer player." Instead Graham asked what he could do to bring his grade up and the professor, surprised and pleased, gave him the extra work.

The final exam for the course was the same day as the professional soccer draft, but he stayed focused and started at the back of the exam and worked his way forward. When he finished he asked the professor to grade it in front of him.

"I remember he looked it over and looked up and said, 'Congratulations,'" said Graham. He found out later in the day that, as a free agent, he'd been invited to camp to earn a spot on the Tampa Bay Rowdies professional soc-

cer team. "So I certainly remember that experience."

While at UT, Graham also met Debra Alves MBA '82, who would become the mother of his two sons, Jordan (23) and Jeffrey (18), both of whom he describes as "incredible."

After graduation, Graham's dreams of pursuing a professional soccer career were put in jeopardy when he broke his hand the first day of camp with the Rowdies. He took some time off to let his hand heal, but stayed in shape and eventually signed with the Jacksonville Tea Men. The team won the American Soccer League Championship in 1983, his rookie year, as Graham honed his skills playing behind the league MVP.

He played with the team for a couple seasons, learning the ins and outs of running a professional sports team, but eventually came to a crossroads. He had an opportunity to join a soccer team in the Southwest, but that would take him even farther from his mother, who had recently had a mild heart attack.

He made the decision to move back to Washington, D.C., and before long was hired as the goalkeeper coach for the Georgetown men's soccer team, a position he held for nearly 20 years in addition to his roles at Pepco.

Though he has received many

awards through the years, Graham said the one that meant the most to him was the Alumni Achievement Award he received from UT in 2008.

"That one meant the most, because they weren't asking for anything. They were just saying, 'Thank you for representing us well,'" he said.

Beginning with his mother, Graham said he had many role models along the way that have helped him be successful. He lists them by name — Jay Miller (UT coach), Dennis Violett (Jacksonville coach), Keith Tabatznik (Georgetown coach), Ed Ryan (Pepco manager), Beverly Perry (PHI senior vice president), David Owens (industry executive), Joe Rigby (PHI chairman). As an African-American man in a very prominent position, Graham is aware he now has the opportunity to be a role model to other minorities.

Graham said that many people climb the ladder of success and pull it up behind them, but his philosophy is to reach back and help others up.

"You don't self-select to be a role model. You can only choose to be a good one or a bad one," said Graham. "I think it is my responsibility to be a good one and for youth to see they can be successful if they apply themselves." **UT**







# alumni report



"It's such a small world, but a testament to the fact that UT is a *great* university. We are so proud our son will be able to call UT his alma mater someday!"

## HOMECOMING RECAP

It was exciting to once again welcome our alumni back to campus for a weekend of reconnecting and reminiscing. Alumni from a wide range of class years were present, and it was wonderful to see so many members of the class of 2003 in attendance to celebrate their 10-year reunion at the Homecoming Barbecue.

The UT Diplomats celebrated 30 years since their creation in 1983, and we were honored to recognize them and their founders, Linda Devine, vice president of operations and planning, and Tom Feaster M.Ed '76. This was the first time we have held an affinity group reunion during homecoming, and based on the success, we expect to welcome more groups back to campus for reunions next year.

The Golden Spartan Society induction lunch was also held during homecoming for the first time, and the class of 1963 was welcomed into the society. It was the first time in many years that a few of our 1963 inductees had returned to campus, and everyone was amazed at the University's progress.

Homecoming and reunions 2014 will be held on the weekend of Oct. 17-19. If you are interested in helping to organize either a class year or affinity reunion, please contact us at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu).



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

## Six Degrees of UT

LAST YEAR AT ORIENTATION, WE gathered incoming legacy students — those with a relative who previously attended UT — for a photo. The gathering allowed the students to meet others with a similar connection to UT and was such a success that we decided to make it a tradition.

At the photo this fall, the connections were so intertwined that we were able to play our own game of six degrees of separation. Two of our new legacy students, Andrew McDonald '17 (1) and James Nicolucci '17 (2), were randomly assigned as roommates. When they began communicating over the summer, their parents realized they knew each other.

James' father, Steve Nicolucci '88 (3), was an active member of Student Government at the same time as Andrew's mother, Bonnie Hamilton McDonald '86. In addition, Andrew's father, Tom McDonald '87, and Steve Nicolucci share a connection to the

father of another legacy student, Jacob Rooney '16 (4). John Rooney '88 (5), Jacob's father, was friends with Tom through swimming at UT and Steve via ROTC. Incidentally, Jacob's mother, Kathy Cavallaro Rooney '90 (6), also went to UT.

Those connections alone are a challenge to wrap your head around, but the game doesn't end there. The McDonalds' daughter, Chelsea '12, followed in her mom's footsteps by becoming the first legacy president of the UT Delta Zeta chapter. Additionally, one of Bonnie's Delta Zeta sorority sisters, Joann Sirota Kole '87, has a son at UT, Adam '17, who is living in the same residence hall as Andrew and James.

Finally, James' mother, Nancy Grant Nicolucci '84 (7), recently reconnected with one of her college roommates, Carol Shycoff Rigby, whose daughter Alex is a senior at UT this year.

I think Nancy summed up all these connections best when she told me,



# class acts

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

**41** Quinten Joseph "Joe" Williams was featured in an article in the *Citrus County Chronicle* about his accomplishments at UT, his time in the Army Air Corps and his professional life after leaving the service. According to the article, he earned the nickname "Champ" after his first football game at UT, because he was hard to catch once he had the ball and scored a touchdown for 33 yards on his first carry.

**56** Bill Minahan and his wife, Martha, two long-time supporters of organ donation and transplant, were honored with an award named for them. They are the first recipients of the Bill and Martha Minahan Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented in September and sponsored by the National Organization for Transplant Enlightenment (N.O.T.E.).

**69** Barbara (Aguiar) Hevia retired in 2012 after having a successful career in teaching for 38 years. She is now enjoying her life with her three grown

children and five grandsons.  
Email: [saints3bah@yahoo.com](mailto:saints3bah@yahoo.com)

**70** Jerry Davis was reappointed by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal to the Georgia Agriculture Exposition Authority. Jerry is the manager of Heart of Georgia Peanut & Gin Co. and a member of the board of directors of the Georgia Plant Food and Education Society and the Georgia Agribusiness Council.

**71** Szabolcs Michael de Gyurky published *The Autonomous System: A Foundational Synthesis of the Sciences of the Mind*. (See page 29.)

**74** Mark Harry O'Malley was a featured artist in the *Leominster Champion* (MA). Mark uses wood turning to create utilitarian and artistic pieces.

