

UT DALLAS

M A G A Z I N E



The
Politely
Ruthless
Race
for the
Top in
Collegiate
Chess



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UT DALLAS

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 4, Issue 2
Spring 2014

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FEATURES

MARCH MADNESS CAPS WINNING SEASON 12

On the way to their third Sweet 16 appearance in six seasons, the men's basketball team completed its winningest season in program history, claimed the American Southwest Conference title and knocked out competitors in the first two rounds of the NCAA Division III tournament. Comets Whoosh!

THE ICE STORM THAT ALMOST STOLE GRADUATION 14

More than ever before, the University is communicating through social media during times of emergency. One of the recent examples occurred in December 2013, when ice conditions in North Texas canceled graduation plans and shaped an around-the-clock conversation between various segments of the UT Dallas community.

EDITH O'DONNELL ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING TRANSFORMS CAMPUS 18

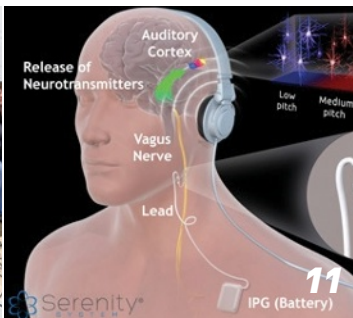
The Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building — situated in the middle of campus — not only provides a new home for the Arts and Technology program at UTD, but also offers a venue for lectures and performances.

THE POLITELY RUTHLESS RACE FOR THE TOP IN COLLEGIATE CHESS 22

A handful of American universities, including UT Dallas, are in a race to recruit ever-more-highly-rated chess players. Meet some of the game's key figures in this inside look at the competition for national titles.

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE: TIFFANY ORNELAS DE TOOL 28

On Nov. 10, 2011, UTD alumna Tiffany Ornelas de Tool scrambled for cover as the Sudanese Armed Forces dropped bombs on the Yida refugee camp where she had been working for the previous month. Her description of that dramatic day provides perspective on the ongoing conflict in northern Africa.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Mail for the Fall Issue . . .

I just read your article about JFK in the recent *UT Dallas Magazine*. It would have been nice to mention that the Special Collections Department (of the McDermott Library) has original documents and information about the JFK proposed visit.

Paul A. Oelkrug, CA
Coordinator for Special Collections
The University of Texas at Dallas
McDermott Library
Richardson, Texas

Editor's Note: Thank you for giving us the opportunity to brag about the tremendous resources available through the Special Collections Department. It's not unusual for a piece of memorabilia or document or photo in the University's library to spark a story idea for UT Dallas Magazine. For the "JFK Connection," curator Ty Lovelady provided access to documents from the University's early history, and also ensured that many items related to JFK's visit to Dallas could be viewed online.

I recently read your *UT Dallas Magazine* (Fall 2013) practically from cover to cover. "The JFK Connection" story and the many vignettes in the "There's No Place Like UTD" story were particularly compelling. Please pass on my compliments!

Carol Pierce Goglia
Director of Marketing and Communications
Communities Foundation of Texas
Dallas, Texas

Join the conversation!

Send letters to the editor to utdallasmagazine@utdallas.edu or *UT Dallas Magazine*, AD14, 800 W. Campbell Road, Richardson, TX 75080-3021. All submissions may be edited for clarity or length. Please include contact information such as phone number, email address and/or mailing address.

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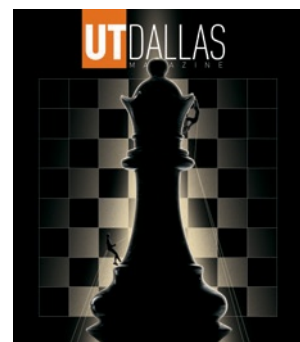
For a full listing of the schools and programs that have social media sites, visit utdallas.edu/social.

If it's been a while since you've been on campus, take a virtual tour at utdallas.edu/virtualtour.

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ON THE COVER



The top four U.S. teams from the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship compete for the national title in a round-robin tournament known as the President's Cup. Frequently called the "Final Four" of collegiate chess, the tournament was created in 2001 by Dr. Tim Redman, who is a literary studies professor at UT Dallas and founder of the University's chess program.

CONTRIBUTORS

UT Dallas Students

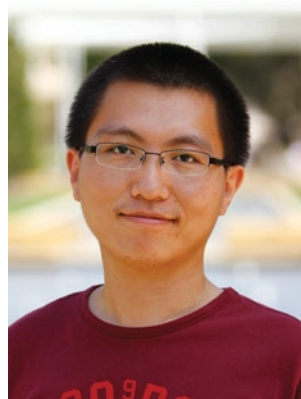
UT Dallas students made significant contributions to this issue of the magazine. Their photographic work is central to the feature about the December 2013 ice storm — “The Ice Storm That Almost Stole Graduation.” They also documented in words and photos the post-season play of the men’s basketball team, “March Madness Caps Winning Season.”



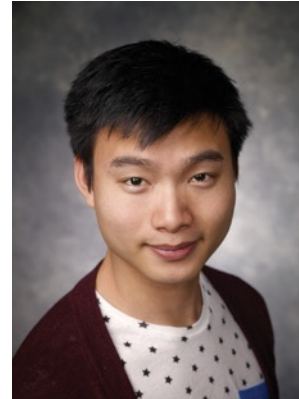
Oliver Baker



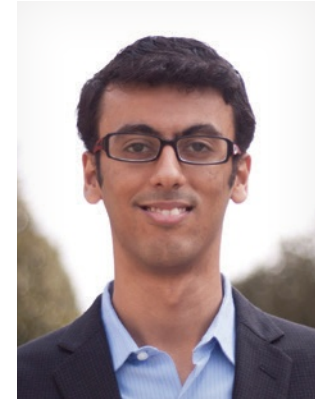
Molly Coleman



Yang Xi



Kevin Yang



Parth Sampat

“The Ice Storm That Almost Stole Graduation”

Oliver Baker, a senior arts and technology student who works as a web specialist for the Naveen Jindal School of Management, captured shots of campus before retreating to the warmth of his campus apartment.

Molly Coleman, a freshman in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, took her photo of Residence Hall West as she explored the effects of the ice storm.

Yang Xi is a materials science and engineering doctoral student who applies his photographic skills to shoot campus activities, especially sports, for the *UTD Mercury* student newspaper.

Kevin Yang, a sophomore studying management information systems in the Naveen Jindal School of Management and photographer for the Office of Communications, specializes in shooting student life and campus events.

“March Madness Caps Winning Season”

Parth Sampat, sports editor for the *UTD Mercury* contributed to the coverage of the men’s basketball team featured in this issue. He is a graduate student in JSOM. **Yang Xi** provided the photos.



