

UTjournal

The Publication for The University of Tampa WINTER 2017



CLASS OF 2020

What they envision for the future

Differentiators That Matter



RECENTLY THE COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES (CIC), an association of 750 nonprofit independent colleges and universities, published research that summarized data from more than 540,000 first-year and senior students enrolled at more than 900 colleges and universities.

Some of those students were UT students, as we regularly participate in the CIC's annual National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to track our progress in student engagement. With this tool we can compare our students' academic experiences with those at other top private and public institutions.

Our most recent NSSE assessment showed UT is significantly better than average in facilitating discussions between diverse groups, supporting student-faculty interaction, encouraging quantitative reasoning and enabling effective faculty teaching.

However, the CIC's recent report is most informative in that it summarizes NSSE data to find what differentiates education in independent colleges from public institutions. These differentiators include:

- Academically Challenging Experiences
- High-Impact Practices
- Student-Faculty Interactions
- Supportive Learning Environment
- Effective Teaching Practices
- Emphasis on Values and Ethics

This research validates our efforts in many of the areas we've focused on — and invested in — over many years. As a result, UT provides a rich, holistic educational experience that helps develop the whole person.

We have addressed and played a role in establishing those differentiators in a myriad of ways. Here are just a few examples:

- The Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values was built in 2010 in support of our efforts to emphasize the development of values and character.

- In order to advance the best practices of college teaching, we have enhanced the Center for Teaching and Learning.

- Our most recent quality enhancement program (QEP) addresses improving student skills in the areas of critical thinking, discipline-based knowledge and skills, as well as written and oral communication. This is being done via research- and internship-based experiential activities.

- We have revamped the internship program institution-wide, so students in all majors can have a meaningful internship experience.

- Along with UT's population growth, we have ensured close student-faculty interactions with a 1:17 faculty-to-student ratio and an average class size of 21.

- Our Academic Success Center provides students with the tools they need to succeed academically, including advising, tutoring and academic exploration.

- UT provides a vibrant campus environment with 229 student organizations, 135 leadership programs, strong community service and rich international learning opportunities. Plus, there are 10,000 on-campus events annually of all kinds to engage students in almost every area of interest.

It is no surprise to us that research indicates independent universities like UT produce well-rounded graduates prepared to disproportionately assume leadership roles in a challenging world. These differentiators matter, and they are what make UT a model institution.

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contents



features

cover story

8 Class of 2020: Future in Sight

Ten members of the class of 2020 share their passions, peeves and plans for the future.

16 How UT Shaped Me

On UT's 85th anniversary, alumni reflect back on their time at the University and share, in 85 words, how UT shaped them.

profile

20 A Woman of Washington

Aileen Black '83 followed her passion into a career in the Washington, D.C., technology community and, through her latest endeavor, hopes to inspire other women to follow theirs.

special campaign section

34 Changing Lives

Whether you give to UT's capital campaign or the Annual Fund, you are helping to change the lives of today's students and future generations.

About the cover: Esther Cho '20 shares her vision for the future on page 11. Illustration by Sean McCabe, photograph by Alex McKnight.

2 news of note

New, larger Fitness and Recreation Center open, mixed-ability dancers wow UT students, research shows song can enhance language learning, Athletic Hall of Fame inducts 10



24 alumni report

Alumni Directory update, homecoming recap, Spartan Spotlights and Class Acts



48 minaret moment

Hanging out with the brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, circa 1982.

Editor's Note: For the duration of the University's capital campaign, Creating Tomorrow, the Brick by Brick section will be used to provide updates on the campaign and a thank you to donors. The Brick by Brick section will be reinstated after the end of the campaign.

news of note



Clockwise: The 28-foot tall heart of the new center is visible throughout the facility. Students tried out the new Queenax bodyweight training system and free weights at the opening.

The "Weight" is Over

New campus Fitness and Recreation Center open

OF ALL THE WORDS THAT COULD BE used to describe the new Fitness and Recreation Center, which opened in September, perhaps the one most users of the former McNiff Fitness Center would use is bigger.

The new two-story, 40,000-square-foot center is roughly six times larger than its predecessor and offers a huge increase in the number of fitness machines, free weights and classes for users.

Kacy Rabinowitz, a sophomore elementary education major, told *The Minaret* the increased number of fitness machines and class offerings would encourage her to work out more often.

"I feel like I can come now whenever I want. I don't have to just come (at

a certain) time, because there's enough machines for everyone," Rabinowitz said.

The center, which is for the exclusive use of UT students, faculty and staff, features six group exercise rooms, including one indoor cycle room, two small fitness assessment rooms, as well as a room for meetings and special events.

A work room for campus coordinators is dedicated to the memory of Margaret McNiff '80, an accomplished scholar-athlete who died tragically in 1981 and was the namesake of the previous fitness center.

Located in the heart of campus, the facility also has a heart of its own. In the center of the building, and visible

throughout the facility, is the 28-foot tall heart of the new center. The cylindrical form, which is 12 feet in diameter, is illuminated by 176, 1-foot LED light strips and glows red thanks to 1,600 square feet of colored acrylic skin.

Construction of the new center was supported by individual gifts and began in April 2015.

Looking forward, a planned phase II will expand the center by an additional 20,000 square feet for a total of 60,000 square feet. The Phase II expansion will include additional classrooms and labs to support Exercise Science and Human Performance program needs. When complete, the new facility will be about eight times larger than UT's previous fitness center.

"I'm not sure exactly what it is, but these performances really touch me. I love their willingness and bravery to share their craft."

— SAVANNAH PORCH '17, ON MIXED-ABILITY DANCERS

Mixed-ability Performers Leave Profound Impact on UT Dancers

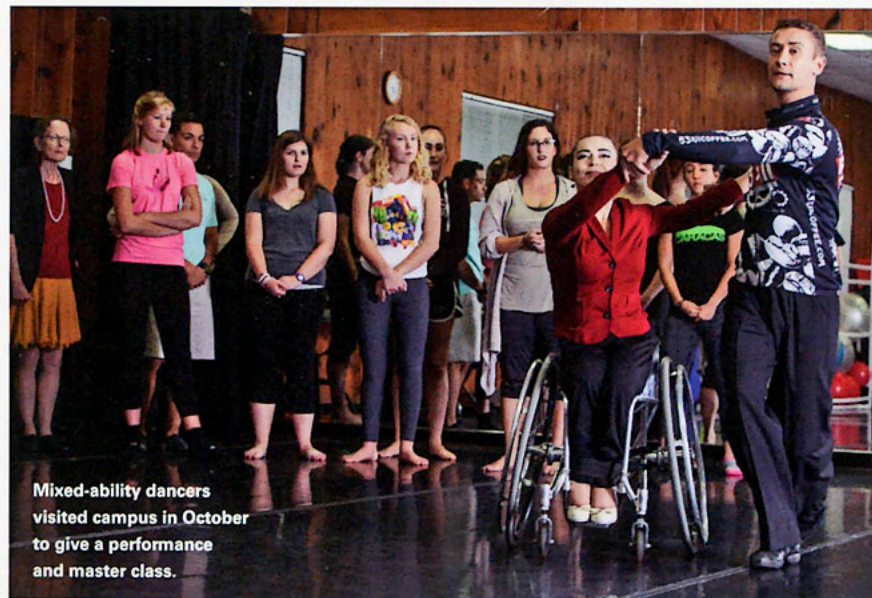
GLIDING ACROSS THE STAGE IN REEVES Theatre, the ballroom dancers exhibit the kind of grace one would expect from world and European champions. What might have been a surprise was the addition of a wheelchair — Hanna Harchakova and Ihar Kisialiou, of Belarus, are champions in wheelchair ballroom dance.

Minutes later, Tali Wertheim is bending around Hai Cohen, both of Israel, and his wheelchair, their contact

improvisation piece keeping the rapt attention of the UT audience.

The Oct. 19 performance was part of the UT Honors Program symposia series, and followed by a master class.

"I think it challenges us as a society to think about life and dance and performance in new ways and to let go of our preconceptions of how it's supposed to be," said Susan Taylor Lennon, chair of the Department of Speech, Theatre and Dance.



Mixed-ability dancers visited campus in October to give a performance and master class.

Savannah Porch '17 choreographs and performs for the students at Pyramid, best known for the arts program it offers to adults with a wide range of abilities. Porch said she didn't think it was any more challenging to choreograph for mixed-ability dancers.

"There's a lot of trial and error in any creative process. If a dancer is in a wheelchair or an electric wheelchair, I treat it more like a prop in the performance," said Porch, of Winter Park, FL. "For example, with either chair, I can stand on the back of it in arabesque while they spin me around, and it creates a stunning image. You have to look at what ways their abilities can aid the piece, not focus on what they are not able to do."

Porch was in attendance at the performance and got chills, as she does whenever she watches mixed-ability performances.

"I'm not sure exactly what it is, but these performances really touch me," said Porch, an applied dance major. "I love their willingness and bravery to share their craft. I find it wonderful that instead of being sad that they aren't able bodied, they found a way to utilize and focus on all of the capabilities they do have."

NEW PROGRAM PREPARES SCHOOL LEADERS

The Department of Education is launching a **new master's degree in educational leadership** in Spring 2017, targeting teachers who seek a career in education administration. The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership program curriculum is geared towards the goals and state standards of principal leadership. All courses prepare candidates for the FELE (Florida Educational Leadership Exam), which is a certification requirement to become a school leader in Florida. For more information or to apply, go to www.ut.edu/med/leadership.

First Year Starts Abroad for Some Students

BEFORE THE GROUP OF 19 FIRST-YEAR students even made it to orientation, they were caving, whitewater rafting and studying Costa Rica's water policy and the health of its water systems.

The two-week Spartans Academy Abroad program gave incoming students the chance to start their academic experience by studying abroad. In partnership with the Monteverde Institute, the students earned eight credit hours in a multidisciplinary course that focused on environmental politics, conservation, sustainability and biological diversity.

Mason Meers, professor of biology, and Kevin Fridy, associate professor of political science, led a combination of lectures, discussions with local groups and observational studies, giving the students real-world experience in the issues surrounding climate change and sustainability.

"Our real hope was that this pre-first-year experience would provide a head start to our students," Fridy said.



Hannah Smith, a marine science-biology major from Saint Peters, MO, said she learned so much in the short time frame, noting one experience in particular. The group took a guided night walk in La Selva Biological Station where they spotted a variety of frogs, toads and insects.

Back on campus, the students are all enrolled in a Pathways to Honors course together so they can continue the conversation.

"The Spartans Academy Abroad has really opened my mind to new experiences and showed me that if I am passionate about something to go out and get involved, even if it is something I never thought I would be able to do," said Smith. "It also helped my transition into college and showed me that even though being in a new place with new people can be overwhelming to just stick it out, because it will get better."

The Spartans Academy Abroad will be offered again in Fall 2017.



THE CLASS OF 2020

22,116

Number of applications received

1,906

Number of freshmen enrolled

7.6% of students are international

TOP COUNTRIES (IN ORDER)

Kuwait, UK, Venezuela, Norway and Qatar/Trinidad/Kenya (tie)

NEW COUNTRIES

Libya, Nepal, Cyprus, Georgia, Sudan, Antigua

170

Number of student-athletes

22% qualify for the UT Honors Program

MOST POPULAR MAJORS (IN ORDER)

Biology, Finance, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Nursing, Marketing, Allied Health, Management, Psychology, Accounting/Sport Management (tie), Marine Science

Take a closer look at 10 members of the Class of 2020 on page 8.

FIVE ADDED TO BOARD

The UT Board of Trustees has added five new members and three ex-officio members:

- James W. Eyer Jr., co-founder and CEO of Angels Health System
- Gregory P. Muzzillo, founder of Proforma
- R. Bob Smith III, chairman and CEO of PAR Inc.
- James A. "Bubba" Turner III, president and CEO of Tampa Armature Works Inc. (returning after one year)
- Melanie Williams, senior vice president and general manager of Frontier Communications

New ex-officio members include Jan Ely, president of The Chisellers Inc.; Brian M. Smith, chair of the Board of Fellows; and Corey "CJ" Steadman Jr., chair of the Board of Counselors.