**75** Tony Caprio MBA will retire at the end of December after nearly 40 years of service to the health care community, according to *Drug*



## Home of the Braves

A group of Spartans mingled at a pre-game party on the patio before an Atlanta Braves game at Turner Field. The game was a nail-biter, but the Braves beat the San Diego Padres 2-1. Pictured from left to right (back row) Lindsey Pace, Lisa Adelake MBA '04, Melissa Baker '09, (front row) James Pace '03, Michael Adelake, Michelle Falter and Angela Bryant.

*Store News*. Tony is executive vice president in the Office of Customer Experience and general manager for the Healthcare IQ business partnership at Cardinal Health and will continue to work with the company in a consulting role after his retirement.

Charles "Billy" Goodson was recently honored for 10 years of service on the board of The Arc Sunrise of Central Florida, which has an adult day facility and several group homes for the developmentally disabled, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. Billy said volunteering for the organization is his passion, and he does it for his daughter, who is mentally disabled.

Jeri Mills published *Gluten-Free with Dr. Jeri: Delicious Meals and Decadent Desserts*, a cookbook that recreates all her favorite dishes in gluten-free versions. (See page 29.)

**76** Raymond Weber joined Southwest Securities Inc. as vice president-financial advisor in the company's Private Client Group office in San Diego. Raymond joined Southwest Securities from Morgan Stanley where he served clients for 30 years.

**82** Connie May Fowler was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times's* "Nightstand" column where she revealed that reading

**Step back into the Roaring '20s!** The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will host a speakeasy-themed party on Friday, March 21, in the Rathskellar, featuring heavy appetizers, libations and entertainment. Be sure to get the password or you may be sent away. For more information, go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu).





Louise Erdich's *Love Medicine* gave her the confidence to write her first novel.

**Yoel Pilman** is excited that his son, David, chose to carry on the family tradition and attend UT. He will graduate in December 2014. Email: yoelpilman@hotmail.com

**88** **Phil Hills** and **David Hanson '89** were married at the Four Seasons in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 14. They had several people with UT connections at the wedding, including **Chris Hughes '89**, **Scott Schneider '89**, **Lori (Reith) Schneider '90**, **Susan (DeCoste) Henderson '89**, **Cheryl Virta '89**, **David Knapp '89** and **Pam Cunningham Bracken** (former longtime UT employee).

**Frances McBrien** is currently teaching private yoga sessions as well as working for the New York City Department of Education as a physical education teacher. Email: fitmom62@aol.com

**90** **Peter Platteborze** recently moved to the Brooke Army Medical Center, Joint Base San Antonio, where he serves as the director of the core, reference chemistry and emergency department laboratories. Email: peter.platteborze@us.army.mil



Phil Hills '88 and David Hanson '89



spartan spotlight

## Brad Schiff '93

*Frame by Frame*

The saying goes to take life one day at a time, but as animation supervisor at LAIKA studios, Brad Schiff '93 often takes it one second at a time.

"There are 24 movements in one second of film," said Schiff, explaining that animators are expected to produce six seconds a week during a 75- to 78-week shoot.

After working on several TV series — and receiving an Emmy Award for an episode of the stop motion television show *Gary and Mike* — Schiff helped bring *Corpse Bride* to life and has since worked on a string of Academy Award-nominated films, including *Coraline*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox* and *ParaNorman*.

As animation supervisor at LAIKA, an animation studio specializing in feature films, commercials and shorts, Schiff is involved before production even begins, from building a team of stop motion animators from around the world to giving input on how the puppets are built. Schiff explained that puppets are animated to the actors' voices.

For a stop-motion animator, the question most

often asked is how do you know how far to move the puppets each time?

"You just do," said Schiff, explaining animators are given an exposure sheet with dialogue broken down phonetically. "You look at the sheet and know you have 12 frames to get the puppet from A to B. You get the feel through experience."

Schiff was initially set on the path toward becoming an animator by the late Richard Protovin, a UT associate professor of communication.

"His philosophies changed my life," said Schiff, who transferred to UT his sophomore year. "I was on one path, and he grabbed me by the shoulders, pointed me in a different direction and said, 'Keep going.'"

He went on to earn a master's degree in film/animation from New York University and got his first break working on MTV's *Celebrity Deathmatch*. He was soon recruited by his dream studio — Will Vinton Studios (now LAIKA).

These days, Schiff is working on LAIKA's next animated feature, *The BoxTrolls*, which is set for release on Sept. 26, 2014.





### Giving a Little Back

Racquel Codling '00 and Ron Marks '75 worked hard, along with other Spartan volunteers, at the DC Central Kitchen preparing meals for the day. DC Central Kitchen staff and volunteers prepare more than 5,000 meals each day by cutting, chopping and peeling thousands of pounds of food.

**91** **Lawrence Letourneau** earned a doctorate in educational psychology from The University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Email: ell\_ee\_ell@hotmail.com

**94** **Danika Bayard** was profiled in the *St. Thomas Source* (Virgin Islands). She has spent three years working in her family's business, Seachest Ace Hardware, and this fall plans to move to Massachusetts as the first step toward fulfilling her dream of opening a bed and breakfast in New England.

**Jon Woods MBA** is serving as minister of music at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Leesburg, FL, according to *Florida Baptist Witness*. Ordained in 2008, Jon has served as minister of music in churches in Illinois and Florida for 13 years. He and his wife, Dianne, have three teenage sons.

**95** **Alex Brenner**, along with two other amateur beer makers, won the seventh annual Kentucky Ale Brew-Off in July with

their black India pale ale. As a result of their victory they earned a trip to Denver in October to enter the 2013 Pro-Am competition at the Great American Beer Festival. Email: bighousept@gmail.com

**Valerie Jones** has been named the head women's volleyball coach at South Carolina State University, according to *The Times and Democrat* (SC). She served the last two seasons as head volleyball coach at Whitewater High School in Fayetteville, GA, leading the team to back-to-back state championships and a 5-A Volleyball Georgia High School state title in 2012.