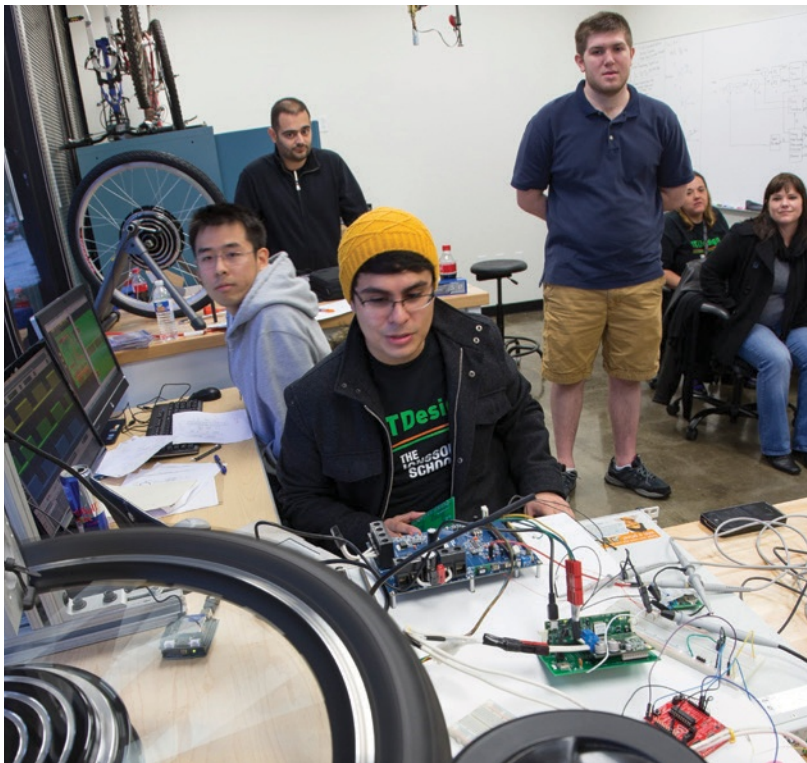
Tiffany Ornelas de Tool BA'06, MPA'08

Tiffany Ornelas de Tool, who lives in San Francisco, holds a bachelor’s degree in government and politics and a master’s degree in public affairs from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. At UTD, Tiffany was a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Chess Club. She served as president of

Sigma Lambda Alpha and held a graduate student seat in Student Government. Since graduating, she has worked in West Papua, Indonesia, with Peace Brigades International and in South Sudan with Nonviolence Peaceforce. Tiffany studied peace building at the Akademie für Konflikttransformation in Germany.

ON CAMPUS

New Studio for UDesign Program Aims to Nurture Big Ideas



Members of the eBike team work on their UDesign project in a secured project room. Members are known to spend their free time in the studio and have joked about adding cots.

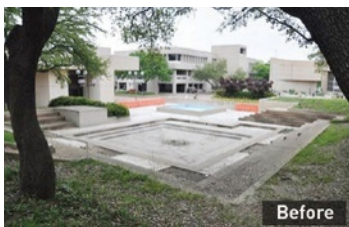
Bigger may translate to even better for the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science's award-winning senior design program.

A new studio for UDesign, the corporate-sponsored capstone senior design program, recently opened. The 30,000-square-foot studio houses 29 project stations, which can be expanded to 56. The studio includes a computer lab, machine shop, seven conference rooms (including a Cisco TelePresence room), five secured project lab rooms, a seminar room and more than \$550,000 in state-of-the-art equipment donated by local companies.

The program started in 2009 with just six projects in electrical engineering. It now includes more than 40 multidisciplinary projects each semester in computer science, as well as electrical, software, telecommunications and mechanical engineering. UDesign collaborates with students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management and the Arts and Technology program.

When biomedical engineering seniors join UDesign next year, all of the engineering and computer science programs will be together in one facility. UDesign received the 2013 Tech Titan of the Future Award from the Metroplex Technology Business Council, the largest technology trade association in Texas.

-LaKisha Ladson



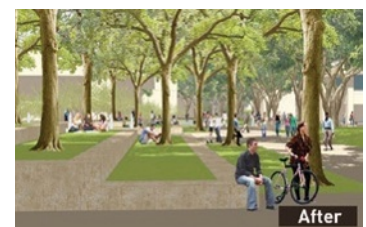
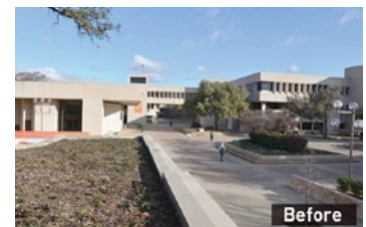
Before and After: Plans for the North Campus Mall Renovation

Renovation of the north end of campus began recently as part of the University's Campus Landscape Enhancement Project by landscape architect Peter Walker. The project extends north from the Trellis to the Administration Building and will bring a more park-like environment to the north mall.

The project comes after the \$30 million transformation of the south end of campus, which was completed in 2010.

Proposed changes to the north end of campus will include cutting the pavement by half and incorporating more green spaces, such as lawn terraces and elm groves.

The construction is expected to continue for at least a year. **-Robin Russell**



WHOOSH!

Kiplinger's Personal Finance 2014 list of the **top 100 best values in public colleges** places UT Dallas at **39th**. The previous year, UTD was 60th in the ranking of four-year schools that are described as delivering a quality education at an affordable price.

Derek Beaton, a doctoral student in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, received a research service award from the **National Institutes of Health** to support his investigation of the factors behind substance abuse and addiction.

Two newly constructed buildings on campus — the **Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building** and the **Visitor Center and Bookstore** — are Top Ten awardees for 2013 from Topping Out, a program that honors outstanding built environments in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Dr. Poras T. Balsara, professor of electrical engineering, was elected a Fellow of the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** for contributions to the design of all-digital frequency synthesizers.



Left: Helen Small, who earned a bachelor's degree from UTD at age 87 and a master's degree at age 90, helps chronicle the University's history. Right: Two former military pilots — John Luckadoo (standing) and C.V. Glines — volunteer in McDermott Library's Special Collections. Luckadoo works with the aviation collection that includes thousands of items from defunct Braniff International Airways. Glines curates the James H. Doolittle Collection.

Volunteers Bring History, Passion to Library

Three volunteers devote hours cataloging and organizing the rare books, documents and memorabilia found in the Special Collections of the Eugene McDermott Library. C.V. Glines, 93, is a former Air Force pilot, journalism professor and award-winning author. He is the curator for the James H. Doolittle Collection in the library. Glines has been telling the story of Doolittle, the World War II aviation pioneer known for leading the top-secret raid on Japan, since 1962.

John Luckadoo, 91, a former combat pilot in WWII and commercial real estate developer, has been volunteering for 15 years. Like Glines, he was a friend of George Haddaway, the man who started the aviation collection that is now in McDermott Library. Luckadoo catalogs manufacturers' files and more than 400,000 negatives related to Braniff International and its many innovations in the airline industry.