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



Can Song Help You Learn a Second Language?

ANYONE WHO HAS EVER STUDIED A foreign language knows the struggle to retain vocabulary. But what if there was a simple tool that could help?

In her study, "Singing to Speak: an Examination of Adult L2 Learners and Vocabulary Learning Through Song," Vanessa Rukholm, assistant professor of languages and linguistics, examined the effectiveness of song on the acquisition of Italian vocabulary among adult learners.

The study examined the performance of 66 participants on a vocabulary test both before and after listening to a song containing the terms.

Her findings, which were published in *Italica*, suggest music did in fact have an impact on participants' scores.

"Song can promote the rehearsal of language, a necessary ingredient in vocabulary retention," said Rukholm.

The idea of using song to aid in acquiring foreign language vocabulary first began germinating for Rukholm in high school when she was taking Italian for the first time. Her teacher would often include cultural elements,

one of which was Italian pop music. Rukholm found it was much easier to remember vocabulary when it was part of a melody.

"Fast forward many years and this idea of examining whether melody could impact language learning became my thesis topic," she said.

For the study, Rukholm tested five groups of University of Toronto undergraduate students enrolled in a second-term introductory Italian course. All participants took a pretest on 20 vocabulary words chosen from an Italian pop song with a repetitive melody.

Then, one group listened to a recorded reading of the lyrics of the song (no melody) and one group listened to the song itself. A third group was read the lyrics as a poem, but also given activities to do with the words (find them in an Italian dictionary, for instance). Similarly, a fourth group listened to the song, and was also given activities. A control group just took the tests.

Post-tests were given two and four weeks later.

"The process was very nerve-racking, but I had a good feeling I was onto something," said Rukholm.

So, how did the song groups perform?

The results showed that the group who listened to the song and completed the activities using the target words scored highest on both post-tests.

"Going through the post-tests, we found that not only did participants in that group know the words, but it was also the only group to use them correctly in a sentence even after only a few exposures to the vocabulary," said Rukholm.

Though more studies would be needed before large-scale changes to language curriculum could be implemented, Rukholm said foreign language instructors should consider the use of music in their classes.

"I introduce song all the time," she said. "Students enjoy it, and while hearing the music they are also learning to think in a second language and getting into the cultural mindset of a native speaker."

UT NOTED ON THREE U.S. NEWS WEB-EXCLUSIVE LISTS

The University is again ranked by U.S. News & World Report in the top tier in the category Best Regional Universities (South) in its *Best Colleges 2017* guidebook. Noteworthy this year is that UT was named in three web-exclusive lists, including: 1) Academic Programs to Look for: Internships/Co-ops; 2) Schools with the Most International Students; and 3) Best Colleges for Veterans.

spartan sports



From left to right: Deanna Henriott, Sam Ellison, John Jones, Mike Leding, Sheena Walton, Hilary Epling, Matt Goodwin, Rodney Ehrhard, Alfonso Smith (not pictured: Ericka Womack).

Athletic Hall of Fame Inducts 10

EIGHT FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETES and two contributors were inducted into the UT Athletic Hall of Fame in October.

At the ceremony, UT also honored the 2006 volleyball team, which won the program's first NCAA Division II national championship.

Additionally, the Sam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to UT Hall of Famer Ozzie Timmons, who played baseball for the Spartans from 1989–1991. Timmons had a lengthy Major League Baseball career with seven different organizations and is now a minor league hitting coach for the Tampa Bay Rays. In the offseason, Timmons volunteers his

time assisting the Spartans in the fall and offseason workouts.

RODNEY EHRHARD '87

Ehrhard played baseball for the Spartans from 1986–1987. He was a 1986 first-team All-American and the first Spartan to be named a member of the NCAA Division II Championships all-tournament team (1986). He was the 1987 NCAA South Regional MVP and member of the all-tourney team in 1986 and 1987. He went on to play minor league baseball in the New York Yankees organization.

HILARY EPLING '98

Epling, a member of the UT volleyball

team from 1995–1998, was a two-time All-American (1997, 1998) and part of two Elite Eight teams. She was one of the original players who helped put UT volleyball on the national map, and was a four-time all-South Region selection and a three-time all-Sunshine State Conference (SSC) player. She was named a first-team all-SSC choice as both a junior and a senior.

MATT GOODWIN '04

Goodwin swam for UT from 2001–2004. He was a three-time All-American for the UT program, earning the honor in 2002, 2003 and 2004. He became a national champion in the 200 breaststroke in 2002 and the 100

breaststroke in 2003. He currently holds the school record in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:00.84.

DEANNA HENRIOTT '12

Henriott played softball for the Spartans from 2008–2012. A two-time All-American, she was also named the 2012 Daktronics South Region Pitcher of the Year and was honored as the 2012 Sunshine State Conference Pitcher of the Year. She finished her UT career with two perfect games and eight no-hitters. She remains the UT program leader with 88 wins, nine saves, 133 appearances, 97 complete games, 41 shutouts and 1,100 strikeouts.

JOHN JONES '87

Jones, a member of the men's basketball team from 1983–1987, was the first star player when the sport was reinstated at UT. The team's top defensive player for four years, he became known for guarding the best player on the opposing team regardless of position. He remains the program leader in minutes played. A four-time all-Sunshine State Conference selection, he led the team to four 20-plus win seasons and a historic win over North Carolina State.

ALFONSO SMITH '84

Smith played men's soccer for the Spartans from 1980–1984. The 1984 second-team All-American played in 58 career games, recording 16 goals and nine assists. After graduating from UT, he played three years with the Wichita Wings in the Major Indoor Soccer League. He played in 61 career games with the Wings, scoring 13 goals and

10 assists. He also played one game for the United States U-20 men's national soccer team at the 1981 FIFA World Youth Championship.

SHEENA WALTON '08

Walton, a member of the women's basketball program from 2004–2008, was the 2008 Daktronics South Region Player of the Year. She is the lone player in program history to be honored as region player of the year. She was also the 2005 Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Freshman of the Year and 2008 SSC Defensive Player of the Year. She ranks first in school history with 396 blocked shots, second in offensive rebounds (396) and second in games started (114).

ERICKA WOMACK '05

Womack played volleyball for the Spartans from 2002–2005. She was a two-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American and a three-time AVCA All-South Region performer in 2003, 2004 and 2005. She was also a member of the 2005 NCAA South Regional all-tournament team and 2002 NCAA Championships all-tournament team. She was named the 2005 AVCA South Region Player of the Year and 2005 Sunshine State Conference Player of the Year.

SAM ELLISON

Ellison founded the Beck Group's business in Florida in 1974 and also served as CEO of Beck International until 2013. He joined EWI as chairman in January 2014. While under Ellison's leadership, The Beck Group ascended

CATANACH EARNS 1,000TH W

UT volleyball head coach **Chris Catanach '83** opened the 2016 season on Friday, Sept. 2, by earning his 1,000th career win when the Spartans swept Franklin Pierce University 3-0. Catanach is just the third Division II coach to reach his millennial win, and he is only the second coach in the division to accomplish the feat with one program. Among all NCAA divisions, Catanach is eighth to reach the milestone.

to the number one general contractor in the Tampa Bay market. At UT, his company built the Vaughn Center, Brevard Hall, Straz Hall and the West Parking Garage.

MIKE LEDING

Leding has been the primary public address announcer for men's basketball since 1987 and for the women's program since 2003. He has also been the voice of the Spartans at baseball, soccer and softball games. He has made financial contributions to both basketball teams and the athletic department since 1984. In the mid-1980s, Leding served as the University's vice president of business and finance, then its vice president of institutional advancement while also teaching as an adjunct business professor.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game For the third straight year, the UT baseball team will play Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies. The game will be played at Brighthouse Field in Clearwater, FL, on Feb. 23, 2017, at 1:05 p.m.



BASEBALL

THE CLASS OF 2020:

FUTURE

DOMINIK CYDZIK

Major: Biochemistry

From: Olsztyn, Poland (also lived in Russia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria)

UT Activities: Intramural flag football team; planning to join JV baseball team, Student Government, Chemistry Association

Future Plans: Go to medical school and join Doctors Without Borders while writing about traveling.

What is one thing that drives you crazy? Not knowing.

What would you do in life if you knew you could not fail? Everything? Long-term, I would probably go to a No. 1 medical school with a perfect GPA and MCAT, and then go through that with perfect scores, all for free. Then travel and help people as a physician with a 100 percent success rate. Short-term, be the MVP of any sports team I join.



IN

SIGHT

Ten members share their passions, plans for life after UT and what drives them crazy

PORTRAITS BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SEAN MCCABE

JULIA CALANDRA

Major: Marketing

From: St. Petersburg, FL

UT Activities: ELITE Leadership Retreat, Student Productions, CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ), Honors Program

Future Plans: Study abroad and do internships to gain hands-on experience in my field.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Earning my second-degree black belt in martial arts.

What is one thing that drives you crazy? Rude people. It bothers me when people can't put their differences aside to be kind to others.

What is the one object you own that matters more to you than anything else? My photographs. They represent all the memories I have cherished in my life.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why? Poverty. There are too many people living in conditions that no one deserves.

If you could be anyone in the world for a day, who would it be and why? I would be the head coach of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Jon Cooper, so I could meet all the Lightning players.

FRED ELVINGTON

Major: Psychology

From: South Carolina, but has been stationed in Italy the last three years.

UT Activities: ROTC

Future Plans: Rejoin the military and eventually work for a government agency.

What is your idea of fun? Travel. Sky diving. I was in the Army Airborne and have done about 20 jumps. I hate jumping, but once I'm out I love that feeling.

What is one thing that drives you crazy? Those who know how to do something, but don't pass that onto others. Bad teachers or leaders.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why? Miscommunication. It causes so much strife and hardship, because people don't know any better.

If you could be anyone in the world for a day, who would it be and why? This might sound corny, but I'd be myself. There's no one I idolize. If you can't be a good you, you shouldn't be anyone else.



DOMINIQUE GODEN

Major: History

From: Riverview, FL (most recently; dad in U.S. Air Force)

UT Activities: Success Scholars Program, Black Student Union, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; wants to join Diversity Fellowship, Rotaract, maybe start sewing/costuming group

Future Plans: Become a costume designer or museum curator.

Fun Fact: I made my own prom dress for the senior prom. I want to create my own vintage, '50s-inspired clothing.

What is the one object you own that matters more to you than anything else? My personal sewing machine.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why? Having enough clothes for everyone. I particularly want to solve this problem, because not everyone can afford clothing or have enough clothes against the elements.

ESTHER CHO

Major: Communication

From: Born in South Korea, raised in Chicago from 3 months old

UT Activities: PEACE, Spartonic A Cappella, HER Campus, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; would like to join Student Productions, Student Government, Student Mentoring, become an R.A.

Future Plans: Meet as many people as I can and find a successful career.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Being able to play four instruments and making it to college.

What are you passionate about? I'm passionate about social injustice and immigration rights.

What would you do in life if you knew you could not fail? Become a surgeon or a lawyer.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why? Racism, because I think it's ridiculous that it's 2016, and there's persecution based on ethnicities and the color of someone's skin.



NICK GROSS

Major: Double major in Film and Media Arts and Marketing

From: Omaha, NE

UT Activities: Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, Spartan Television, Catholic Student Union, UT Republicans, Honors Program

Future plans: Possibly attend graduate school for film in California, maybe UCLA or USC, and secure an internship or job at a film production company.

Fun Fact: I was a championship varsity swimmer in high school and almost pursued swimming here at UT.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? After seven years of scouting, my senior year I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

What is one thing that drives you crazy?
When people are walking or driving too slow and won't get out of your way.

What would you do in life if you knew you could not fail?
Become a Hollywood director.

ROLL

2

SCENE

101

TAKE

5

PROD

UT PRODUCTIONS

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NICK

CA

ALEX

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A

FP

24





CLAIRE SWANSON

Major: Sport Management

From: Fairfax, VA

UT Activities: Women's Lacrosse, Sport and Entertainment Management Society, Athletic Communications

Future Plans: Work for a college athletic department or professional team in sports management or communications.