**Tamora (Crawford) Omori** is working as an attorney risk manager at Florida Risk Law in Valrico, FL. She specializes in physical medical malpractice management and physician risk management consultations. She has been actively engaged in the practice of health and hospital law since her graduation. Her husband, Dr. Michael Omori, is pursuing a master's degree in medical informatics from Northwestern University and will



Christina O'Brien '96

embark upon a career as a chief medical informatics officer. Email: tomori@floridarisklaw.com

**96** **Christina O'Brien** has been elected to the Family Resource Center of Southwest Florida's Board of Directors. She concentrates her family law practice in matters of dissolution of marriage, custody, paternity, child support, domestic violence injunctions, post-judgment modifications and dependency issues. She is admitted to practice in all Florida state courts. Christina is a member of the Family Law Section of the Florida Bar, the Lee County Bar Association, the Association of Family Law Professionals and the Lee County Association of Women Lawyers. She is a member of the Fort Myers Track Club. Email: christina.obrien@henlaw.com

**97** **Melissa (Nelson) Slater** has been promoted to assistant curator of behavioral husbandry at the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society. She is also working towards a doctorate in biopsychology and behavioral neuroscience. On Feb. 9, 2013, she



Alva Cross '99

married Matthew Slater and currently resides in New York. Email: im\_menelson@hotmail.com

**98** **Deborah Ginsberg** is working as a scholarship and education coordinator at HANDY (Helping Abused, Neglected, Disadvantaged, Youth), and one of their scholarship students is currently attending UT. She and her husband, John Walsh, currently reside in Miami. She is very excited to let us know that her daughter, Jacquelynn Shayna, turned 3 in November 2013. Email: deborahmginsberg@handyinc.org

**Michelle A. Moore** has graduated from Navy Officer Candidate School and received a commission as an ensign in the United States Navy while assigned at Officer Training Command, Newport, RI.

**99** **Alva Cross**, of counsel in the Tampa office of Fisher and Phillips LLP, has been selected by her peers for inclusion in *Florida Rising Stars*, which recognizes attorneys who are 40 or younger, or who have been practicing for 10 years or less.

**Editor's Note:** In our profile of Erica Shames '78 in the Fall 2013 issue, we incorrectly reported the circulation of her magazine, *Susquehanna Life*. Between subscribers and newsstand sales, the readership for *Susquehanna Life* is 45,000 each issue.





Denise Adelman '02 and Morgan Pastore

Over the past nine years, Alva has represented employers in agency proceedings and in state and federal court against allegations of discrimination, harassment and unpaid wages. She has a particular focus on helping employers reduce the likelihood of litigation.

**Luana Martucci** founded the Lawrence A. Martucci Benefit Corp. in 2011, which is a nonprofit organization that raises funds and supports other local organizations that research for the cure or prevention of childhood cancers. The organization donated \$20,000 to the Children's Cancer Research Group through 1Voice Foundation in February 2013 following their first fundraiser event "A Magic Cure Benefit" that featured former UT student and magician Reynold Alexander. Reynold will take the stage again at next year's event on March 1, 2014.

Email: luanamartucci1@yahoo.com

**00 Sherrie Chambers** is co-owner of Brightway Insurance in Tampa. Sherrie has more than 30 years of experience in the insurance industry and is a member of the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors.

**Eric Sims** was named head coach of the soccer team at his alma mater, Jesuit High School in Tampa. Eric served as head coach of the Gaither High School soccer team for 12 years.

**Ryan Smiley** has been appointed president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Porter County (IN). Ryan is a member of Valparaiso's Fit City council, is in the current class of the Valparaiso Chamber's Leadership Academy and served as an External Steering Committee Member for Portage Township School's P.E.A.K. Program.

**02 Denise Adelman** recently became engaged to Morgan Pastore. She is a director of photography and a professional photographer in the Atlanta area.

Email: adelman\_pastore@yahoo.com

**Angela Gillisse** stepped down as girls soccer coach at Steinbrenner High School in Tampa to take a position as program manager for Teens in Action at Frameworks of Tampa Bay, according to the *Tampa Tribune*.

**Gabrielle Perham MBA '11** owns and operates Mace Multimedia, a marketing and design firm based in Riverview, FL, that caters specifically to small to mid-level businesses.

**03 Aura (Ortiz) Brinkey** married William R. Brinkey in 2009 and the couple now has a 21-month-old daughter. Aura received a law degree from Stetson University and is currently in her eighth year of teaching advanced placement government and politics and honors economics in the Pasco County School District.

Email: stetsonlaw07@aol.com

**Ron Carlstrom** has been hired as vice president/marketing manager for BankRI and will be responsible for the overall look and feel of the BankRI brand while overseeing all advertising, communications and product development.

**04 Becky (Kagan) Schott** was inducted into the

Women Divers Hall of Fame in March. She was also inducted into the prestigious New York Explorers Club for her underwater exploration projects around the world.

Email: becky@liquidproductions.com

**05 Alexander Keller** met up with **Frank Trinidad '05** and **Eric Prazinko '04** in Afghanistan. While reconnecting they talked about how amazed they are at all the changes to campus. Frank and Eric were Army ROTC at UT and Alexander was Air Force ROTC.

**Katherine B. Seelie** is participating in the Slingshot #slingshotfindher photo competition to gain higher name recognition within the sport of kiteboarding. She also refurbished a 40-foot Beneteau sailing yacht, Sabbatical.

**06 Christopher Findeisen** and his business partners were awarded a \$25,000 grant through MillerCoor's Urban Entrepreneurship Series for their company, Black & Denim Apparel Co., according to rollingout.com. The trio also served as judges for the Miller Lite Tap the Future business plan competition.

**Michael Haines** started a new job at Quad Learning Inc. in Washington, D.C., as the director of operations and strategic partnerships.

Email: michael.d.haines@gmail.com

**Ilene Strauss** is the co-founder of Ever Changing Minds, an online counseling service that provides innovative therapy worldwide via face-to-face/video chat, instant messaging and email, as well as through traditional landline and mobile phones. In August 2013, Ever Changing Minds partnered with Mosio, a mobile software company, to launch a two-way text message platform, TextChat. Ilene earned her master's degree and doctorate in marriage and family therapy from Nova Southeastern University, and she is excited to be able to combine her degree with cutting edge technology to help others.

**07 Richard Ferner MBA** obtained his Doctor of Business Administration from Argosy University in Sarasota, FL.

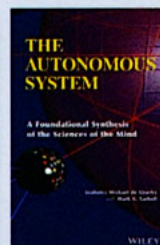
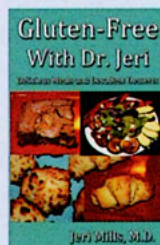
Email: rferner1@gmail.com

**Amanda Malloni** and her husband, Scribner, purchased a new home and were featured on the HGTV television show *House Hunters*, which aired in September and again in October.