Volunteer Helen Small, 93, who previously worked in the Center for Vital Longevity, began volunteering in Special Collections in 2013, where she focuses on the history of the University and its archives. An alumna of UT Dallas, she earned an undergraduate degree in psychology at the age of 87 and a master's degree in psychological sciences at age 90.

Paul Oelkrug, coordinator for Special Collections and Archives, said, "I look forward to Tuesdays when the volunteers come in. I have gotten to know them. With the three oldest in their 90s, I find their minds are as sharp as ever and physically, they are amazing. I am honored to know and work with them," he said. "I can't imagine them not being here." **-Misty Hawley**

Princeton Review Ranks UT Dallas One of Nation's Top Values

The University of Texas at Dallas is one of the best values among the nation's public colleges, according to *The Princeton Review's* 2014 edition of *The Best Value Colleges*.

This is the second consecutive year UT Dallas has made the list that includes 75 public and 75 private institutions.

UT Dallas is one of only four public Texas universities to be named among the best values,

along with The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University and the University of Houston. Rice University was the sole private institution in Texas named to the list.

In its profile of UT Dallas, the book editors praised the institution for its "wealth of resources, financial aid and opportunities." In addition, students surveyed noted the Arts and Technology program and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs.

Among the factors considered were academics, cost and financial aid. The company surveyed 2,000 undergraduate institutions in 2012-13 and also analyzed data from the past three academic years.

The survey ranked the top 10 public and private institutions. The remaining schools in each group were recognized as best values, but not ranked. **-Brittany Hoover**





Above, from left: Dan Boschler, senior lecturer of organizations, strategy and international management, joins students Zac Evans and Katherine Huston. The team won the UT Dallas Technology Commercialization Award (First Place, \$5,000 prize) in the undergraduate division.

At right, Alejandro Jacobo (left) and Matthew Hinson were winners of the UT Dallas Technology Commercialization Award (First Place, \$5,000 prize) in the graduate division.



Innovation on Display at Business Competition

An electronic blueprint system for the architecture, engineering and construction industry and a silicone pad that protects horse hooves won the top prizes at the 2013 UT Dallas Business Idea Competition.

The winning graduate and undergraduate teams each received \$5,000 for their ideas as part of the annual contest, sponsored by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

For the second year, Matthew Hinson and Alejandro Jacobo took first place in the graduate division. Their most recent win was for the idea of a rollable electronic blueprint system. The undergraduate division's top award went to Zac Evans and Katherine Huston, who won with "Pad Putty" for horse hooves.

The innovations were among dozens of entries in the competition that gives students the opportunity to develop and present their business ideas. Eight awards were given for a total of \$20,000 in cash and scholarship prizes.

Almost 150 students in 46 teams entered the competition. The teams pitched their products to panels of judges composed of local CEOs, entrepreneurs, corporate employees and investors from companies including Ericsson, Texas Instruments and Sabre. **-Kim Horner**

Students Interact with the World's Top Experts in Astrophysics

Graduate and undergraduate physics students gained academic research experience through the Texas Symposium on Relativistic Astrophysics, an international scientific conference that the University hosted in December.

The conference, which drew more than 400 participants, marked the 50th anniversary of the prestigious astrophysics meeting. The first Texas Symposium was held in 1963 in Dallas, hosted by the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, a precursor to The University of Texas at Dallas.

Undergraduate student Jacob White pulled double duty during the conference. He participated in an outreach event on campus, where he answered questions about astrophysics from members of the public, and also gave a scientific talk to an audience of distinguished international researchers.

White's work with Dr. Lindsay King, associate professor of physics, focuses on examining data from a 200 million-year-old collision between two clusters of galaxies, an event designated as Abell 2146.

Michael Troxel, a doctoral student, was part of the local organizing committee. He handled behind-the-scenes logistics of the symposium, including website design and maintenance and communications coordination.



UT Dallas undergraduate physics student Jacob White talked with members of the public who had questions about astronomy and astrophysics. White is currently conducting research on galaxies with faculty advisor Dr. Lindsay King, associate professor of physics.

Troxel, with doctoral student Austin Peel, also presented research at the symposium. Peel discussed work that has implications for understanding the large-scale structure and dynamics of the universe. Troxel presented his work on gravitational lensing, which can be used to more accurately measure the distribution and density of matter in the cosmos. **-Amanda Siegfried**

FROM THE LAB



Image courtesy of NASA

Researchers Designing Experiment for NASA Space Weather Mission in 2017

University researchers are pushing the boundaries of science as they investigate how everyday thunderstorms influence “space weather,” which occurs where the Earth’s atmosphere meets the void. The scientists will design and build an experiment that will fly onboard a new NASA satellite mission called the Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON).

The ICON satellite, slated for launch in 2017, will orbit about 350 miles above Earth, in a region of the upper atmosphere called the

ionosphere. The satellite will carry a suite of instruments built by various institutions.

The Ion Velocity Meter, created by UT Dallas, will gather data at the site of the spacecraft, such as the velocity, temperature and density of ions, while other instruments will remotely measure the state of the neutral atmosphere below the satellite.

There’s a practical reason why scientists have been studying the ionosphere for decades, said Dr. Rod Heelis, director of the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences.

“Disturbances and turbulence in this region interfere with radio signals, as well as GPS signals used in navigation. So predicting when and where interference will occur is a high priority,” said Heelis, who holds the Distinguished Chair in Natural Sciences and Mathematics and has been on UTD’s faculty since 1973. “This is an exciting opportunity to discover the reasons for the connections between surface weather and space weather that have only come to light in the last 10 years.” **-Amanda Siegfried**

WHOOSH!

Dr. Rod Heelis, Distinguished Chair in Natural Sciences and Mathematics and director of the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences, was appointed to the Space Studies Board that advises federal agencies on space science and applications.

Two years after establishing a chapter of **Phi Kappa Phi**, UT Dallas has been named a **Chapter of Excellence**. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Radio UTD was named Best Student-Run, Internet-Only Station and received the Biggest Improvement award at the 2013 CMJ Music Marathon Convention.

Dr. Anne van Kleeck, professor in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, received one of the highest honors bestowed by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association — the Fellowship of the Association. Other ASHA Fellows of the Association are **Drs. Thomas Campbell, Christine Dollaghan, Donise Pearson, Ross Roeser and Emily Tobey**.

Auciello Co-Develops Film That Enables Microchip Implantation Inside Eye

Dr. Orlando Auciello, who holds the Distinguished Chair in Engineering, helped develop the Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System that restores partial vision to people made blind by eye diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa and macular degeneration.

The device, which *Time* magazine named one of the best inventions of 2013, was developed by a group of researchers from five national laboratories, four universities and Second Sight Medical Products. Auciello was part of the team from Argonne National Laboratory that worked on the Argus II.