Fun Fact: From being raised in a military family, we have moved and traveled a lot and seen lots of the world, and I enjoyed every second of it!

What are you passionate about? I am very passionate about sports of any kind. Sports have always been a way to escape for me. Whenever I'm super stressed or in a bad mood, I just go shoot some hoops or rip some shots on the lacrosse field and then I feel better. I'm always striving to be better and to improve.

What would you do in life if you knew you could not fail? I would go skydiving. It is on my bucket list, but I'm a little hesitant. If I knew I could not fail I would jump at the opportunity.

JIADJA GORDON

Major: Forensic Science

From: Bristol, CT

UT Activities: Black Student Union, Success Scholars Program; thinking of joining a Panhellenic sorority

Future Plans: Become a criminologist and work in the FBI.

Fun Fact: I had never had Chik-fil-A until I attended UT!

What do you consider your greatest achievement? I created a play called *Project Hope* that talks about teens and their mental health and performed it for kids in the community.

What are you passionate about? I am very passionate about our court system and equality.

What is the one object you own that matters more to you than anything else? Hands down my phone, just so I can stay in touch with friends and family at home since I went to school so far away.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why?

I would guarantee world peace, because I think crime is such a sad thing and would want everyone to be happy.



MARLENA PENN

Major: Finance (probably switching to a science)

From: Bradenton, FL (grew up in New Jersey)

UT Activities: Alpha Chi Omega, Hillel, Residence Hall Association, Honors Program

Future Plans: I know for sure I want to travel with my job.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Becoming a master scuba diver. The courses were not easy to complete and really challenged your body, but I was able to do it!

What are you passionate about? Exploring as many places as possible. I love to travel. One of my really good friends is from London, so I will be visiting her for the second time this year.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why? Climate change. This planet was gifted to us and as society has evolved we have really hurt it. There are so many things at risk because of our actions, and if we can't fix these issues then we have nowhere to live.



VINCENT MEKHI BIFFLE

Major: Human Performance

From: Indianapolis, IN

UT Activities: Men's Basketball

Future Plans: Go to graduate school to become a physical therapist.

Fun Fact: One thing on my bucket list is to go to culinary school and become a chef one day.

What are you passionate about? I'm definitely passionate about basketball. I'd maybe like to play professionally overseas after college.

What is the one object you own that matters more to you than anything else? The necklace my grandma gave me. It's gold plated with an M on it. It's special just because it came from her.

What would you do in life if you knew you could not fail? If I knew I couldn't fail, I'd change the world. I'd make people more humanitarian and help people in third-world countries.

If you had the power to solve one and only one problem in the world, what would it be and why?

Racial equality. I don't think it's fair that some people are treated differently just because of the way they look.

HOW **UT** SHAPED ME

Reflecting back
on 85 years of
changing lives

ON OCT. 5, 1931, TAMPA JUNIOR COLLEGE — which would become The University of Tampa two years later — held its first classes at Hillsborough High School to provide local students who could not afford to live away from home a chance at higher education.

Beginning with those first 67 students, over the last 85 years UT has had a part in shaping thousands and thousands of lives. In celebration of the University's 85th anniversary this year, we asked alumni to tell us, in 85 words (give or take), how UT shaped them. Here is what they had to say.

"My mother, Dorothy Westberry Johnson, graduated from UT in 1961 with a major in education and a minor in history. After graduation, she worked as an elementary school teacher in Hillsborough County. Today, I am working in the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education and pursuing my master's degree in instructional design and technology. In the fall semester of 2018, my son hopes to also attend UT and carry on the family tradition."

—LAURA (JOHNSON) GICKER M.S. '18
M.S. IN INSTRUCTIONAL
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



"What makes UT so special is the leaders it shapes. Leaders of companies, communities and families. Everywhere I look, my UT counterparts are doing amazing things. I learned in college, 'build allies, not enemies' and to be fearless and confident in my decision making. The relationships I forged at UT in terms of mentors and friends remain strong to this day and have made me a better man. I'm proud and grateful to be a graduate of The University of Tampa."

—MARTY TELLER '05



"In August of 1983, I left my family in Crestline, OH, to embark on what was perhaps the most exciting and challenging four years of my life. UT awarded me the President's Scholarship to complement my four-year Army ROTC scholarship. My major was biology (pre-professional). My goal was dental school. UT delivered. The science department along with Army ROTC training prepared me for the rigors of four years of dental school at The Ohio State University. I am forever grateful to UT."

—TIM MAHEK '87



"UT gave me four years of thoughtful thinking that shaped the way I see the world. The literature and history courses on such a diverse campus opened my mind to the experiences of cultures around the world. I will always fondly remember studying

below palm trees in the Florida sunshine, with Plant Hall's minarets gleaming in the distance. I'm thankful I could attend university at such a lovely, historic campus and a part of me will probably always wish I was still a UT student."

—SARA (MELENDEZ) NARDONTONIA '12

"My time at UT taught me so much and gave me the skills I needed to easily obtain an advertising job after college. During the first year of my career, I never once felt that I did not have the skills to complete the tasks or use the programs needed. Thanks to my professors I was extremely prepared for life after college. I truly loved my time here and am so grateful for the memories and friends I made."

—LAUREN JENKINS-FAZIO '13

"UT has shown me diversity among friends; commonalities among strangers; friendship in strange places — and with strange people; passionate professors; an abundance of PowerPoints; a visible, yet challenging, road to follow; a plethora of opportunities, none of which I thought I deserved; a new self-image, and a new self-worth. I don't even recognize who I used to be or who I am now. Every day UT shapes me to be a better version of myself. Also, those cafeteria taters."



—KAITLIN HORCH '18

Education-Secondary Social Sciences major

"The first time I stepped onto the UT campus was for a tour that I didn't even want to go to. I'm glad I went. From the campus to the staff and professors, these are what make my time at UT one of my favorite memories. I'm excited to see the construction that will bring UT into the next phase, and the growth it will achieve. Thank you, UT, for not only shaping me, but shaping the future Spartans that will be a great group of alumni."

—NICK CANNAVO '12



"UT opened so many opportunities in science for me after earning a Bachelor of Science. I studied marine science and am now an avid scuba diver. I completed an internship in cancer biology research. Now I'm a Ph.D. candidate in molecular biology. I can't thank UT enough for all the great times on the BIOS and the research opportunities. Dr. Price was the best! Most of all thank you, UT, for believing in me! Happy 85th birthday!"

—CRYSTINA KRISS '11



"I got to UT by way of Connecticut in 2002 ... shy and awkward, with a good scholarship, intent on becoming a marine biologist. After one semester, I switched to graphic design and writing, of all things, and really dove into artistic extracurriculars like *Quilt* (now *NEON*) and *The Minaret* and leadership groups (ELITE, O-Team, Student Government). My experiences transcended academic learning, teaching me to be an outgoing, independent thinker and leader, and to be involved in my community!"

—SARAH JOHNSON '06

"AS AN AFRICAN AMERICAN FROM RURAL SOUTHERN ARKANSAS, UT WAS A DIFFERENT WORLD. I GAINED SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE FROM FRIENDS/FELLOW STUDENTS FROM NEW YORK CITY, MIAMI, CARIBBEAN, ITALY, CENTRAL AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA. THE CAMPUS BECAME MY SECOND HOME. I WAS A RESIDENT ASSISTANT, AN ROTC SCHOLAR AND AN EMERGING STUDENT LEADER THANKS TO THE GUIDANCE OF UT'S STAFF AND FACULTY. BEING AWARDED THE SPARTAN SPIRIT AWARD IS ONE OF MY MOST PRIZED ACCOMPLISHMENTS. UT MADE ME! GO SPARTANS!"

—ANTHONY REEVES '91



"I can't describe in 85 words just how special my time was at UT. Freshman year roommate introduced me to my wife, and we now have four kids. Howell Hall fourth floor all keep in touch today through Facebook. Professors like Kerstein, Piper, Lombardi, Stumpf, Matthews, Rynder, Solomon, Garman, Mohn, Decker, Hollist and Winkler. I learned so much from these individuals. Administrators like Vaughn, Devine, Ruday, Cunningham, Huston, Gura. Editor-in-chief of the Moroccan 1994-1996 – what a fantastic experience. I had the best staff."

—EVAN FETTER '96



"As a first-generation college student landing at UT, I was naïve and often confused. I am indebted to UT professors and staff members, many of whom we have lost along the years, and a few who are still leading on our campus. They advised me, guided me, encouraged me and shaped me into the educator and counselor I have become. I experienced leadership and service learning as a student, and those are primary values for me now that I aim to instill in my students."

—SHELLY (HAVAS) HOLLINGSWORTH '82



"1971-1973 were tumultuous times in America, with opposition to the Vietnam War in full swing. I was one of those 'Vietnam Vets,' and still active duty military, while on campus. I was struck by the respectfulness of the other students and any protesting on the UT campus. That meant a lot to me. Also, what a thrill to see the Spartan football days in full bloom with Freddie Solomon, John Matuszak, Paul Orndorf and Leon McQuay. I'm so thankful to be a Spartan!"

—FRANK ZEDAR '73



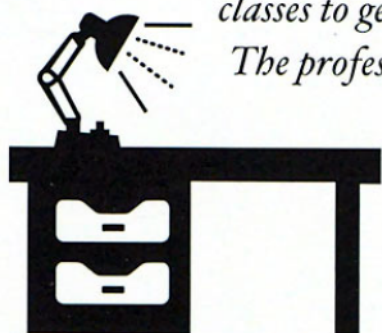
"Studying at The University of Tampa gave me the chance to truly indulge my interests and passions, a chance which I never had for a long period of time. It brought out the best in me as a person, a speaker and a communicator, and I look back on the time I spent at UT with nothing but the utmost love and gratitude and fondest memories. Wherever I go, UT will always and forever be in my heart. Go Spartans!"

—MANI THANGADURAI '15


"UT helped me to discover my true passion for working in higher education and student affairs. I loved my experience as a student as a Resident Assistant so much I turned it into a career. Even though my degree isn't in a related field, my overall college experience contributed to finding my true direction."

—CHRISTINA SEADO VASQUEZ '05

"My late husband, James M. Kelly, UT class of 1958, owed his successful banking career to UT. In the '50s, Jim, like many Korean War veterans, enrolled at UT for evening classes to get their degrees while working full-time and raising families. The professors and administrators worked tirelessly with them to be sure all their required courses were offered in the evening ... sometimes accommodating only a handful of students in a class to meet their needs. Jim was forever grateful and never forgot all the help he received at UT."



—JANE KELLY, WIFE OF JAMES M. KELLY '58



Black pauses in front
of the Capitol building
in Washington, D.C.



A WOMAN OF WASHINGTON

Aileen Black '83 followed her passion into a career in the Washington, D.C., technology community and, through her latest endeavor, hopes to inspire other women to follow theirs.

BY JEN A. MILLER '02
PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS HARTLOVE

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN DO IS LOVE WHAT YOU DO. I REALIZED I LIKED TECHNOLOGY, BUT I LOVED WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND HELPING THEM SOLVE PROBLEMS." — AILEEN BLACK '83

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO HAVE A THREE-DECADE CAREER IN INFORMATION systems? Starting in the field when programming was done on punched cards and you were, most often, the only woman in the room? Ask Aileen Black '83, who over the last 30 years has worked with what are now some of the largest tech companies in the country.

She started her career at Data General, one of the first minicomputer firms from the late 1960s, working as a systems engineer, where she supported customers on site at both the Institute of Defense Analysis and the U.S. Senate.

Within a year, however, recalling some advice she received from a UT professor, she followed her passion and switched to the sales side of the company. Her decision paid off. She was named the top performing representative and "Rookie of the Year" for the federal division in 1985.

Over the next 30 years, she worked with a string of large tech companies: Oracle, EMC Corp., VMWare.

With each company, the goal was to match those with a problem with the right software to solve that problem and allow them to reach their goal. For Oracle, it was supplying solutions for the federal government that helped missions.

"What's not to love about that?" she said.