Email: amandamalloni@gmail.com

**Phil Smith** is the co-owner of Brightway Insurance in Tampa. He previously worked at T. Rowe Price for six years.

**08 Matthew Bernholz** has recently joined the real estate and land use/zoning practice groups at Certilman,



**Two alumni recently published books:**

*Gluten-Free with Dr. Jeri: Delicious Meals and Decadent Desserts* by Jeri Mills '75 and *The Autonomous System* by Szabolcs Michael de Gyurky '71



spartan spotlight

## Tara Parian '08

*"Dirt-Poor Disheveled Diva"*



Reality TV doesn't become addictive on its own. Behind the scenes, players create a story from hours of footage. That's what Tara Parian '08 did before landing a job at BuzzFeed.com, one of the most talked about new journalist projects on the web.

Parian came to UT as a transfer student. She studied film production, and after graduating, moved to New York City to study media arts production at the City College of New York.

Gigs as a researcher on the Discovery Channel's *Dirty Money*, intern on the syndicated show *Entertainment Tonight* and a production assistant at MTV led her to *The Real Housewives of Miami* in 2012. For Parian, it was a dream job, and exactly what she wanted to do at the time.

"I thought 'if my life were a movie right now, this would be the moment when I'm supposed to jump in slo-mo,'" she said.

As an associate producer and Web producer, she tracked paperwork and made

sure everything seen in the show was "properly cleared" (and if not, that it was blurred out). She also edited and produced Web videos for Bravotv.com.

On the side, she created *The Dirt-Poor Disheveled Divas Web* series, a commentary on her life as a broke girl in New York City. After swapping business cards with a BuzzFeed employee (hers included the website for her Web series), she opened her next career door — working for BuzzFeed as a "creative" who comes up with projects for the website.

"The only way I found this current joy of a job was by saying yes to new things, following the fear, trusting my instincts and just owning who I am," she said.

Parian said UT allowed her to do random stuff that piqued her interest, like playing intramural volleyball or taking "Writing for Sitcoms." This taught her to try new things, because those new things might stick.

Balin, Adler and Hyman, LLP as an associate and is based in the Hauppauge, NY, office. He earned his law degree from New York Law School in 2012. Throughout law school he worked as a property manager for Wellington Custom Builders, where he managed three multi-million dollar luxury homes in Southampton. He also developed a Florida-based startup company created to redesign spaces and stage residences for sale or rent.

**Mitchell Hall M.S.** was promoted to manager within the audit and business advisory services department at Haskell & White LLP, one of Southern California's largest independently owned accounting, auditing and tax consulting firms.

**09 Laura Laboissonniere** has earned a Master of Education in student affairs from the University of South Florida in May 2012 and recently moved to Westport, CT, to open a Pure Barre Studio.

Email: labs.laura@gmail.com

**Andrew Learned** recently separated from the Navy after four successful years and two deployments to the Middle East and North Africa. He moved back to Tampa and opened a new tutoring company named Grade Power Learning in South Brandon, FL.

Email: andrew.p.learned@gmail.com

**Kimberly Nahm and Nathan Brown '09 MS '13** became engaged on Aug. 18, 2013. They met at UT as members of Delta Sigma Pi and have been together for five years.

Email: k.nahm1@gmail.com

**10 Nicole Ackels** became engaged to Tristan Upham on Sept. 7, 2013.

Email: nicole@ackels.net

**Erica Cromwell** and five relay teammates swam the English Channel, a total distance of 27 miles





Nathalia Pirela '11 and Michael Watkins

in water that was 61 to 62 degrees, according to *The News-Gazette* (IL). Erica is a physical therapist at Carle Therapy Services.

**Andrew Smith** partnered with his parents to open High Cotton Living in Tampa's Hyde Park Village, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. The store sells men's and women's casual clothing, home goods and custom furniture with the majority of items made in the U.S.

**11 Harvey Chan** is currently in the postgraduate program in the Division of Life Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is doing research on human embryonic stem cells for cell-based heart regenerative medicine in Professor Andrew L. Miller's laboratory. Email: yshchan@ust.hk

**Zachary Hines** plans creative fundraising events for Directions for Living, a Tampa nonprofit social services agency, according to *Creative*

*Loafing*. In October, he helped plan the No Shame Campaign, which he described as "art meeting activism" to help eliminate stigma.

**Gina Moccio** founded Vessel Collective, an online resource for essays, interviews and event information, with help from the Hampton Arts Mgmt Think Small to Think Big microfunding program, according to *Creative Loafing*.

**Nathalia Pirela** married Michael Watkins on March 8, 2013, and they are expecting their first child in late January 2014. She has also been promoted to public relations associate at NPC Creative Services in Tampa.

Email: nathalia.watkins24@gmail.com

**12 Kathleen Bannon** was part of a team representing USA Athletes International on a two-week softball tour of Australia this summer, according to *Warwick Online*. The team took part in the Softball NSW International Challenge Series, which is held annually in Sydney.

**Mitchel Brooks** is employed by IMG College, the nation's leading collegiate sports marketing company. He works directly with Rutgers University as the partner services coordinator at Rutgers IMG Sports Marketing.

**Elyse Fulton** has recently moved to Paris. Email: efulton@spartans.ut.edu

## GET THE LATEST

The alumni office recently started sending a monthly alumni e-newsletter on the first Thursday of the month. You'll find news about the UT community and alumni, a schedule of upcoming alumni events, opportunities for involvement and more.

If you're not receiving it, we may not have your correct email address, or it may be going directly to your junk folder. If the newsletter is going to your junk folder, add alumni@ut.edu as a safe sender. If you aren't receiving it, send us your current or preferred email address, and we'll make sure you're on the list for the next one.

**Ashton Graham** will make his professional basketball debut with the Island Storm (Prince Edward Island, Canada) this fall, according to *The Guardian*.

**Mackenzie Hill** set up a popup jewelry shop, Kenzie Lee Vintage Bijoux, at the Channelside Bay Plaza as part of Tampa Fashion Week in September, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

**Rodner Salgado** appeared in *Quest for the Stars* at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts and *Land of the Dead* for Hat Trick Theatre Productions, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

**Taylor Vaughn** participated in an art therapy service trip to the Dominican Republic. A documentary is now being made about the trip and art therapy in general. Email: vaughtn908@gmail.com

**Griffeth Whitehurst** has

appeared in several productions since graduating, including *1776* at the Asolo Repertory Theatre in Sarasota, *S'Wonderful* (understudy) at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts and *Spring* for freeFall, according to *Creative Loafing*.