It took Auciello 10 years at Argonne National Laboratory to conduct the fundamental and applied research to develop, characterize and test the ultrananocrystalline diamond (UNCD) films that protect the device's silicon microchip from being attacked by saline in the eye. It took another 12 years for Advanced Diamond Technologies, the company he co-founded, to make the equipment to produce UNCD on an economically feasible scale.

The Argus II, approved in Europe in 2011, received FDA approval in 2013. The microchip is outside the eye and connected to the eye with tiny wires covered with polymers. Future refinements will lead to the Argus II becoming completely wireless by enabling the implantation of the chip inside the eye, resulting in the user receiving images via wireless communication from the camera on glasses.

"I have written 450 to 500 papers — none of those papers mean as much as talking to a person who tells you, 'Oh I can see this shape, I can see this light,'" said Auciello, who is also the president of the international Materials Research Society. **-LaKisha Ladson**



Dr. Orlando Auciello helped develop a way to protect microchips from saline in the human eye.

\$1 Million Grant to Help Professor Improve Prosthetics for Soldiers

Dr. Walter Voit BS'05 MS'06, assistant professor of materials science and engineering and mechanical engineering, has been awarded \$1 million to create medical devices that will lead to greater control of prosthetics in wounded soldiers.

Voit was one of 25 junior faculty members in the country selected to receive a DARPA Young Faculty Award. The long-term goal of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency program is to develop the next generation of scientists and engineers who will focus their careers and research on Department of Defense and national security issues.

Current prosthetics and other implantable medical devices often fail within a year



Dr. Walter Voit

because tissue separates from the devices. This can cause bleeding and scar tissue, which ultimately can prevent the devices from stimulating the targeted nerve. The devices are also too large to operate with tissues as small as specific nerves.

Voit has created shape memory polymers — materials that can respond to the body's environment and become less rigid when implanted in the body.

These polymers are implanted when they're rigid and then flex toward the stiffness of the tissue. Voit's proposal called for using these polymers in the microfabrication process known as photolithography to create medical devices that will survive implantation in the body for more than one year.

As part of the three-year grant, Voit will receive mentoring and build relationships with industry and Department of Defense contacts to develop his research in the context of DOD needs.

Other applications of the work include treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as tinnitus, epilepsy, stroke and Parkinson's. **-LaKisha Ladson**

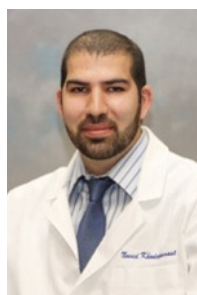
Three Naveen Jindal School of Management professors — **Drs. Valery Polkovnichenko, Kelsey Wei and Feng Zhao** — took home the Best Paper Award from the 2013 Asian Conference of the Financial Management Association International for their research on investor behavior.

Dr. Timothy Bray, faculty member and director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, spoke at **Children's Medical Center** in Dallas about research compiled through the institute for the 2013 report *Beyond ABC: Assessing Children's Health in Dallas County*.

Maria Burbano-Salazar, Benjamin Farnia, Katherine Huston, Michael Lau and Katelyn McWilliams were each awarded \$500 Cyrus D. Cantrell III Academic Travel Grants by the University's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

The Mercury student newspaper won First Place Best of Show for four-year, non-weekly broadsheets at the 2013 Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association National College Media Convention.

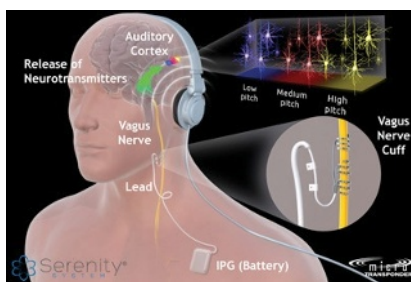
Two Vagus Nerve Stimulation Technologies Explored



Clockwise from above: Dr. Michael Kilgard, Dr. Navid Khodaparast and Dr. Sven Vanneste



Below: An electrode surrounds the left vagus nerve and connects subcutaneously to a pacemaker-like stimulator implanted below the skin in the chest.



School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences researchers are exploring new uses for vagus nerve stimulation in the treatment of conditions such as tinnitus and movement impairment.

Vagus nerve stimulation sends a mild electric pulse through the vagus nerve, which relays information about the state of the body to the brain. The FDA has approved using the technique for treating various illnesses such as depression and epilepsy.

Drs. Sven Vanneste and Michael Kilgard played auditory tones during the nerve stimulation as a method to renormalize the brain and alleviate the symptoms of chronic tinnitus, or constant ringing in the ears. The therapy brought significant improvement to some of the participants in a small clinical trial conducted in Antwerp, Belgium. Their results were published in the journal *Neuromodulation: Technology at the Neural Interface*. Researchers at the University Hospital Antwerp and MicroTransponder Inc. also contributed to the study. A larger study involving four centers recently began in the United States.

Vagus nerve stimulation could also be used to help improve limb function recovery after a stroke. Dr. Navid Khodaparast, a postdoctoral researcher and lead author of the study, reported full recovery of forelimb strength in animals that receive nerve stimulation during rehabilitative training. Kilgard was senior author of the study, which was published online in the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*. Other researchers were Drs. Seth Hay, Robert Rennaker II and Andrew Sloan, graduate student Daniel Hulsey, and undergraduate students Andi Ruiz and Maritza Pantoja. **-Ben Porter**

Study Shows Terrorism Decreases Foreign Direct Investment

Developing nations hit by acts of terrorism are left economically vulnerable as potential investors seek safer locations, according to a report co-authored by Dr. Todd Sandler, the Vibhooti Shukla Professor of Economics and Political Economy.

In "Foreign Direct Investment,

Aid and Terrorism," Sandler wrote that these attacks can cost hundreds of millions of dollars in lost foreign investment.

The report was published



Dr. Todd Sandler

in both the online and print version of the *Oxford Economic Papers*.

"Foreign direct investment for developing countries is their engine of growth," said Sandler, who is also the director of the Center for Global Collective Action. "Basically, it's how they get savings to invest. If it is jeopardized, it's bad news for their economy."

Findings for the report came from a study of 78 developing countries from 1984 to 2008. Researchers concluded that terrorist attacks increase the cost of doing business by raising political instability, destroying infrastructure and putting workers at risk. **-Brittany Hoover**

First-Generation Immigrants Commit Fewer Crimes

The perception that immigrants are linked to crime in the United States is not supported by data, according to Dr. Alex Piquero, Ashbel Smith Professor of Criminology and co-author of a study that appeared in the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

First-generation immigrants, or individuals born outside the U.S., are less likely to commit serious crimes and less likely to be chronic offenders, according to the research results.

The study used a large sample of high-risk, adjudicated youth, ages 14 to 17, which contained first- and second-generation immigrants.