With VMWare, where she served as vice president and general manager of the public sector business unit for nearly a decade, it was "doing good, because virtualization really helped lead the way for agencies to reduce their overall costs and overhead for IT," she said.

Now Black splits her time between two efforts.

In 2014, after three decades of successfully developing sales and marketing strategies for some of the world's leading software manufacturers, Black decided to break out on her own. She teamed up with fellow industry leader Gigi Schumm, who most recently served as vice president and general manager of Symantec's public sector, and together they founded

Accelerated Government Strategies Group.

A business development company, Accelerated Government Strategies Group (ACG Group) helps small technology companies break into the public sector market.

Black also made another move in 2014. "I decided I wanted to fulfill another passion, and one is to help women," she said.

In her time in high leadership positions in the technology world, she said, "99 percent of the time, I was the only woman at the table. One of the challenges you have out there is women don't have access to leadership that helps them deal with things only women might be dealing with."

While she said she's never confronted obvious, overt sexism, she thinks that those prejudices can be unconscious, and she wanted to do something that would help women strategize given those realities.

She and Schumm, "walked into the Federal News Radio station and pitched the idea that we wanted to tell the journey of very successful women, both the difficult things they had to deal with along the way and the things that helped them and defined their success," she said.

The result of that meeting was *Women of Washington*, a radio show that airs twice a week on Federal News Radio 1500 AM.

The program showcases ambitious and influential female executives, role models and women who hold high positions in government. In a little more than two years, they've done 110 interviews with a wide range of women in power, including Adm. Michelle Howard, the first female four-star admiral and first woman and African-

American to hold the post of vice chief of naval operations; Corin Stone, executive director of the National Security Agency; Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force; and Deb Al-derson, president and CEO of Sotera Defense Systems.

"We highlight these wonderful women," Black said. "These are just amazing women. It's been an honor to tell their stories and have others to lean on. We do it as a public service."

Thinking back on her own journey, Black said she got her start in the field at UT, almost by accident.

That's because she didn't start out at UT. She started her college career at George Mason University, but then her father was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. On a visit to see him, she toured the campus "and I saw how beautiful it was," she said.

But the University's good looks weren't the only reason Black shipped down to Florida. "When I looked into it, it wasn't just how pretty the campus was. It was really the degree offered," she said.

That degree was in information systems and finance — yes, in the 1980s. UT's program was attractive to Black, because it not only allowed her to take programming classes but also business classes, hence the finance end of the degree. "Most schools didn't offer a lot of flexibility to be able to do that," she said.

Black started in the field early, which set her up for a long career in an industry that has changed our lives. Of course, IT wasn't then what it is now.

"I remember having a nightmare of leaving my dorm room with punched cards, and I dropped them and they went everywhere, so I had to start over," she said, adding that most people wouldn't know now that punch cards had anything to do with programming once. "It has come a long way, because what we had in the computer science lab then probably isn't as powerful as what you have in your phone now."

Black co-hosts *Women of Washington*, a radio show that airs twice a week on Federal News Radio 1500 AM, with business partner Gigi Schumm. In just over two years, they've done 110 interviews with a wide range of powerful women in Washington, D.C.

Black said that her time at UT changed the course of her life, first in allowing her to explore two sides of an interest. "I really thought I was going to go more into technology and be more of a systems engineer than on the sales side," she said.

In one class, her professor "would tell stories about how the most important thing you can do is love what you do," she said. "I realized I liked technology, but I loved working with people and helping them solve problems."

Black also met her husband at UT, almost by chance. She worked in the admissions and communications offices while a student. In the latter, she worked as a receptionist and, as such, sat in the front of the office in Plant Hall.

At the same time, Reed Black, a graduate student from the University of Florida, was doing an architectural study of Plant Hall. When he was working on the entranceway to Plant Hall from the Hillsborough River, he noticed her.

"All of a sudden, he kept leaving his equipment at lunchtime or snack time, asking me to watch it," she said. "Then someone in the office explained to me it wasn't about me watching his stuff." They went on their first date, and the rest is history.

Even though her husband wasn't a UT student, that work had a lasting impact on the University. His architectural study won second place in the Charles E. Peterson prize, which was sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Athenaeum Society of Philadelphia, and is reportedly the rendering of Plant Hall used in one of the UT logos. Black said the drawing is now in the Smithsonian.



"My whole life would be different if it wasn't for UT, from meeting my husband, who is the father of my children, to really sending me on a course that melds my love of business and IT," she said.

Black said her decades in startups have shown her the importance of innovation and off-the-wall thinking, especially in the university setting, pointing out that HP started at Stanford. The new John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center in the Sykes College of Business at UT, she hopes, fosters the same kind of creativity.

"What a wonderful environment to start that kind of effort," she said. "Most companies start from that type of rich environment. Students don't know what they can't do and that leads to out-of-the-box thinking."

She hopes students tackle problems that she sees as being critical to the future of the country, including a shortage of talent in the areas of high technology and solutions around cybersecurity.

"Any solution that helps prompt people to focus on those types of careers is fantastic, especially if we can help move women and minorities into that area," she said. "Only 18 percent of graduates with computer science degrees are women. If you do the math of how many people will be needed in those careers, we have a serious short-

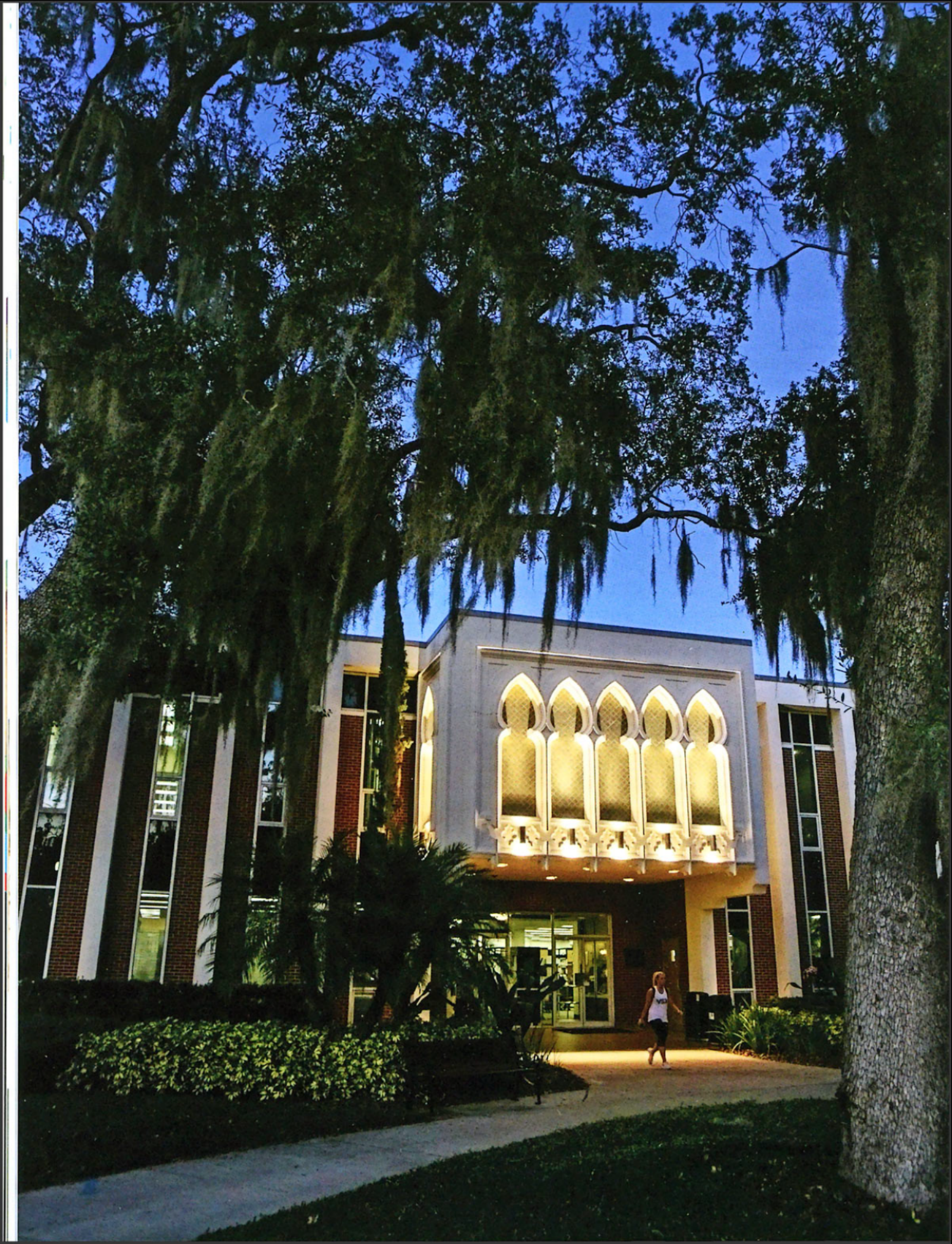
fall, and the only way to solve that is to get the population of who is getting those degrees to look more like the population of the United States."

For startups today, she said, "the most important thing is to make sure you have a long-term goal in mind, and to make sure that whatever you're doing solves a gap, whether it's a big gap or a small gap." And while a long-term goal should steer your thinking, she said, "be flexible enough to know that will morph over time."

Mistakes aren't the be-all and end-all of a company either, especially if you learn from them. "Don't fall in love too much with your technology. Be focused and driven and realize that there are things you're going to get right and things you're going to get wrong," she said. "The most successful folks start a company understanding that they recalculate where they're going based on what they learned."

That applies to students who aren't in the startup or even technology field, too.

If her professor hadn't imparted the importance of doing what you love, she might have stayed a systems engineer. "College kids today are so intent on having a really long-term life plan," she said. "You've got to be open to experiences and learning. If you follow your passion, you will be successful." **UT**



alumni report

class acts

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

60 **Wade Birch** was honored by Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity at its Supreme Chapter meeting in Austin, TX, in July. The fraternity will annually present its Chapter Advisor of the Year award in Birch's name.

61 **Tom Vann** was honored by the Temple Terrace Lodge 330 F&AM for a lifetime of career accomplishments and service to the community.

63 **Earl Bramlett** was honored when Crystal River High School in Crystal River, FL, renamed its football stadium from Earl Bramlett Stadium to Bramlett Stadium to include his late wife, Cathie, who coached the cheer-leading team during his years as head football coach. Earl coached the football team from 1985–2000 and was athletic director until 2006.

76 **Sean Evans** had his work published in the *Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism*, Volume 11, Issue 2.

78 **Thomas Frinzi** is senior vice president of Abbott's vision business. Thomas has held multiple leadership positions in ophthalmology and medical device companies. Prior to this

position, he served as president and CEO of WaveTec Vision.

Benson "Alex" Riseman, chairman of the Riseman Family Foundation, attended the dedication of the Riseman Family Theatre in his hometown of Chelsea, MA, which the foundation helped make possible. The new theater, located at the Chelsea Theater Works, will provide space for a youth theatre program run by the Apollinaire Theatre Company.

79 **Peter Cammick MBA '89** was named senior vice president of sales for GCI where he will lead GCI's field sales organization in the Americas. Prior to this position, Peter was the founder and chief operating officer of Myriad Network Services Inc.

83 **Chris Catanach**, head coach of the UT wom-



Chris Catanach '83

en's volleyball team, opened the 2016 season by earning his 1,000th career win when the Spartans swept Franklin Pierce University 3-0. Chris is only the third coach in NCAA Division II history to accomplish this feat, and he is only the second coach in the division to accomplish it with one program.

Mark Turner is excited to announce that the Florida Chi Alumni Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been awarded two National Awards by the fraternity. The alumni chapter is considered "unsurpassed" in the following categories: Outstanding Alumni Association Project or Special Event for the 2016 Gasparilla Reunion Weekend and Outstanding Alumni Association Communication Award for best website. Mark has served as the chairman of this organization since its inception.

84 **Mexi-Ann (Tibbets) Grant** was featured in a piece about the development of education on Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands, in the *Cayman Compass*. Having 40 years of experience in the islands education system, Mexi-Ann shared her stories for a memory bank that is being created for the Sister Islands.