## IN MEMORIAM Alumni

Raymond C. Bozich '54  
Al Saferstein '57  
Robert Berg '64  
Angel Martin '65  
Marilyn Messing Westly '67  
Eugene Petit '70  
Florence Carmen Lewis Blair '77  
Mark L. Yost Jr. '79  
Paul David Newman '82  
Brenda Ricottilli '02  
Scarlett Leigh Hunt '03  
Joshua Griffin '10

**Be there or walk the plank!** The Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will host the annual Gasparilla Brunch in Plant Hall on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Enjoy an all-you-care-to-eat buffet and beverages as well as exclusive campus parking. The chapter will also be selling custom UT Gasparilla beads, so be sure to get yours before heading to the parade. For details, go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu).







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# HOMECOMING & REUNIONS 2013

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



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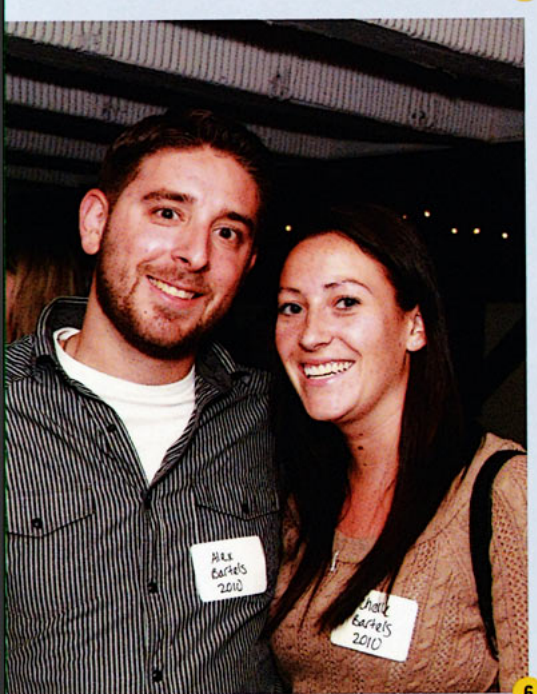




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It was great to see so many alumni at homecoming Oct. 25-26. The weekend began with the homecoming parade around campus (3 and 8). After the parade President Vaughn and his wife, Renée, hosted the President's Reception (7) behind Morsani Hall where a few members of the Class of 1988 gathered for its 25th reunion (1). The Rathskeller was a packed house on Friday night (6) during a one-night revival as a bar. On Saturday, the Golden Spartans gathered to honor the Class of 1963 (4 and 10) and Idelle McMillan Mathews '39 (2) was in attendance celebrating her 74th reunion. Also on Saturday, Diplomat founders Tom Feaster M. Ed. '76 and Linda Devine (9) were honored during a Diplomat reunion at the homecoming barbecue and the minarets were open for tours (5).

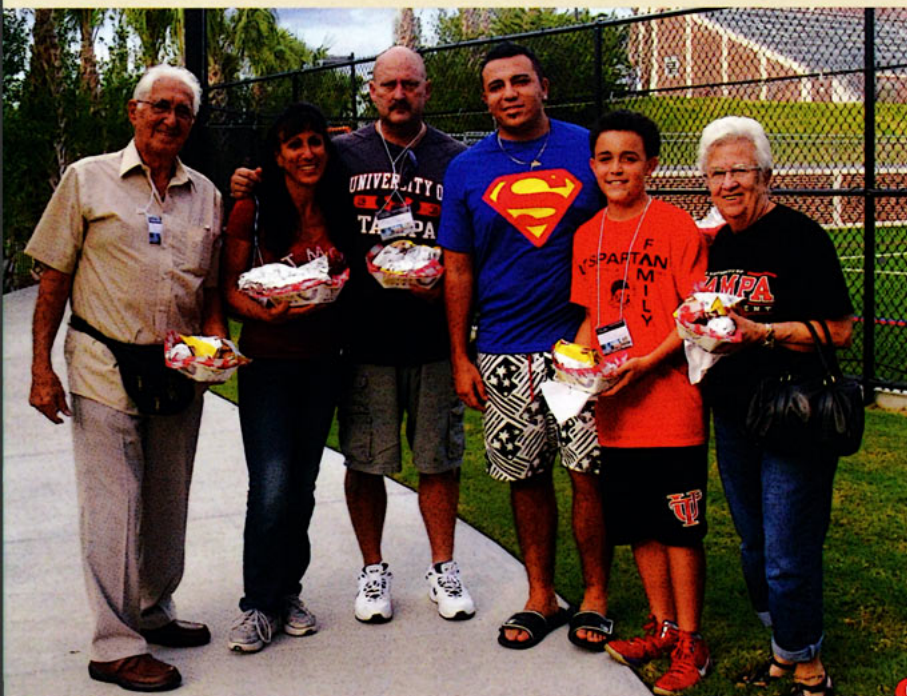


# 2013 FAMILY WEEKEND

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CASEY BUDD '16



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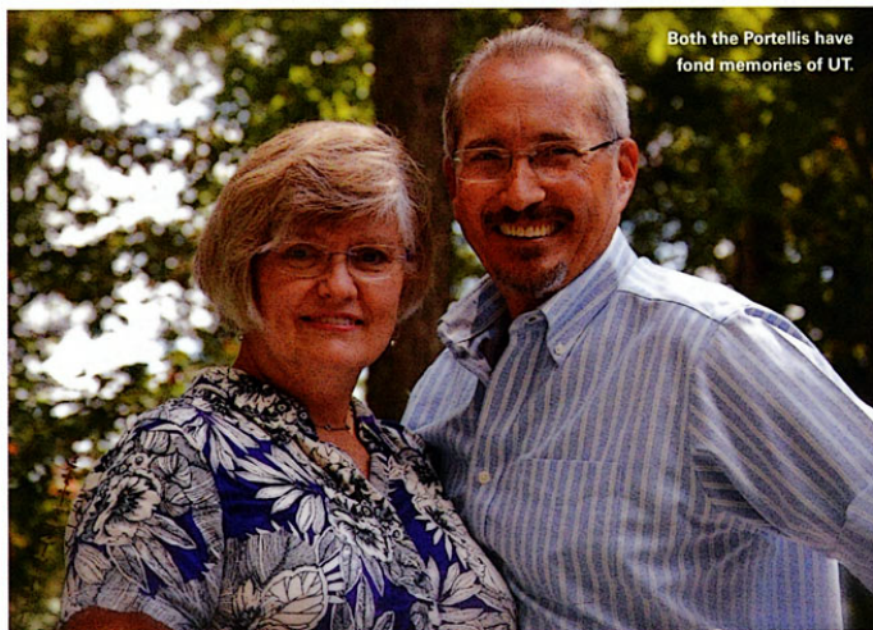
Family Weekend 2013 was held Oct. 4-5 and had a record turnout. On Friday, families enjoyed boat tours on the Hillsborough River (4), a campus barbecue at the new Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex (5) and a concert featuring the men's and women's Glee Clubs (1). On Saturday, families enjoyed beautiful views of downtown Tampa while climbing the minarets in Plant Hall (3) and met the dean of students at Brunch with the Dean on the 9th floor of the Vaughn Center (2).