Dr. Alex Piquero

which is similar to their counterparts in the overall American population. **-Brittany Hoover**

The researchers found no evidence that first-generation immigrants were characterized by high-rate, persistent offending styles. But the results also showed that involvement in crime increased with successive generations, as second-generation immigrants offended at a higher rate,

ARTS AND CULTURE

ATEC Alumni Put Animation Skills to Work on Feature Film *Free Birds*

The 2013 feature film *Free Birds* is a digital showcase for the finely detailed work of local animators, including 15 UT Dallas alumni who contributed to the project.

"It's a big deal," said Eric Farrar about the film's national theater release. As an assistant professor of 3-D computer animation, Farrar taught some of the alumni. "We're really excited. Our graduates are able to work on a Hollywood-level film without having to move out West."

Sing Khamnouane BA'05, MFA'08; Kenneth Kanipe BA'09; Nicholas Shirsty BA'10, MFA'13; and Edward Whetstone BA'11 graduated from the Arts and Technology (ATEC) program and now work at Reel FX Creative Studios, a visual effects company in Dallas that animated the film.

"We're responsible more or less for putting together the final image that ends up on screen," said Whetstone, a lighting and compositing artist.

The film centers on two turkey buddies, Reggie (voiced by Owen Wilson) and Jake (Woody Harrelson), who travel back in time with feisty fellow turkey Jenny (Amy Poehler) to the first Thanksgiving in an attempt to take turkey off the holiday menu.

Farrar said that while it may sound simple, animating a full-length feature is incredibly time-intensive and highly technical.

Animation work is broken down into specialized phases, Farrar said. First, working from 2-D drawings, modelers, like Khamnouane, build 3-D static wireframe models on the computer.

Then rigging artists, like Kanipe, take the models and create joints, bones and control handles, which allow the models "to move in an intuitive way," Farrar said.

Next, character animators take the rig "and put it through its paces and really bring the character to life," Farrar said.

Lighting and compositing artists, like Shirsty and Whetstone, then add nuance to each scene. "We place digital lights on a digital set in a similar way in which a cinematographer would with real lights on a real set," Whetstone said.

The next step is rendering, where the computer interprets the settings and the colors the lighter has set up, as well as the textures and colors painted on the 3-D models of the characters and environments.

It can take several hours per frame to render a single character, and shots might have hundreds of characters. *Free Birds*, which was filmed in 24 frames per second and stereoscopic 3-D, required 48 different images for each second of footage on the screen — 24 for the right eye and 24 for the left.

The last step of the process is called compositing, where the artist compiles an image from multiple layers — including the reflections and shadows — to create the final version for the film. During this phase, color correction and final tweaks are done, Whetstone said. **-Robin Russell**



Eric Farrar



WHOOSH!

Dr. Harold Clarke, an Ashbel Smith Professor, is part of a research team conducting a study, "Public Opinion and the Syrian Crisis in Three Democracies," through a \$320,000 award from the United Kingdom's **Economic and Social Research Council**.

The **Communities Foundation of Texas** awarded a \$250,000 grant for SMART (Strategic Memory Advanced Reasoning Training), a **Center for BrainHealth** project, which will be offered to students, teachers, leaders and parents at Thomas A. Edison Middle Learning Center in West Dallas.

Drs. Matthew J. Brown, Nicholas Gans and **Magdalena Grohman** will direct a study of ethical decision-making among student engineering research teams. The research project is supported by a \$300,000 grant from the **National Science Foundation** to the Center for Values in Medicine, Science and Technology.

Dr. Janet Johnson, assistant professor in the Emerging Media and Communication program, was selected to live-tweet from the White House during the 2014 State of the Union address in January.

New Professors Expand Possibilities for Collaboration in Arts and Technology

Two new professors with backgrounds that span disciplines and technologies are leading classes in the Arts and Technology (ATEC) program.

Dr. Paul Fishwick, who holds dual appointments as the Distinguished Endowed Chair of Arts and Technology and as a professor of computer science, leads the Creative Automata Lab that is aimed at bringing human elements to the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).



Dr. Paul Fishwick

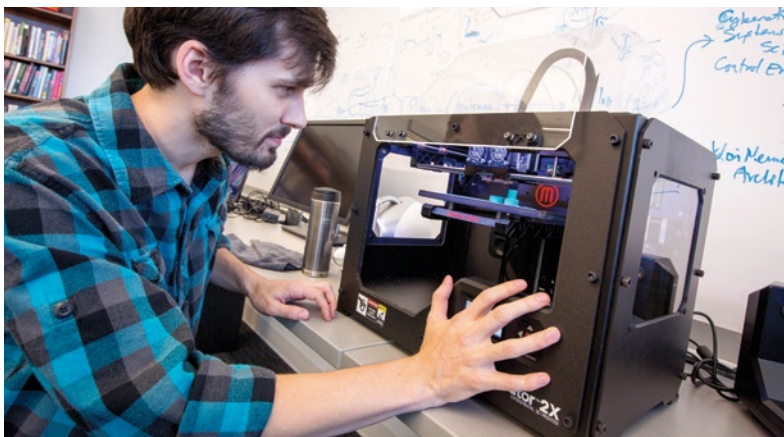
In ATEC's cultural science lab, multidisciplinary researcher Dr. Maximilian Schich converges art history, information visualization, computer science and physics to understand cultural history as a complex system.

Fishwick, who earned a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania and is a Fellow of the Society for Computer Simulation International, has six years of industry experience as a programmer analyst working at Newport News Shipbuilding, the sole designer, builder and refueler of U.S. Navy aircraft carriers, and as a systems analyst at the NASA Langley Research Center. He served on the faculty at the University of Florida beginning in 1986 and was director of the digital arts and sciences programs there.



Dr. Maximilian Schich

Schich obtained his PhD in art history from Humboldt University of Berlin and his master's in art history, classical archaeology and psychology from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. He also has more than a decade of consulting experience, working with graph data in libraries, museums and large research projects. He is the organizing chair of the NetSci symposia series on arts, humanities and complex networks. **-Chaz Lilly**



The Creative Automata Lab is equipped with wide-ranging technology, including the 3-D printer shown here.



Jimmy, trained by Dr. Adrienne L. McLean, is a top-ranked mixed-breed agility dog.

Prof Takes Pup to Westminster

From rescue shelter to the Big Apple, Jimmy, a dog without impressive pedigree, was a contender in February at the nation's most exclusive dog competition — the Westminster Dog Show.

Dr. Adrienne L. McLean, who teaches film studies in the School of Arts and Humanities, found Jimmy as a puppy eight years ago at the Richardson Humane Society.



Dr. Adrienne L. McLean

Jimmy, who has racked up more than 100 agility titles, was ranked in 2012 as the No. 3 mixed-breed agility dog in the AKC.

The Westminster Dog Show, famed for its pampered purebred competitors, allowed mixed breeds to enter its first-ever agility trial this year.

Jimmy received one qualifying score after a penalty, and the mixed-breed "Best-in-Show" went instead to a husky mix named Roo. **-Chaz Lilly**

MARCH MADNESS CAPS



WINNING SEASON

by Robin Russell and Parth Sampat

IT WAS A SWEET RIDE, WHILE IT LASTED.