85 **Leona Peszka** is a contributing writer to CatholicMom.com and works for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL, as the coordinator of youth and young adult ministry.

87 **David Richardson MBA** was re-elected for his third term as representative for District 113 in the Florida House of Representatives.

FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

A new alumni directory is in the works! The University has undertaken this project every five years for the past few decades to increase opportunities for alumni to reconnect with each other and to help UT keep in touch with our graduates.

In August, our project partner, Dallas-based PCI (Publishing Concepts Inc.), began reaching out to all members of the UT Alumni Association through postcards, emails and phone calls and inviting alumni to call a toll-free number to privately and securely verify their information.

The alumni directory compilation process will continue through March 2017, and the book will be produced and delivered to those who elect to purchase a copy in early fall 2017.

Many thanks to our alumni for their assistance with this project as we've already updated thousands of alumni records with new contact and employment information.



Adrian Bush '95

88 Phil Hills has been elected president and CEO of Marts & Lundy and began his service in this role on Aug. 8. Phil has more than 20 years of advancement experience with expertise in health sciences, higher education and complex organizations. Marts & Lundy is a leading philanthropic consulting firm that serves nonprofit organizations, including colleges, universities, schools, health and cultural institutions around the globe.

Scott Johnson is in his 18th season as head PGA Professional at the private Oakley Country Club in Watertown, MA, according to *Salem News*. Scott said he still loves going to work just as much as he did when he turned pro in 1988.

89 Dan Smith was promoted to lieutenant in the Olympia Police Department in Olympia, WA, where he will lead one of the department's three patrol teams, according to *The Olympian*. Dan joined the department in 1996 and has served as a patrol officer, training officer,



Thomas Graham '82

Thurston County Narcotics Task Force detective, patrol sergeant and detective sergeant.

90 Peter Platteborze started a new job as associate professor of forensic science at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX. Peter recently retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel after more than 20 years of service in the Medical Service Corps.

91 Iana Quesnell was featured in the *La Jolla Light* (La Jolla, CA) for her work on large-scale intricate pencil drawings. Iana has a studio in Encinitas, CA, in a large art space called The Artist Odyssey (TAO). She is teaching at Mira Costa College as well as offering free, pop-up drawing classes on local beaches.

Kevin Starnes MBA '93 is the director of retail sales with Eagle Asset Management. He joined Eagle in 1999 and has 21 years of experience in the investment industry.

92 Rashid Skaf joined the private equity team of



Jason Reed '95

Highlander Partners LP, a Dallas-based investment firm. As senior advisor, Rashid will focus on sourcing and evaluating investment opportunities in the technology and communications industry.

95 Adrian Bush, head coach of the UT men's soccer team, was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times* for his efforts to raise money for the Jay Miller-Tom Fitzgerald Alumni Scholarship, a full scholarship for a men's soccer player. Thomas Graham '82 generously matched all donations, helping to raise more than \$44,000. Other alumni contributors included Assistant Coach Maurice Loregnard '01, Erol Belli, Mike Heald '94, Will Hitzelberger '02, Sergio Jaramillo '96, Sergio Padron, Mark Putnam '82 and Dave Schulz '80. The first recipient was announced and presented at UT's homecoming game against Barry University.

Paul Fritz retired from the U.S. Army in September 2015, and he is now transitioning to teach in the Texas school system.

Jason Reed is celebrating his

company's 20th year of business this year. Now employing more than 200 people, ReedTMS has grown from a small business to a third-party logistics broker with seven branch offices.

96 Christina O'Brien has been elected to the Lee County Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida Board of Directors. The coalition has worked to provide prevention resources to families in Lee County. Christina is an attorney with Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt P.A. where she practices family law.

97 Taryn Dunigan married Steven Poole on Oct. 6, 2013, and now they are expecting their first baby, Priscilla Poole.

Kat Heckenbach released the third book, *Legacy Rewound*, in her fantasy trilogy for teens, *Toch Island Chronicles*. (See page 29.)

David Noble, a lieutenant colonel, was named the new commander of the 40th Engineer Battalion with 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, according to the *El Paso Times*. His responsibilities will include guiding the unit through a change in mission and a cultural shift. David is also an amateur filmmaker, and his third feature film, *Lost Padre Mine*, debuted this fall at the Rio Grande Theater in Las Cruces, NM.

98 Michael Jasperson MBA was named the



Weigh anchor and hoist the mizzen! Join us for the annual UT Gasparilla Brunch on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017. Enjoy a breakfast buffet, including beverages, free parking and an opportunity to support scholarships at UT while you get ready for the parade. Tickets must be purchased in advance.



Jodi (Gardner) Shivers '99 (center)

east region vice president for Priority Health in Grand Rapids, MI, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. In his new position, Michael will oversee business development, sales and production growth in southeast Michigan. Michael previously was the vice president of business development and chief marketing officer for Hospice of Michigan.

99 Jodi (Gardner) Shivers earned a Certified Public Communicator certification from Texas Christian University, becoming only the second person in the state of Georgia to hold the certification, according to Forsythco.com.

00 Racquel Codling started a new job as the director of sales and marketing for the American Moving and Storage Association, which is headquartered in Alexandria, VA.

01 Jennifer Bodurtha married David Williams on March 18, and they welcomed their first child in October.

03 Colleen Canavan married Robert Clapp on July 16.

Ernie Garateix MBA has served as chief operating officer of Heritage Property & Casualty since late 2014. He holds the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.



spartan spotlight

Richard Lee '58

From Stenotypes to Strings

While Richard Lee '58 was building a successful court reporting enterprise, he had a second passion planted firmly in his mind.

"I always wanted a banjo ... so I got some plans and made a banjo," he said.

That initial project became a shared family activity for Lee, who is the founder of Richard Lee Reporting.

"Somebody had given my son a big plank of wood from down in Central or South America. It sat around here for a couple of years, and then a friend of mine gave me a book on making guitars," Lee said.

Lee made a classical guitar for his daughter, a steel-string guitar for his son (pictured above on the night he presented the instrument as a gift) and followed that up by crafting a ukulele. That led to the idea of making a mandolin.

"It's all just a hobby," he said. "My shop is in my garage. Even now, I might stay out there until 2 a.m. and not realize it. It's great therapy to go through that process with the wood, and it's something I get great satisfaction from."

Lee's court reporting firm, which his son took over a handful of years ago, was another gradual development.

"I was an industrial arts major at UT, because I thought I wanted to be an architect," Lee said. "A recession hit in '58 after I graduated. My father was a lawyer turned court reporter during the Great Depression. I grew up in the business knowing about it."

That knowledge and a love of language led to Lee founding his company in 1964. Court reporting and transcription services are a couple of the main aspects.

"You have to have a love of language as a court reporter. If you don't have that, you are at a disadvantage," he said.

A love of flight gave Lee one other unique opportunity as he traveled all over the state with attorneys.

"I had bought a nice used airplane and one of the firms here asked if I would fly lawyers around to depositions," he said. "It became a nice sideline to my court reporting business."



Nicole '04 and Michael Mesko '04

Phillip Harris was included in the Top 50 Bay Area Up and Comers of 2016 by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*.

Claude Sapp MBA joined Haws Corp. as vice president of finance. In this position, Claude provides leadership, direction and strategy within the finance and IT departments for company reporting, planning and analysis.

04 Nicole (Davey) Mesko and Michael Mesko '04 celebrated the impending arrival of their first child by having maternity photos taken by fellow UT alumna **Courtney Ruscini '04**. Nicole and Michael welcomed Baby Mesko in November 2016.

Wayne Thrall joined the Bunnell High School staff in Stratford, CT, as the new athletic director. Wayne comes to Bunnell from the New Milford School District, where he worked as a physical education teacher and varsity boys' basketball coach.

05 Robert Belciano is a senior account executive at Twitter. You can find him on Twitter @rbelciano.

Colleen (Duffy) Ward and her husband, **Phil '06**, welcomed their first child, Mallory Grace, in July. Phil was promoted to major in the U.S. Army, and they are currently stationed in Fort Leavenworth, KS.

Nesrine (Jassim) Zalloum and her husband welcomed their

first child on July 11. Nesrine also earned her master's degree in legal studies from Drexel University.

06 Marlon Hanley started a new job as a practice owner and general dentist at Affordable Dentures and Implants in Houma, LA.

Chris Slane MBA joined Chartway Federal Credit Union as director of payments, where he is responsible for helping drive the strategic vision and management of card/payments programs that support card portfolio growth, profitability and risk management objectives.

Ben White was included in the Top 50 Bay Area Up and Comers of 2016 by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. He also started as the CEO of Ten Star Supply, a packaging decoration company in Tampa.

07 Lauren (Burnham) Cohen moved to Baltimore and is continuing her career with T. Rowe Price. Since moving to Baltimore, she has purchased her first home, married her husband, Scott, and never eaten more crab cakes in her life.

Kristin (Rathjen) Johnson and her husband, Greg, welcomed their second child, Owen Scott, on Aug. 12, 2016.

Amanda (Santos) Malloni and her husband, Scribner, welcomed a new son, Ayres Malloni, who was born on Aug. 1.



Owen Scott Johnson

Nicole Rule MSN helped open Watson Clinic's new Bartow office, which is devoted to women's health and comprehensive gynecologic care. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Association of Operating Room Nurses.

08 Benjamin Leess married Christy Esposito on Aug. 20 in East Meadow, NY, according to *The New York Times*. Benjamin is a financial adviser and founding partner in the Lexington Group, a wealth management team that is part of Morgan Stanley in New York.

09 Drake Arnold participated in MORPHOS as an international artist-in-residence at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Gates Planetarium. MORPHOS is a 360-degree immersive virtual experience that featured experimental immersive video art and other forms of digital artwork. Drake featured a short film with central themes of finding a balance between nature and technology, integrating the past with our future and creating a better vision of tomorrow.

Lamar Edwards started a new job as a financial planner at Northwestern Mutual.

Andrea Ferzoco is a senior associate in Landmark Partners investor relations group. Andrea focuses on investor relations, capital raising and deal origination for private equity and real estate.



Stephanie Triggiani '09



Amanda '07 and Scribner Malloni and their son, Ayres

She was previously the head of Eastern U.S. investor relations for Macquarie Groups investment management division.

Alfonso Hernandez joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Properties Group as a real estate sales executive in their Carrollwood, FL, office.

Rob Lindsey MBA was included in the Top 50 Bay Area Up and Comers of 2016 by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*.

Leah Marc-Aurele became engaged to Tyler Smith. Leah is managing two of three family-owned liquor stores serving the Ipswich and surrounding communities, according to *Wicked Local Ipswich*.

Britta Muldergig made *Fairfield County Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list for 2016, according to the *Stamford Daily Voice*. Britta, senior marketing manager with Uber CT, came up with the idea of On-Demand Study Breaks, where Uber drivers delivered local college students free care packages during exam time.



Cohen Cates

Stephen Murray is the CEO of the Downtowner Shuttle Service, which operates complimentary shuttles in South Florida, Newport Beach, CA, and Aspen, CO. His company recently expanded to Tampa, helping people get around in downtown.

Stephanie Triggiani started a new job as the director of marketing and communications at FP Mailing.

10 Abdulrahman Ababtain MBA, M.S., founder of Abdulrahman Ababtain Co. Ltd., announced a joint venture agreement with AZZ Inc. to manufacture high voltage gas-insulated transmission line products within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to News 9 (Oklahoma). Abdulrahman is an electrical engineer and has extensive experience in high voltage power products and power substation automation. He has played a major role in constructing the first facility to assemble high voltage gas-insulated switchgear in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Colleen Beaudoin M.Ed. was elected to the Pasco County School Board, and she took office in November, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*.

Meagan (Suarez) Cates and her husband, Chris, are happy to announce an addition to their family — Cohen Cates was born on June 19.

Renee Hoelzli is a legal secretary at Tully Rinckey PLLC, where

she provides legal and administrative support for the firm's personal injury department.

Jessica Merrick was promoted to associate counsel with Minor League Baseball (MiLB), according to *Ballpark Digest*. In her new position, Jessica provides legal support to all facets of MiLB with an emphasis on marketing support, intellectual property matters, and TV and movie licensing. Jessica joined MiLB as an intern in 2013 and has held full-time positions in the licensing and marketing departments.