# brick by brick

common good

## WHY I GIVE: Alex "Alpo" Portelli '81



**Major:** Political Science

**Profession:** Retired Colonel, U.S. Army

**Q: Why did you attend UT?**

**A:** I was accepted to 57 U.S. colleges, including all the Ivy League schools, but after a visit to UT, decided this was the U for me! The small class sizes guaranteed a much more personalized educational experience.

**Q: What were you involved in at UT?**

**A:** I participated in fencing and the UT Drill Team. (I met my wife, Gail, competing in the National Pershing Rifle Drill Meet.) I am most proud of my stint as Senior Class Rep 1980-1981.

**Q: Did you have a favorite professor?**

**A:** I was fortunate to have a handful of favorite professors that served as mentors through the years — Maj. Ed

Thomas of the ROTC program, Drs. Richard Piper and Bob Kerstein for poli-sci, Dr. Stephen Speronis, the gentle giant, for history and Mon Docteur William Leith who kept French (one of my nine fluent languages) up to par. Equally important were the writing skills taught by Dr. Andy Solomon.

**Q: Favorite place on campus?**

**A:** The Rathskeller — many a good class was held there as were numerous discussion groups (and parties)!

**Q: How did UT help prepare you for a career?**

**A:** UT made me what I am today. In spite of master's degrees from the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Army War College, the UT experience shaped my career. Through early tactical Army assignments and continued

assignments as a military-political specialist in Europe (with 20 consecutive years of high-level assignments in Norway, Turkey and Germany), the UT experience set me up for success.

**Q: What friendships began at UT?**

**A:** My fellow ROTC grads and Pershing Riflemen/women like the Simon and Pauchey clan to friends along fraternity-sorority row, especially Meg McCarty '80 with whom I worked admissions for UT.

**Q: Did you work while you were at UT?**

**A:** I worked at Dusty Rhodes' Wrangler Ranch in Tampa Bay Mall and the Speronis family's Gandy Moorings Marina — my "history class annex" where, after work, Doc Speronis would grill me for (cherished) hours on history, Byzantine culture, social science, cultural science and comparative religion.

**Q: How do you stay connected with UT?**

**A:** Mostly online, with *The Minaret*, but also through the *UT Journal*. Anyone up for an alumni gathering in the Carolinas?

**Q: Why do you support UT?**

**A:** I owe UT more than anyone can imagine. Gail spent my senior year with me and has fond memories as well. Giving to UT has been an annual event through the years; a small amount here, a larger amount there. Now we have decided to start with a large pledge to UT and hope to add to it over time. We hope our gift will help catapult UT students to the forefront of their chosen professions throughout the future.



# UT Welcomes Six New Trustees

THE UT BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS added six members.

JEAN AMUSO '64 is the president of The Chisellers Inc., which is dedicated to the historic restoration of the 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel. Amuso spent 29 years as a social worker in the field before moving into teaching at the University of South Florida, retiring after nine years as director of the School of Social Work.

JOHN HOLTON '93 is vice president of client services at Rita Technology Services, managing a portfolio of clients in addition to the business development/sales team. He is president of the UT National Alumni Association.

HOWARD M. JENKINS is chairman of the Executive Committee of Publix Super Markets Inc. He began his career with Publix in 1966 and in 1986

was named chairman of the Executive Committee. Jenkins served as chairman and CEO from 1990 to 2001. Jenkins is co-founder of Take Stock in Children in Florida, a scholarship charity for college students, and of the Jenkins Clinic, a charitable cancer treatment and research clinic.

KAMAL MAJEED is an engineer, entrepreneur and serves as the CEO and president of NexTech. NexTech is a leader in practice management, marketing and electronic medical records software for plastic surgery and dermatology. Prior to NexTech, Majeed founded ExcelTech, which developed and provided aesthetic computer imaging simulation software for the plastic surgery industry.

THOMAS MEACHUM '81, MBA '93 is first vice president and certified financial planner at Merrill Lynch in

Clearwater, FL. He worked for 17 years in health care before transitioning to Merrill Lynch in 1999. He has served on the board of directors for UT's Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter and helped found The Royal Krewe of Sparta. Meachum joined UT's Board of Fellows in 2002 and is on the Sykes College of Business Advisory Board.

R. VIJAYANAGAR, M.D. is a renowned cardiac and thoracic surgeon who performed the first heart transplant at Tampa General Hospital in 1985. He is the cardiovascular and thoracic surgery consultant and medical director of Advanced Innovative Medicine, which specializes in the development and commercialization of innovative medical therapies with a strong focus in the emerging field of adult stem cell therapy.



Jean Amuso '64



John Holton '93



Howard M. Jenkins



Kamal Majeed



Thomas Meachum '81,  
MBA '93



R. Vijayanagar, M.D.

## GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

*Gifts made from June 1 to Sept. 19, 2013.*

### In Honor

#### 2011 GRADUATES

Anonymous

#### BOB RUDAY

Rebecca Bauer MBA '12

Sean Ruday

### In Memory

#### LAURA BENTLEY

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

#### ANGEL MARTIN SR. '65

Peregrin Gilman

#### SANDRA MEACHUM FALCE

David and Suzanne Meachum

Thomas '89, MBA '93 and

Kathryn MBA '00 Meachum

Vicki Meachum '85

#### MARILYN NEYLAND

David and Linda Devine

#### JOSEPHINE PIZZO

Alfred S. '47 and Beverly

Austin

#### NEVA SESSUMS

George and Barbara

Pennington

## NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Kathryn J. and Thomas A. Meachum Family Endowed Scholarship  
Sherrie Mueller Endowed Scholarship

**Correction:** In the Honor Roll of Donors in the Fall 2013 issue, Ralph Lazzara III '64's name was misspelled in the Alumni Donors list.





Lennon has been the face of UT's dance program for nearly four decades.

the annual fund

## Dance for Every Body

WITH THE MINARETS AGLOW, A CROWD anxiously waited for the next performers in UT's Dance Happening to take the stage on the verandah of Plant Hall. This bi-annual event, completely student-run from auditions to rehearsals, is the brain-child of Professor Susan Taylor Lennon.