The UT Dallas men's basketball team completed its winningest season in the program's history, making it all the way to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Division III Tournament before losing to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 81-63, on March 14.

Despite the outcome in Wisconsin, the Comets' season was a success. They won 27 games, claimed the American Southwest Conference title and generated lots of buzz at UT Dallas, a campus better known for its world-class chess team.

During a dramatic second-round tournament game on their home court March 8, more than 1,300 fans witnessed a rousing finish that catapulted the Comets to the Sweet 16.

Junior guard Nolan Harvey's three-point swisher at the buzzer propelled the team past Whitworth University, 78-77, in overtime.

Harvey's game-winner came after the Comets trailed Whitworth 77-72 with 27 seconds left to play. His shot prompted an exuberant response from a packed house. Fans wearing orange and green screamed and poured onto the court, lifting him onto their shoulders.

"I let it go and it felt really good. But I was already falling down so I didn't see it go in. When I heard the crowd yelling, I couldn't believe what just happened," said Harvey, a geophysics major.

"Seeing how happy the crowd was made me feel good. They piled on top of me. At one point, though, there were five or six



The Comets huddled in a timeout during their Sweet 16 matchup with University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

people on me, and I thought I was going to die. I couldn't breathe. Then I thought, 'Well, it was a good way to go out,'" Harvey said.

UT Dallas Police Chief Larry Zacharias, who is a regular fixture in the stands, described the crowd as the largest turnout for a sporting event in Comet history.

"The atmosphere was electric," Zacharias said. "It was great to see them chip away at Whitworth's lead. They never gave up. And nothing was better than Nolan Harvey's buzzer-beater for the win in overtime. It was the best game I've ever been to, and I couldn't be more proud of the guys."

The players' accomplishments are all the more amazing because they do not receive athletic scholarships to play. They also carry an average GPA of 3.14 on a campus where the average SAT score for entering freshmen is typically among the highest of any Texas public university.

That means the Comets play for the love of the game, carving out time for practice from their rigorous academic programs. All played high school basketball and wanted to continue playing in college.

Team members practice two hours a day, six days a week, from November through March, and then play two or three games a week. They take just seven days off during winter break before they're back on the court.



Players and fans celebrated at midcourt after Nolan Harvey made the winning basket that sent the Comets to the Sweet 16.

Photography by Yang Xi

"We have a lot of smart kids on our team. They know how to prioritize," said senior forward Kyle Schleigh, an accounting major who averaged 24.5 points and 6.5 assists per game. "We play just for the love of the game, and we really bond as a team and make lifelong friends."

As the buzzer sounded, fans posted video clips of the winning shot and took to Twitter to share the videos with local sports media and ESPN. The Athletic Department's YouTube video received more than 7,000 views and has appeared on local television broadcasts, including NBCDFW.

"That was the craziest game I've ever been involved in — hands down," Schleigh said.

ROAD TRIP TO WISCONSIN

Comet fans, players' families and the UT Dallas Cheerleaders and Power Dancers followed the team to Wisconsin, where the Comets played at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Quandt Fieldhouse.

The delegation from UT Dallas included President David E. Daniel, Dr. Calvin Jamison, vice president for administration, NCAA faculty representative Dr. Kurt Beron and interim Athletic Director Bill Pettit.

The larger-than-life signs of the players' heads that had captured the crowds' delight at home games were brought along to cheer on the team.

"I'm very excited [for the team]," said Bill Nash, father of senior forward Carter Nash, a finance student. "They worked very hard this year and I'm glad they made it."

The game was a tough one for the Comets, particularly for the seniors. The team got off to a good start, but was unsuccessful in getting the win. The Comets trailed Whitewater by 14 points at halftime.

The Comets reduced the WarHawks' lead to only five points in the second half, but Whitewater pulled away from UT Dallas.

"We are obviously disappointed," head coach Terry Butterfield said. "At the end of the night, [Whitewater] was the better team tonight, and my hat's off to them, and I wish that our quality of our play was a little better."

Schleigh, UT Dallas' recordholder for most career points, was disappointed with the loss.

"We knew they were a strong team coming in to (the game)," Schleigh said. "We had a good plan. ... For me personally, I couldn't find the rhythm and get it to go."

The game was streamed live to fans back home. It was UT Dallas' third trip to the Sweet 16 in six seasons. [UTD](#)

The Ice Storm That Almost Stole Graduation



UT Dallas
★★★★★

✓ Liked ✓ Following Message ⚙️

Public School • College & University

An innovative University with multidisciplinary research taught by internationally renowned faculty. More than 135 degree programs to meet your interests.

About



Photography by Oliver Baker

👍 23,241

Likes

It happened in August 2010, when the power went out during the heat of summer. And in February 2011, when both the Super Bowl and a snowstorm came to town.

In early December, the icing of North Texas once again closed UT Dallas and posed a new predicament — 2,200 graduates and their families had planned to attend graduation ceremonies.

More than ever before, the University is communicating with its community on social media during times of emergency, as well as through more traditional methods of communication, such as email, the University's website, and local media.

Through social media, the University can provide updates quickly and open a two-way communication link to students, parents and others.

The following posts are a sample of the hundreds of messages sent back and forth during the December ice storm as the University contended with weather decisions, alternative graduation plans and the needs of hundreds of students without power.

Find the UT Dallas Facebook page at facebook.com/utdallas and join the more than 23,000 people who have "liked" it. The page can be seen by anyone, including those without Facebook accounts. And @UT_Dallas can be found on Twitter at twitter.com/UT_Dallas.



Letter from President,
 posted on website, social media
 Dec. 5, 9 a.m.

Severe weather conditions have forced the University to close today and tomorrow, the same days Fall Commencement had been scheduled. I delayed the decision to cancel commencement ceremonies until we could wait no longer, hoping that weather might not be as bad as predictions suggested. In fact, the worst-case scenario has developed. ... We are offering our graduates the opportunity to celebrate by walking the stage at our Spring 2014 commencement ceremonies. ... And we are considering a January ceremony, but need some time to plan.



DI WU
 via mobile
 Dec. 6, 7:22 a.m. 👍 7

I'm now heading to the airport to pick up my parents. Hi, mom and dad, let me tell you a joke.



Grounds crew workers Pedro Gomez, Jesus Lopez and Jose Figueroa break up ice on the sidewalk outside the UT Dallas McDermott Library.

Photography by Yang Xi



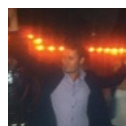
Letter from President,
 posted on website, social media
 Dec. 6, 11 a.m.

I reiterate how disappointed I am that severe weather necessitated canceling the scheduled commencement ceremonies. I do hope that every graduate and as many family members as possible will be able to participate in at least one of the alternatives that we will be providing.



On the day that commencement was canceled, a lone graduate donned cap and gown (complete with earmuffs and gloves) for a symbolic walk on the icy campus.