Phil Michaels MBA '15, M.S. '15 was accepted to Harvard Graduate School of Education's Leadership Board.

Annala Rajkumar published *Waterfalls of Paradise: Trinidad and Tobago*. This comprehensive guide offers a blend of history, geography and tourism that focuses on experiencing Trinidad and Tobago. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in tourism and management at The University of the West Indies, according to the *Trinidad Daily Express*. (See below.)

11 Douglas Ackerman MBA is the general manager of the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association Inc., a nonprofit that promotes dairy foods through schools, health professionals, retailers, dairy processors and the public. Prior to this position, Douglas was the head of the Florida Department of Citrus.

Samantha Burns exhibited a sculpture installation in the fanfare exhibition at the Southeastern Contemporary Art Gallery Oct. 13–Nov. 10. Samantha created her installation on site.

Jennifer Foley started her own dog apparel retail business called Dressed by Finn in late 2014. This fall, the company manufactured its

first collection of dog shirts, and they also made their first wholesale sale to a store in Canada.

Art Linares was featured in the *Hartford Business* list of 40 Under 40. Art is the owner and co-founder of Greenskies Renewable Energy, a top-five solar development company, and a Connecticut state senator.

Mike Rabelo became the all-time winningest manager in Connecticut Tiger history, according to the minor league baseball team's Twitter @thectigers.

Brianna (Ebanks) Wilkerson MBA '12 was named the 2016 recipient of the Young Caymanian Leadership Award. Brianna works at PricewaterhouseCoopers in the regional finance department. She is the owner of Made Well, a health coaching and wellness business, volunteers with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and devotes herself to the growth and development of college students, particularly women.

Patricia Yeazell was cast as Melinda in Cupcake Lady's production of Rob Urbinati's *Hazelwood Jr. High*, according to *Broadway World*. Patricia recently played Vera in *And Then There Were None*, Lourdes in *Lourdes of the Flies* and Moth in *Love's Labours Lost*.

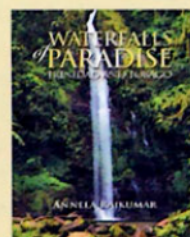
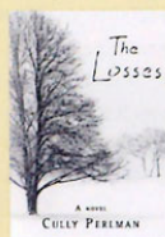
12 Nick Cannavo joined Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates Inc. as Nathan Benderson Park's event and volunteer coordinator. Nick previously worked as a program coordinator of events at the Florida Youth Soccer Association.

Tammy Charles MBA '14 was included in the Top 50 Bay Area Up and Comers of 2016 by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*.

Abigail Joensen joined Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Laurel Region as an events coordinator. Abigail is helping with their new initiative, Build Something Big. The initiative has three focus areas in mentoring: literacy, STEAM education and self-actualization.

Mike Paonessa attended the PGA Championship at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ, where he earned a national sound bite. Mike waited 10 feet away at the tee box for golfer Yuta Ikeda to complete his swing before he belted "UConn! Big 12!" The sound bite aired on national television and caused a stir on Twitter, according to the *Hartford Courant*.

Tom Shields is the founder of BookU, an app that allows users to search for course books they want to buy, rent or sell by scanning the ISBN code. The app also shows popular swap spots on campus to



Recently published books by alumni:

Legacy Rewound by Kat Heckenbach '97; *The Losses* by Cully Perelman MFA '14; and *Waterfalls of Paradise: Trinidad and Tobago* by Annala Rajkumar '10

spartan spotlight

Loran (Tripp) Jarrett M.S. '14

Three Thought-provoking Words



A few blocks off Bourbon Street, Loran (Tripp) Jarrett M.S. '14 saw people's words sung straight from their souls.

Jarrett was on a family vacation in New Orleans a couple of years ago when she went for a walk and came across a wall outside a museum. The words "Before I Die" were emblazoned on the wall. Jarrett expected the rest of the sentence to be a punchline.

What she got was a mix of pain, happiness, strength and hope. People wanting to apologize to a family member or find a cure for cancer. The wall was actually a local project that was the brainchild of artist Cindy Chang. It served as a way for people to express their thoughts about things that needed to be done before death. It is a concept that has spread to more than 1,000 walls in 70 countries.

Jarrett left New Orleans with the mission of making a wall a reality in Tampa. That happened in late August after Jarrett, the president of the Leadership Tampa Bay Class of 2016, got the ball rolling. Leadership Tampa Bay got permis-

sion to have the wall off the Tampa Riverwalk. The response from residents and tourists was immediate.

Chalk is the tool for expression, and the only unspoken rule is common courtesy and respect within the messages. Jarrett has seen every age group take a turn using multiple languages.

"You can tell if somebody hasn't seen it before," Jarrett said. "You might see a pair of people. They realize they can write on the wall, and they are thinking about their lives."

The wall will be moving to the Tampa Armature Works on the other side of the Riverwalk next year.

Jarrett's expression on one wall involved her desire to start a scholarship program, which she did. She said people have expressed a desire to see a favorite sports team be successful or a need to try a particular food for the first time. It is a mix of serious moments, selfless thoughts or lighthearted ones.

"It's just a blank slate, which is symbolic ... for life," Jarrett said.



Nichole Hurst '12, MBA '15, M.S. '15 and David Adams MBA '16, M.S. '16

help users select a safe place to complete their transaction.

Princess Smith curated her first art show in Tampa, *A SiSTAR Movement*, featuring six local African-American female artists whose work addresses prevalent societal issues that affect African-American women.

Ashley Southard is a graduate student at Pace University in New York City. She is studying social media mobile marketing.

13 David Adams MBA '16, M.S. '16 and Nichole Hurst '12, MBA '15, M.S. '15 married on Sept. 24 at Bella Collina in Montverde, FL. David and Nichole met during their studies at UT. They enrolled in the same course and began dating after they were assigned to the same group project. David proposed in December 2013. They are thankful to UT for its part in helping them find one another.

Emily De Lorme married Matt Skane on Cape Cod in New Seabury, MA, on Aug. 28. Emily was also accepted into the Physician's Assistant program at the University of St. Joseph in Hartford, CT. She will begin the program in January.

Amanda (Meehan) Garcia earned her real estate license and is now a Florida Realtor. She also got married in 2015, and she and her husband have a beautiful son.



Matt Skane and Emily De Lorme '13

David Humphrey and Tiera Forsyth '13 were featured on HGTV's *House Hunters*, which showcased their search for their first home in Tampa. David is an assistant director of admissions at UT, and Tiera is pursuing her MBA at UT.

Alexandria Perkins graduated from the University of Florida with a master's degree in mass communication. She is putting her skills to work as a social community manager for the same company she interned for, Marketing 2 Go.

14 Haley (Hall) Bubser and her husband, **Ryan Bubser '11**, recently celebrated their one year wedding anniversary. The couple met in Austin Hall in 2010 and have been together ever since.

Kayla Cox has started a modeling career, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Kayla, represented by Wilhelmina International, has done catalogue layouts for International Plaza, appeared in advertisements for baby strollers and exercise

bands, and traveled to modeling "seasons" in Miami and Chicago.

Taylor DeMesa is owner of Dulce DeMesa Bakery, a dessert food truck. Taylor bought her truck in 2014, just three months after graduating from UT.

Loran (Tripp) Jarrett M.S. brought the idea of building a "Before I Die" wall to Tampa after seeing one in New Orleans in 2014, according to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Located in the Larry Feldman portion of the Riverwalk, anyone can stop by and write down what they wish to achieve during their life. The wall is this year's class project of Leadership Tampa Bay 2016, for which Jarrett acts as the class president. (See page 30.)

Chelsea Moskal started a new job as development assistant at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater after graduating with a Master of Arts in performing arts administration from New York University.

Cully Perlman MFA is proud to announce that his debut novel, *The Losses*, was published by Midtown Publishing in November. (See page 29.)

15 Jordan Davis signed with the British Basketball League's DBL Sharks Sheffield where he will play guard, according to the *Sheffield Telegraph*. Jordan spent his first professional basketball season in Chili before moving to the UK.

Kristin (Boris) Faleev joined Southshore Insurance Profes-

sionals in Brandon, FL. Kristin has been in the insurance industry since 2007. Southshore Insurance Professionals is a full service independent insurance agency that provides personal and commercial insurance products throughout the state of Florida.

Doha Madani is finishing up a master's degree from the City University of New York's Graduate School of Journalism. During her studies, she spent time interning with *The Daily Star* newspaper in Lebanon, where her most memorable moment was interviewing Syrian refugee children visiting a technology center.

Stephen Santasieri started a new job in February as a manager at Gerber Group in New York City, which encompasses 13 nightlife venues including The Roof and Mr. Purple. He previously worked as a hospitality manager for Pacha New York City, where he handled preparations for VIP guests including Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, Tiesto, Martin Garrix and The Chainsmokers.

Justin Sousa married Cordelia Philip on Aug. 27, according to the *Royal Gazette*. The reception was held at Newstead Belmont Hills Hotel, Bermuda. Justin is employed with PricewaterhouseCoopers and is pursuing his CPA/FCA.

16 Carly Ayres started a new job as a fulfillment specialist at Barton Associates. The company specializes in

staffing and recruiting temporary physicians, physician assistants and nurses.

Travis Misarti directed the short film *Nostalgia*, which he submitted for competition in the Sundance Film Festival's Sundance Ignite program for emerging filmmakers.

Kelley Sundberg M.S. was named Mansfield University women's basketball assistant coach. Kelley was a personal trainer/group fitness instructor and a corporate wellness coach prior to joining the Mountaineers.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni

Mary Elaine (Herring) Litschgi '35
Joseph S. Russo '50
J.G. "Tracy" Taylor Jr. '51
Iris Clark '52
Robert Sydney Bryan '56
Charlie Coleman '59
Lynda Winburn Robinson '59
Walter H. Kessler '63
Kevin Hurt '66
Wesley Bert Jones '66
Eric Nelson Jr. '67
Cliff Grantham '69
Audis Walker "Buddy" Garner '73
Robert Prostovich '73
Margaret J. Hanna M.Ed. '78
James S. McCormack '79
Aaron W. Hendry MBA '82
Maureen Avila '91
Donnie Morgan '93
Anthony Marsh '15
Former Faculty
David Clark Isele

More than a dorm. Today's residence halls may seem luxurious compared to dormitories of yesteryear, but some aspects of residence life will always stay the same. Send your most memorable moments of living on campus to kmallard@ut.edu for possible inclusion in a future feature.







6



7

Homecoming, held Oct. 14-15, began with hundreds of alumni and guests of all generations at the President's Reception (1, 7, 10) on the West Verandah of Plant Hall, followed by libations and socializing in the Rathskeller (9). On Saturday, the class of 1966 (3) was inducted into the Golden Spartans, a society for alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago. Alumni gathered in the center of campus for carnival games, rides and treats at the Fall Festival. From cornhole on Sykes lawn (8) and a pumpkin patch (4, 5), to rides on the Mind Winder (6), the Fall Festival was a hit for alumni, their families and students (2) alike. In addition to the festival fun, alumni went on campus tours and minaret climbs. Mark your calendar for next year's homecoming celebration, which will be held Oct. 20-22.



9



8



10

CHANGIN

CREATING
TOMORROW
FOR UT AND OUR WORLD

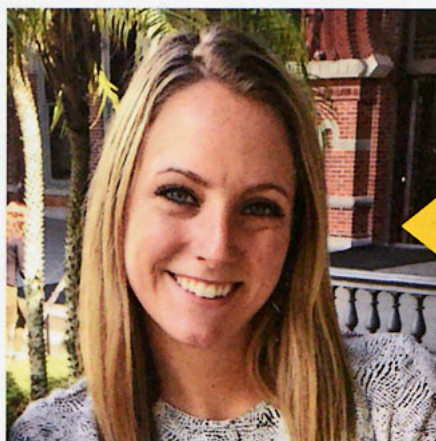
The University of Tampa provides resources that encourage students to explore, investigate and expand the possibilities of their potential. Our world is experiencing a historical transformation on many levels, and our University is experiencing the most significant transformation in its history.