Lennon has been the face of UT's dance program for nearly four decades. She has grown the program from offering just a few classes to the diverse array of coursework and community involvement that make up the applied dance major at UT today.

"I began here in 1976 as an adjunct professor working alongside Anzia Arsenault, my former teacher from the Tampa Ballet Company," Lennon said. "Through persistence and passion the program slowly grew, and in 1990 I became UT's first full-time dance professor."

Lennon's vision for the dance program has always been to give students a greater appreciation of the community and a better sense of self confidence.

She works hard to include students of all majors and involve departments campus-wide.

"I lean on our community network to offer diverse experiences," Lennon said. "I want the students to experience different abilities and talents. I want to open their eyes to the possibilities around them and see different ways to incorporate all types of art forms into everyday life."

Dance coursework includes technique, theory, history and pedagogy classes, as well as visits out into the community to apply lessons learned in the classroom. This semester, students have visited Pyramid, a local arts center for developmentally disabled adults and classes with Forever Moving, a dance company for older adults.

"It never ceases to amaze me to watch our students lead a class in the community and see a person that participates in no other activities gravitate to a simple dance or gesture to be a part of the group," said Lennon. "Even basic movements can inspire others."

Additionally, many guest artists have come to campus to work with our students, such as art therapist Heather Spooner '01, director of Arts for Health Tampa Bay. In March 2014, UT's dance program will host the Urban Bush Women for a week-long community engagement residency. Based in Brooklyn, NY, Urban Bush Women uses art to address social issues and encourage civic engagement.

"This partnership speaks to the heart of our program and will involve numerous students as well as an intergenerational, diverse community population," said Lennon. "We are partnering with other offices on campus to bring students of all majors together. This program will offer something very special and unique to our students and to our extended community."

UT's dance program puts on five productions annually, and unlike at other universities, students are not charged for their costumes or other production expenses. Donations to the Annual Fund help to provide diverse experiences and support programming, like dance, for all students.

"Donations to the UT dance program are critical to our success," said Lennon. "In fact, donations are what help us to do so much."

UT's program is designed to help students align their passions and find a way to involve themselves in the community.

"My college dance professor used to say the same words before every performance," said Lennon. "I now say those same words to my students. But really, these wise words can be applied to any part of someone's life. It is simply: 'Do it with love.'"



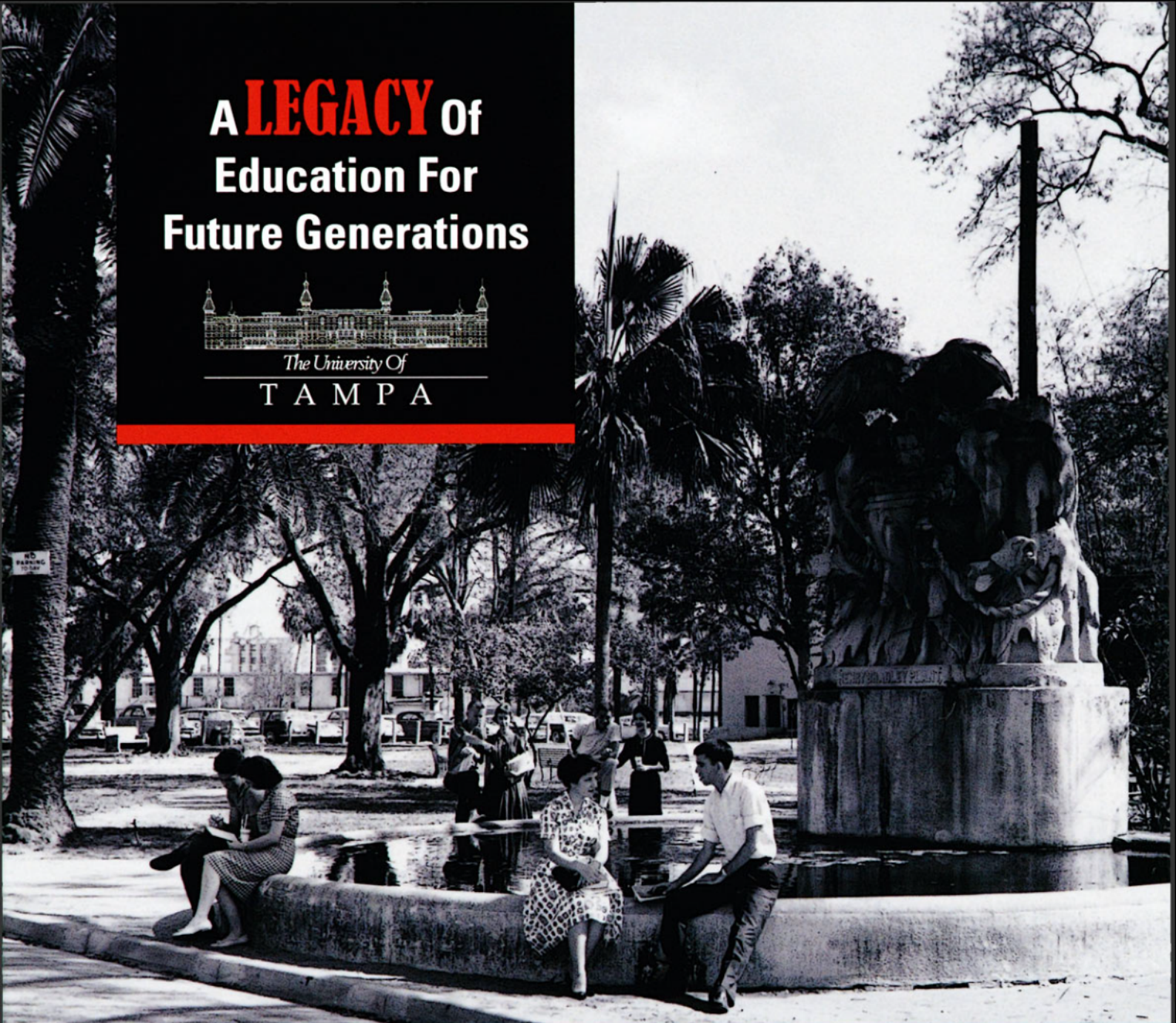
*Need more information about the Annual Fund? Contact Taylor Pinke, Annual Fund Director [annualfund@ut.edu](mailto:annualfund@ut.edu) (813) 258-7401*



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# PNC Bank Supports Concert Series

PNC BANK, ONE OF THE NATION'S largest diversified financial services organizations, has added its name to one of UT's most popular events — the annual Concert Artist Series at the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values.