Photography by Yang Xi; photo courtesy of *The Mercury*



Pedro Garcia
 via mobile
 Dec. 6, 9:11 a.m. 👍 5

Walking next May is not an option for me and for the people waiting to graduate in December. We are not asking for much, but to be able to celebrate the hard work and time put into this with our loved ones. I really feel for the people who have had family fly from overseas. Make this right, UTD. We deserve our ceremony in December, not May! This is why we pay our tuition. I love this school. Do not disappoint us.



Kristy Campbell
 via mobile
 Dec. 6, 1:32 p.m. 👍 7

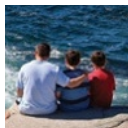
Additionally, it should be noted that there are three apartment phases now without power and the Activity Center will be used to keep those students warm. Hopefully people will now realize that keeping people warm during these frigid temps is more important than a ceremony that can be rescheduled at a later time.

Highlights ▾



UT Dallas
Dec. 7, 11:51 a.m.

The power outage is affecting not only our campus but also the City of Richardson and other areas adjacent to campus. Oncor, the power provider, is working to restore power as quickly as possible, but many parts of the system were overloaded by the weather. Please leave faucets dripping in your apartment and move to the Union with supplies to spend the night. Keep warm!



Charles Gillis
Dec. 7, 1:37 p.m. 5

I live next door to UTD and have already helped people stranded on the roads here. Cancellation was the right decision. The response above is excellent. Thank you, Dr. Daniel.



Xin Ren
Dec. 7, 2:05 p.m.

Hi, I currently live on campus and there is no electricity. What can we do with our pets? I have a cat in the apartment and she is so cold. I can't drive to send her out. Is there any place for our pets :(



UT Dallas
Dec. 7, 3:43 p.m.

Please keep your pets indoors, and provide a blanket or other warm nesting material for them. You need to go to the Union or the residence hall lobbies. Your cat is probably uncomfortable, but she should survive if you leave her with food and water, and warm bedding to curl into. This outage should be over soon.



Diana Kirov
Dec. 7, 3:57 p.m. 23

Oh my god. That is so sad! I live in phase 7 and have power/heat. If you can bring cat food/litter box I can take your cat in for a few days.



Xin Ren
Dec. 8, 1:26 p.m.

Hi, Diana, ... the power came on. Anyway, thanks so much! :)



Diana Kirov
Dec. 8, 3:52 p.m.

No problem. UTD students have to stick together and help each other through this difficult time. Whoosh!



Jeaneth Abigayil Lopez
via mobile
Dec. 7, 11:55 a.m. 7

Thank you! I know we were all upset yesterday about the cancellation, but after my friend passed by and saw the condition campus was in we calmed down a bit. We know it was completely out of your hands and now are grateful for the alternatives you are giving us!



UT Dallas
Dec. 18



Photography by Kevin Yang

Fall Commencement 12.15.13

One week after an ice storm shut down North Texas and the University, five rescheduled graduation ceremonies gave nearly 1,000 students the chance to celebrate with their families under sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s.



Jeffrey Craig Germaneri
via mobile
Dec. 18, 10:56 a.m. 96

Graduation was great! I loved the shortened format. Whoosh! Alum 2013



Mark Turcotte
Dec. 18, 11:53 a.m. 1

Way to go UTD!



Virginia Holt
via mobile
Dec. 18, 3:52 p.m. 1

You have to expect the unexpected here in Texas.



Barrett DeCutler
via mobile
Dec. 18, 10:50 p.m. 1

So proud of the newest additions to our alumni family. Thank you UTD for making this happen!



ABOUT THE STORM

A storm on Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, dropped anywhere from one to four inches of freezing rain, sleet and some snow across the Dallas-Fort Worth area. School districts and offices closed and almost 1,000 flights were canceled at DFW International Airport and Love Field. In some cases, motorists were stranded for hours on slick interstate highways, with hundreds of vehicles abandoned. Oncor reported more than 800,000 customers in North Texas lost power at some point. The icy conditions hampered normal activities until Tuesday, Dec. 10.



BEHIND THE SCENES



Dining Services Meets Extra Demand

- 6,486 meals served to students on meal plans
- 1,828 complimentary meals served to students not on meal plans
- 54 complimentary meals served to facilities management staff and UT Dallas police
- 521 meals purchased by staff and others
- 240 gallons of hot cider
- 240 gallons of hot chocolate
- 400 pounds of grilled chicken breast
- 400 pounds of hamburger patties
- 800 hot dogs
- 120 pounds chopped beef brisket (768 portions)



Photography by Yang Xi



Photography by Molly Coleman



Facilities Responds to Storm Conditions

- 10-plus yards of sand, spread by sanding truck and by hand
- 3 tons of gravel mix, spread by sanding truck and by hand
- 2 tons of Granular Ice Melt, spread by hand
- 12 trailer loads of limbs and branches taken to compost facility
- 14 barricades moved to areas of falling ice
- 800-plus feet of "caution" tape to redirect pedestrians
- Backhoe and skid steer used to clear roadways of ice and slush
- 93 staff shifts (from 6 to 26 staff on any given day), or 744 hours
- \$15,000 to \$20,000 in estimated damage to 46 trees from ice accumulation
- Concrete/asphalt damage yet to be determined



Communications Goes 24/7 Online

- 76 institutional posts on Facebook
- 82 tweets
- 1,200 new followers join UT Dallas Facebook
- 478 new Twitter followers



Police

- \$1,421 for hotel rooms to house police near campus
- 684 overtime hours





Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building *Transforms Campus*

In the center of campus stands the newest piece in the University's ongoing transformation — the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building, a four-story, light-filled architectural symbol of collaboration among arts, engineering and computing disciplines. The O'Donnell building, which opened in the fall, is both a showcase for the visual arts and a highly adaptable technology hub for the Arts and Technology (ATEC) program.

The completion of the 155,000-square-foot facility provides teaching and study environments, along with a 1,200-seat lecture hall. Designed by STUDIOS Architecture — the same firm that designed Google's headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. — the O'Donnell building features a motion capture lab, soundproof chambers, 3-D fabrication labs, and classrooms for game design, sound design and visual arts.

The \$60 million structure bears the name of one of Texas' most generous philanthropists, Edith O'Donnell, in honor of her long-standing dedication to higher education, scientific research and the arts.

Edith O'Donnell and her husband, Peter, were celebrated for their generosity and leadership during the November dedication of the building. Students, faculty, staff and a host of dignitaries — including UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa, President David E. Daniel and Arts and Humanities Dean Dennis Kratz—filled the lecture hall for the event.

Peter O'Donnell praised the building as "breathtaking" during his remarks at the dedication. "We've been in a lot of art buildings all over the world. But this one is exceptional. We felt the energy and excitement of the students and faculty. Edith observed that the building inspires creativity. And Edith knows creativity. ATEC is well-positioned to solve new problems in a whole new way," he said.