We help create the future every day. As responsible stewards, we must acknowledge the complexities before us and be open to the possibilities. The choices we make today will help realize the University's long-range vision for decades.

We can't stop now. There are more goals to be reached and more challenges to undertake. We ask for your help to ensure that UT's foundation is solid for the future. Choose to improve lives for generations, here and across the globe.

Invest in excellence. Create the future.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
THE UNIVERSITY
OF TAMPA
INVEST IN EXCELLENCE



UT community
success
contagious.
Scholarship
made education
possible.

Sarah Potter '18, advertising
and public relations major

Read more eight-word stories at ut.edu/8wordstories.

ING LIVES

Why I Give: Clifford Mott '49

Major: Business

Profession: Retired from Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Q: Tell me about your Tampa start, Cliff.

A: We moved around a lot, because my father was a Navy man. We eventually settled in Tampa, and I attended Plant High School, learned to fly at Peter O. Knight Airport and fished off of Ballast Point pier. I still remember when you could ride the streetcar for a nickel! When the big crash happened in 1929, my college fund was lost, so I started working at TASCO shipyard as a pipe fitter's apprentice.

Q: What was your UT student experience like?

A: After saving up the money I needed for tuition, I started taking night classes at UT so I could continue working the day shift at TASCO. Courses were going well until one day we heard on the radio that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. I dropped out to serve in the Army Air Corps in WWII and the Korean War but was able to return and graduate in 1949 thanks to the GI Bill. There were so many memories I made through organizations like Tau Omega, Ace Club and Future Business Leaders and Future Teachers of America. I also can't forget to mention Dean M.C. Rhodes and Professor Jesse Keene who allowed me to miss an exam to marry my late wife, Mary, over Easter break in 1946!

Q: Do you have a favorite memory from your days on campus?

A: My favorite memory would have to be the night I got engaged to Mary at Tau Omega's annual Ring Dance in the Plant Hall lobby. To get to the dance, you had to walk through a giant ring that had several smaller rings hanging from it. As we walked through, I grabbed the engagement ring meant for her and slipped it on her finger.

Q: You and your late wife have established several endowments at UT. Why did you choose to support these particular program areas?

A: I decided to start the book fund (the Clifford R. and Mary Cribb Mott Endowed Book Fund) when I retired from Sears. I remembered when we were in school it was difficult for some students to get books. I thought maybe that was still happening today, so I wanted to help where I could. With the nursing endowment (the Clifford R. and Mary Cribb Mott Excel Nursing Endowed Award), I heard that the nursing program was growing, and I wanted to make sure they had what they needed to excel. I started the Clifford R. and Mary Cribb Mott Marine Biology Research Endowed Fund, because when I graduated, the first job offer I had was at Marineland to be an assistant biologist. I wasn't able to take the job, but it was still a special interest to me, because I enjoyed my biology classes with Professor Clyde Reed.

Q: Why do you give to UT?

A: Everyone's received help along the way — during school, their first job, whatever. Now it was payback time. I wanted to repay the generosity that was showed to me. Through these awards, I hope to empower students to live their best life at UT. I hope others will feel the same way.

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

A: How long is UT going to last? It's up to you.

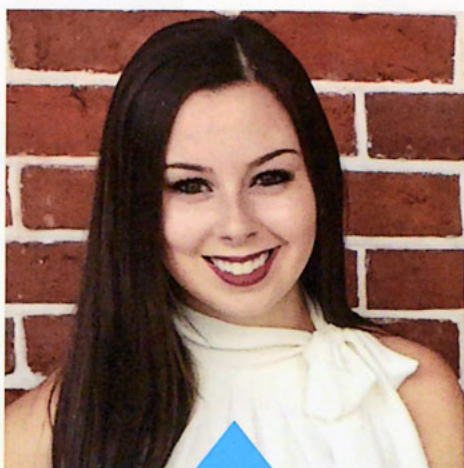


Clifford Mott '49



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK:

A key campaign priority has been bolstering the UT Endowment. Students in UT's four colleges will benefit from 86 new endowed scholarships and gifts for 10 endowed programs that contribute to a stimulating educational environment.



Participating
in co-curricular
organizations.
Learning through
community
engagement.

*Samantha Fitzmaurice '17, advertising
and public relations major*



Devine Asks, "Are You Spartan Ready?"

It's a question that UT regularly poses to students.

Spartan Ready is UT's commitment to develop the whole student, including readiness in interpersonal abilities, communication, critical thinking, teamwork, self-awareness and life skills.

"Developing your emotional intelligence helps you prepare to be a leader and citizen who contributes to society. It's the golden ticket," said Linda Devine, UT vice president of operations and planning.

When Devine joined UT in 1981, it was apparent that she embodied those same qualities. She has since served the University in positions of increasing responsibility, especially in assuring student success.

Originally from Henrietta, OH, Devine arrived in Tampa in 1981. She missed home. In her office hangs a 1982 *Tampa Tribune* illustration with the headline "A Tampa Christmas Fantasy." It shows the city covered in snow. Also in her office is a poster depicting the Tampa skyline and minarets as a sandcastle.

Devine traded her dreams of snow for sandcastles, but her identity remained firmly intact. In Ohio, her family was in the meat packing business, and they were in the business of giving. "I grew up with

the mentality that you take care of your primary family, your extended family and then your bigger family. It's what you do," said Devine.

Whether it was a church, high school or fire department, her family gave of their resources. Writing a check, donating food and volunteering were a way of life. "Gifts of time are underestimated and powerful," said Devine of volunteerism.

What does Devine donate to at UT? To taking care of her bigger family. She aligns her giving with her values and focuses on education and student needs. She gives to the annual fund to help students purchase books and supplies, make a final tuition payment or experience study abroad.

"You never know the power of what you give," she said. "You can start with a modest contribution that adds up over the years and makes a difference to someone."

Developing whole student. Creating global leaders and citizens.

*Linda Devine,
Vice President of Operations and Planning*

Her husband, David Devine '78, MBA '83, and children, Robert Voege '06, Kelly Devine '10 and Daniel Devine '17, attended UT. She watched as the University allowed her children to be themselves, imagine, evolve and grow.

From time to time, she also teaches. She remembers one of the most moving classroom discussions that she has been a part of.

"It was after 9/11. I was in the third week of a class with first-year students. Because of the diversity of our student body, UT is like a global city," said Devine. "We discussed what it meant to be an American, and many in the class were not from the U.S. It was a powerful discussion. The class saw Americans as locking arms together and united."

Devine has experienced that when you understand yourself and others, you're in a better position to work collectively on problems. The problems of our world, Devine points out, are pretty big. "This is the reason we exist," she said. "We educate students in a certain way to prepare them for life and send them into the world as ambassadors."

The headline on the sandcastle poster in Devine's office reads "Tampa Where Wonders Never Cease." Faculty, administration,

students, alumni and donors each experience the University in their own way. "We each take ownership of our slice and choose to make the wonders possible," said Devine.

"What we all contribute is second nature, because we live our mission," she said. "The meaning of being Spartan Ready and our desire to impact lives is genuine."

Promotes student self-discovery and engagement. Ready for life.

Gina Firth, Associate Dean of Wellness



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK:

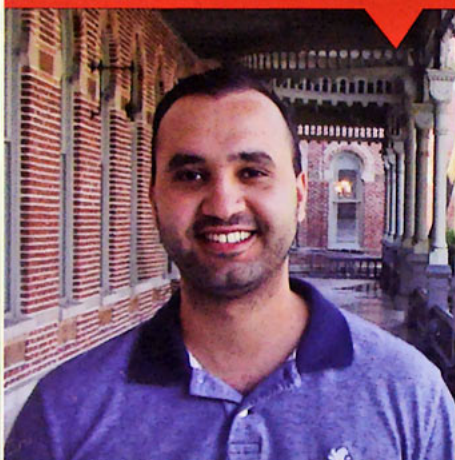


The final phase of Palm Apartments, UT's 11th residence hall, is scheduled for Fall 2017 completion. More than 4,000 students are currently part of the residence life program.

Your support makes it possible for UT to expand its academic programs and hire and retain the finest scholars. UT's accomplishments have been cited in such publications as the Princeton Review's *Best 379 U.S. Colleges* and U.S. News and World Report's *America's Best Colleges*.

UT nursing
reputation
respected. Edge
in job market.

Alex Kanaan '17, M.S. in nursing



Alexander Walter MBA '09

The Walter Foundation Continues Stewardship

Preservation of his family's farm, Thundercloud Ranch, was a priority to Alexander Walter MBA '09. A few years after his grandfather passed in 2000, there was talk of selling it.

His grandfather's name, Jim Walter, was synonymous with Tampa starting in the 1940s. Shortly after he returned from World War II, the Tampa native joined a generation of new home builders. Over the years, he invested in growth and in preservation.

At an event in 2009, a newly appointed UT professor, Rebecca White, was introduced as the Walter Chair of Entrepreneurship. Surprised by his family's name in the title, Walter introduced himself to White and asked about her position.

He was aware of the support The Walter Foundation had provided to the University but not about this position. The foundation was established by his grandfather to give back to the Tampa community that had given so much to him. As it turns out, his grandfather, along with longtime friend and CPA, Kendall Baker '49, were loyally supporting UT before the foundation existed.

Walter grew up near campus and attended Tampa Preparatory School. He fondly remembers visiting the University, where Tampa Prep students were permitted to use the library, pool and other facilities. "To see the campus today, know that it will continue to transform and know that we've been a part of it makes us feel proud and honored," said Walter.

While earning his MBA, Walter took a commercial real estate class. "The professor was Stephen Meyers. The course made a lasting impact on me, leading to my commercial real estate career," said Walter, now managing partner of Walson Ventures.

Walter believes the diversity of the student body taught him valuable lessons. Most of his business is conducted in Tampa but a significant part involves international buyers and markets. His experience at UT helped him prepare to do business at an international level.

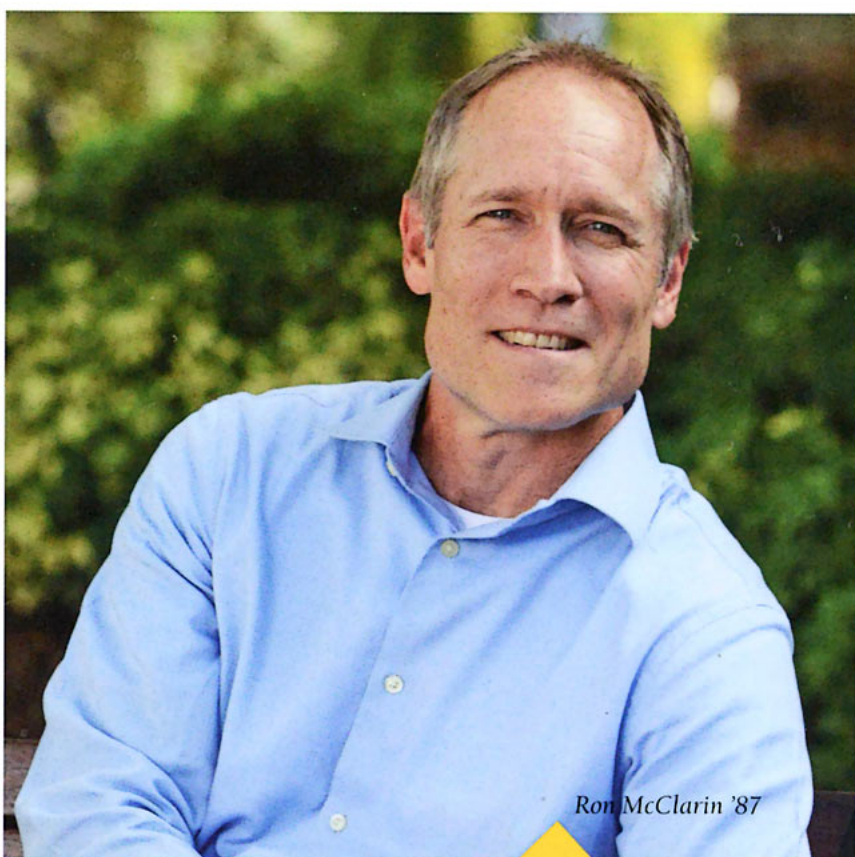
"Steel sharpens steel," he said. In his MBA classes, he was surrounded by intelligent, experienced professors and students. In addition, the small classes demanded engagement and required participation.