This is the first time the highly-anticipated, standing-room only concert series has had a corporate partner.

Now named the 2013-2014 PNC Concert Artist Series at the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, the series includes six free concerts — including a performance from the principal organist of the

Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

"PNC believes in the power of culturally engaging programs to strengthen our communities," said Joseph Meterchick, regional president, PNC Bank, Florida West. "This free series not only compliments the University's events on campus, but supports the cultural vitality of this region."

The series, which is open to the public, also includes a pops concert by the San Diego civic organist and the traditional December holiday concert.

Remaining concerts in the series include:

■ And Heaven and Nature Sing: A

Holiday Celebration, Sunday Dec. 8, at 2 and 4 p.m.

■ Organ Pops Concert by Carol Williams, San Diego civic organist and organist of the famed Spreckles Pavilion, Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m.

■ Richard Elliott, principal organist of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Sunday, March 2, at 2 p.m.

■ Music for Organ and Piano (and Harpsichord), Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m.

## A NEW WAY TO NETWORK

The Board of Counselors has partnered up with the Office of Career Services to host Speed Networking Nights. Modeled after "speed dating," this interactive event offers UT students the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of 25 professionals. Participating students have four minutes to converse with each professional, providing them an opportunity to exercise their networking skills with influential working professionals. The next Speed Networking Night will be held on Feb. 19, 2014. For more information, email [counselors@ut.edu](mailto:counselors@ut.edu).



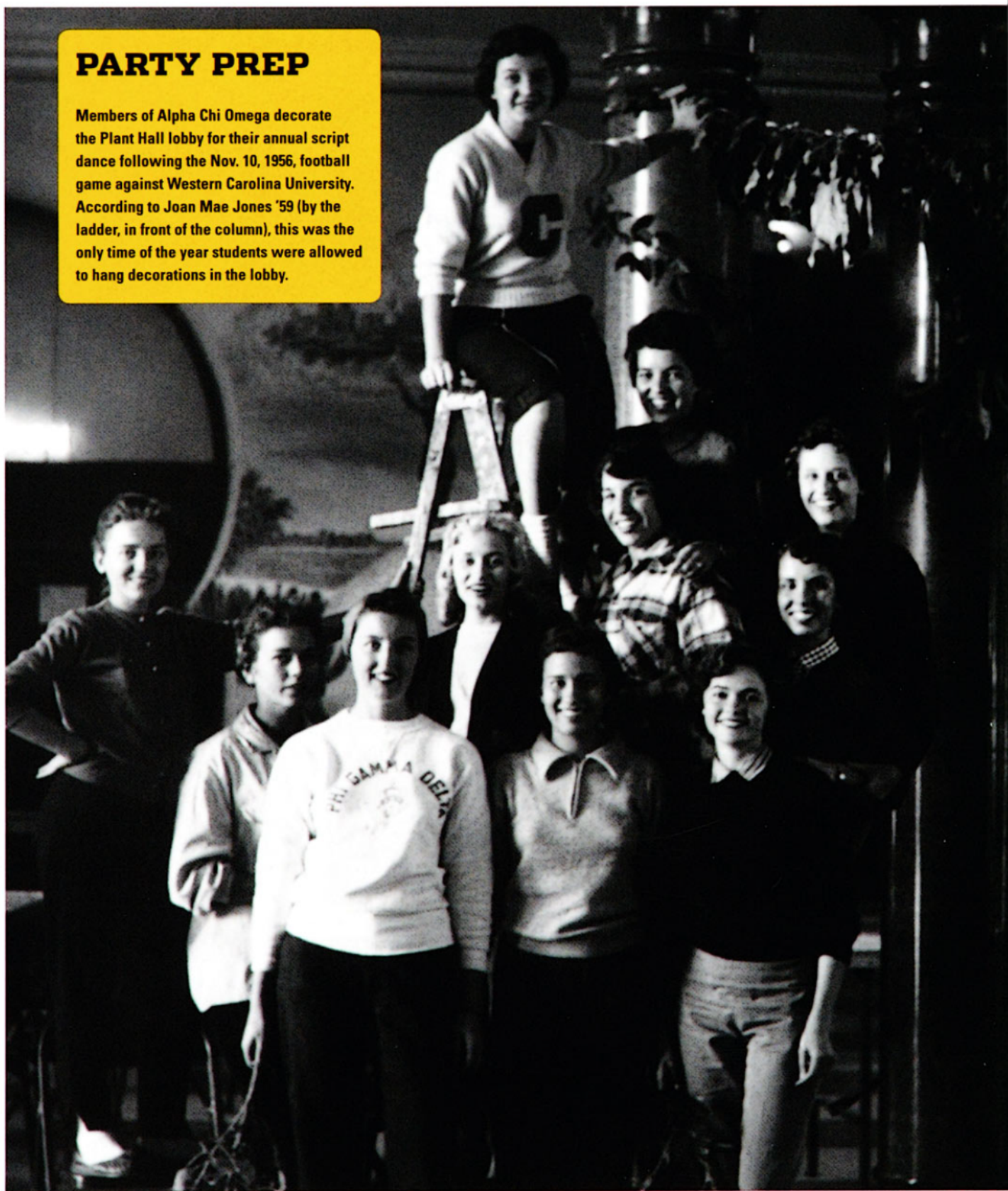
**MIX AND MINGLE** The first Minaret Society Mingle on Sept. 27 provided an opportunity for the University to thank the donors at the Bronze Crescent level of the Minaret Society. Among the attendees were members of the Board of Fellows: (from left) Bret Azzarelli, Armando Castellon and his wife, Orquidea Castellon.

**Making an Impact** Have you ever stopped to think about all the lives you touch by helping just one UT student? See how the gifts of two strangers had a profound impact on UT alumna Elisabet Fandino '13, and how she is using the skills she learned at UT to help children all over the Tampa Bay area: [www.ut.edu/utgiving/video](http://www.ut.edu/utgiving/video).



## PARTY PREP

Members of Alpha Chi Omega decorate the Plant Hall lobby for their annual script dance following the Nov. 10, 1956, football game against Western Carolina University. According to Joan Mae Jones '59 (by the ladder, in front of the column), this was the only time of the year students were allowed to hang decorations in the lobby.





# BARNES & NOBLE


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This UT family captured the moment by snapping a photo with Spartacus during the Family Weekend Barbecue on Oct. 4 in the park adjacent to the new Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex. (For more Family Weekend photos, see page 34.)