"I graduated UT with my MBA confident and capable. I sharpened my skills to collaborate and communicate. I also made valuable connections in the business community along the way," said Walter. He cites the University's standards as a key differentiator.

He points out that the Sykes College of Business holds the highest standard of accreditation for business schools internationally by AACSB International. In addition, Walter believes that the University's standards extend into many areas, including its stewardship of donations.

In 2011, Walter joined the board of The Walter Foundation alongside Kendall Baker and other board members. Each year, they audit their donation recipients to engage them and see firsthand the impact of their gifts. "It's incredible to see the changes you can make and the impact on others' lives," said Walter.

Shortly after joining the board, Walter met with the University to discuss the area of greatest need. At that time, there was another donor willing to match donations to build a new nursing facility. The Walter Foundation agreed



Ron McClarin '87

of Giving

to make a commitment and make that vision a reality. "UT is responsible and diligent with the gifts it receives. It invests in programs, faculty and facilities to better serve students. That diligence creates a positive impact for our city and community," said Walter. He feels that UT is improving the school and campus and also preserving a historic monument and centerpiece of Tampa's history.

It's one more reason Walter feels right at home at UT. He's had a hand in preserving his family's farm, and the connection he has to that land is similar to his connection to UT. The seeds of giving that his grandfather planted continue to bear fruit. Preservation of the Walter family legacy and the tradition of giving are being well cultivated.



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK:

Since the start of the capital campaign, the Spartan athletic program has added men's and women's lacrosse, women's golf, and men's and women's track for a total of 21 NCAA varsity teams with 600 competing athletes.

UT's intramural program was named a "Top 50" program by BestColleges.com.

THE LETTER THAT CHANGED MCCLARIN'S LIFE

"One seed of many, and together you can create a forest." That's how Ron McClarin '87 feels about his contributions to UT.

He is just one of the many alumni, parents and friends who contribute each year to the UT Annual Fund. McClarin said he "owes this school everything," and he gives because he feels it's the "right thing to do."

McClarin, who attended UT on an ROTC scholarship, said UT was one of the few schools that offered room and board on top of the tuition assistance.

"It was a dream to get that letter in the mail," he said. "That letter made all the difference in my life."

The vast leadership opportunities available on campus helped shape McClarin's future and set UT apart from other institutions.

"If you wanted a leadership experience, you could have it," he said. His experience as president of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity helped propel him into leadership roles today. He would later go on to serve as president of the UT Alumni Association and help establish the Gasparilla Brunch.

"When I first returned to the UT campus post-graduation, I realized what UT did for me," he said. McClarin's gifts to the UT Annual Fund help ensure other students receive the same quality education and top learning facilities that he enjoyed.

Scholarship
made dreams
a reality.
Gratitude for
support.

*Matt Johnson '17, accounting major
and basketball team captain*



Bob Calafell '66, MBA '75

Fostering a Culture of Caring Through Scholarships

Bob Calafell '66, MBA '75 falls in love all over again whenever he sets foot on UT soil. The campus and the students generate fond memories of the wonderful experiences he had as an undergraduate.

"It's such a beautiful place and the students running to and from class are so energizing. It makes me feel great," he said.

Calafell's love for UT has translated into a strong commitment both financially and with his time. He is a 16-year member of the UT Board of Trustees, and he and his wife, Aida, have supported UT and its students through scholarships and other endeavors.

"When you retire, you have more time to think about getting involved in good causes and giving back to your university," Calafell said. "When I worked at GTE, the culture of the company was such that getting involved and giving back were top of mind."

Aside from his intrinsic desire to help his alma mater, Calafell has some very personal

experiences that fuel his charitable intent. He was the first in his family to attend college. It was an opportunity that required hard work both in school and in the full-time job that paid for his education.

"I graduated from Jefferson High School," he related. "At that time, you either went away to school or you went to UT. I chose UT, and it was the best decision I ever made. However, I needed to work to afford it, so during the day I worked at a catering company. I attended classes at night. I went straight from work to class. Since I worked to pay for my education, I wanted to make the lives of future students a little easier by providing scholarships."

The Calafells' scholarships include the Robert and Aida Calafell Endowed Scholarship and the Robert and Aida Calafell Memorial Endowed Presidential Scholarship, which they have provided through their estate. Both gifts support students graduating from high schools in Hillsborough County.

Walking around campus brings up other great memories for Calafell as well. He thinks about a favorite place on campus, a little room above Fletcher Lounge, where he enjoyed spending time between classes and some of his favorite professors, Charles L. "Charlie" Hyde, professor of businesses administration and economics, and Carlos Frederico Weiman, professor of management.

"Charlie was interesting and engaging," Calafell remembered. "Carlos was an interesting guy, too. My UT experiences served me well throughout life. I also learned a lot of lessons in common sense!"

Calafell continues to support UT and encourages others to as well. In fact, he thinks the disposition for giving back should be cultivated when students first graduate.

"I think new graduates should be encouraged to donate to their university right after graduation," he said. "Even if it's just a small amount. It is developing the culture of giving that is important."



Positive force.
Creativity
inspires
innovation.
Students reap
rewards.

*Paul E. Finocchiaro
Assistant Professor of Theatre*

Whale
entanglement
research.
Donating makes
student discovery
possible.

*Jeffrey Fasick
Assistant Professor of Biology*



Read more eight-word stories at
ut.edu/8wordstories.



Sarah Riedel '00

A Family Home Away From Home

As a child of former UT professor Geri Cochran, Sarah Riedel '00 spent more time at UT than most. Over the years, even before she became a student herself, she spent many hours on campus learning from former and current faculty, from volleyball camps with head coach Chris Catanach '83, to dance lessons with Susan Taylor Lennon, chair/professor of dance.

"Growing up here — this is where I wanted to be," said Riedel, who even had her wedding reception in Fletcher Lounge. She is one of three UT graduates in her family, with a sister and a father who are also UT alumni.

Riedel is one of the thousands of alumni who donate to the University. She began giving to UT right after graduation, inspired by her boss — and fellow Spartan — Rick Thomas '72.

"UT is all he talks about; how his gifts make a difference," she said. "It doesn't have to be a fortune, every little bit helps."

Thinking back on her UT experience, Riedel

said the small class sizes offered students the opportunity to know their professors, which was a highlight of her time as a student. With an average class size of 21, UT continues to set itself apart from other institutions.

Another moment that stood out was calling France to help a student with their tuition concerns when she was employed in the Bursar's office.

"There isn't anything UT wouldn't do to help a student," she said.

Riedel graduated from UT without debt, and she wants to ensure other students have that same opportunity. By giving to the Annual Fund, Riedel and others like her contribute to the continued growth of UT, through merit-based scholarships, campus improvements, and faculty and staff development.

These days, Riedel is continuing the UT family tradition with her own family. Her daughter recently attended volleyball camp and was taught by a familiar face — Coach Catanach.



YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK:

UT's graduate studies program continues to expand with the following new offerings this year:

- M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
- M.S. in Entrepreneurship
- Combined "4 plus 1" degrees: B.S. in Business and MBA, and B.S. in Education and M.Ed.

The University currently offers more than 200 programs of study.

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Your donations also support numerous co-curricular initiatives
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The first phase of the 40,000-square-foot Fitness and Recreation Center opened this fall. The facility was designed for individual and group fitness programs, personal training/evaluation, club sports, recreation activities and wellness/nutrition programs. UT's intramural sports program was named by BestColleges.com as one of the top 50 intramural programs in the nation.

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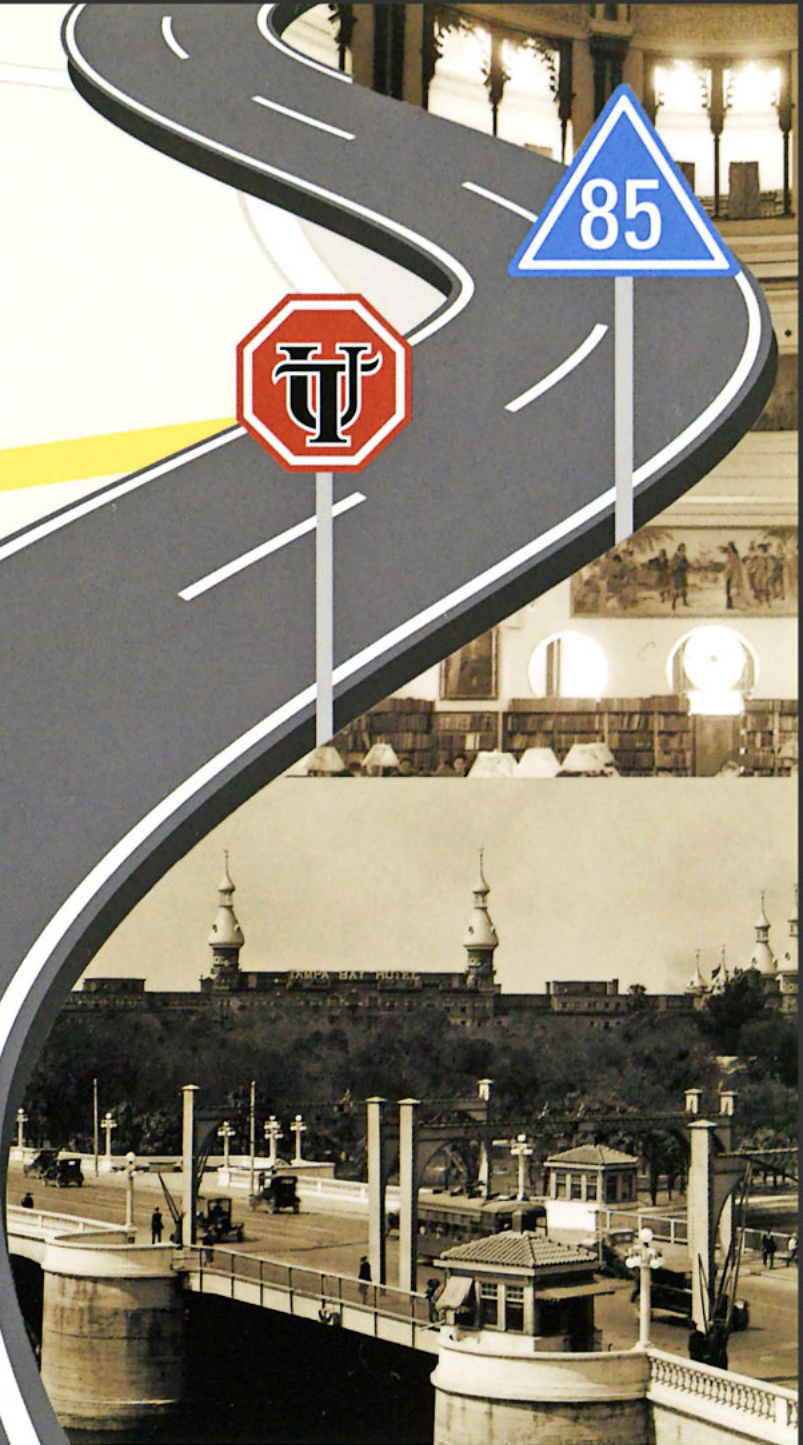




HANGING OUT

These days, Plant Hall's famous minarets are only opened up for visitors on special occasions like Family Weekend or homecoming. But back in 1982, the brothers of UT's chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, an honorary service fraternity for college and university band members, made their home office inside one of them. Pictured here in their *Moroccan* photo are (from left) Scott Brown '84, president; James Feist '83, vice president and treasurer; and Bryon Holz '83, secretary and treasurer.

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On Oct. 28, UNICEF at UT and several other student organizations showed off their pumpkin-decorating skills at Pumpkin Palooza. Organizations paid a \$20 entry fee, with half the money going to Annual Fund scholarships.