Since January, the O'Donnell building's doors have opened to the community for the new ATEC Distinguished Lecture Series. The series, presented by *The Dallas Morning News*, kicked off with a sold-out presentation by *Monuments Men* author Robert Edsel. Other speakers included Microsoft executive Christian Belady MS'90, Google executive Vinton G. Cerf and former NASA astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison.

Dr. Daniel said the goal of the series was to "be a creative spark that ignites the North Texas region to even greater accomplishments." The same could be said for the building that is transforming the University. **UTD**

Take a floor-by-floor virtual tour at utdallas.edu/odonnell-atec of the new Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building to see some of its key features.

Top left: The O'Donnell building's innovative design is the work of STUDIOS Architecture, the same firm that designed Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif.

Top right: The 1,200-seat lecture hall meets the University's need for a space to convene large meetings for instruction and to promote outreach between the campus and the North Texas community.

Bottom left: Edith O'Donnell and her husband, Peter, through the O'Donnell Foundation, have given exceptionally generous support to UT Dallas since 1984.

Bottom middle: Collaboration and study take place throughout the building's open spaces, which provide ample seating and plug-ins for laptops and phones.

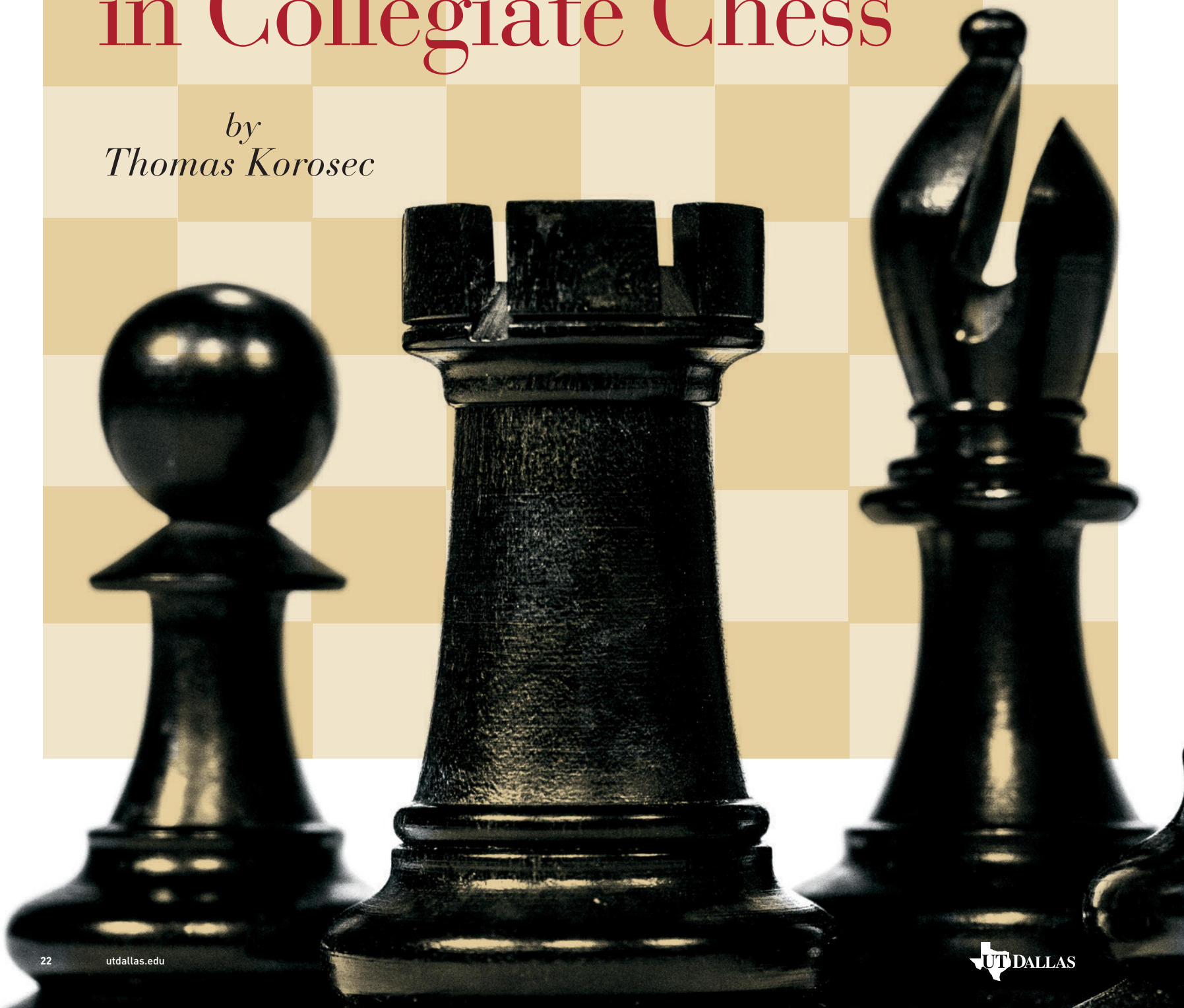
Bottom right: Students in the natural light-filled visual arts painting studio practice techniques and expand their own stylistic methods of expression. **UTD**





The Politely Ruthless Race for the Top in Collegiate Chess

*by
Thomas Korosec*



ON THE WEEKEND AFTER CHRISTMAS, desk clerks and restaurant staffers are apologizing for the stark silence greeting visitors to Lubbock's Overton Hotel & Conference Center. In the lobby stands a cardboard cutout of a Texas Tech cheerleader holding a sign reading, "Check'em Tech!" It should read, "Shhh."

"Sorry it's so quiet," one waitress explains. "We turned off the music because there's a chess tournament going on upstairs."

In a second-floor conference room, 176 players are found leaning over knights, pawns, rooks and chessboards in the biggest collegiate tournament of the year, the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. Many of the contestants are frozen above their games with the same intent pose: eyes down, elbows on the table, fingers pressed to temples, as if summoning an extra measure of concentration. A whisper here is much too loud.

"You're looking maybe 10 moves ahead and battling to win," Julio Sadorra BS'13, a member of The University of Texas at Dallas team, said later. "You can feel the pressure grow, especially if it's a big game for the team."

Arrayed at one end of the room are the top-ranked teams in the nation, among them UT Dallas, the tournament's defending champion. These are the powerhouses that offer full chess scholarships and attract grandmasters and international masters from around the world. The four-member squads sport matching team-colored shirts or hoodies and travel with coaches, many of whom are chess champions themselves.

The handful of American universities that have built powerful chess teams are in an arms race to recruit ever-more-highly-rated players and win the marquee events. UT Dallas has been game to compete, and among the dominant teams for the last 15 years, but it has defined its own standards. Stressing academics over chess obsession, the University celebrates players who go on to become computer scientists, financial strategists, lawyers, investment bankers and technologists.

For Sadorra, who graduated in the fall

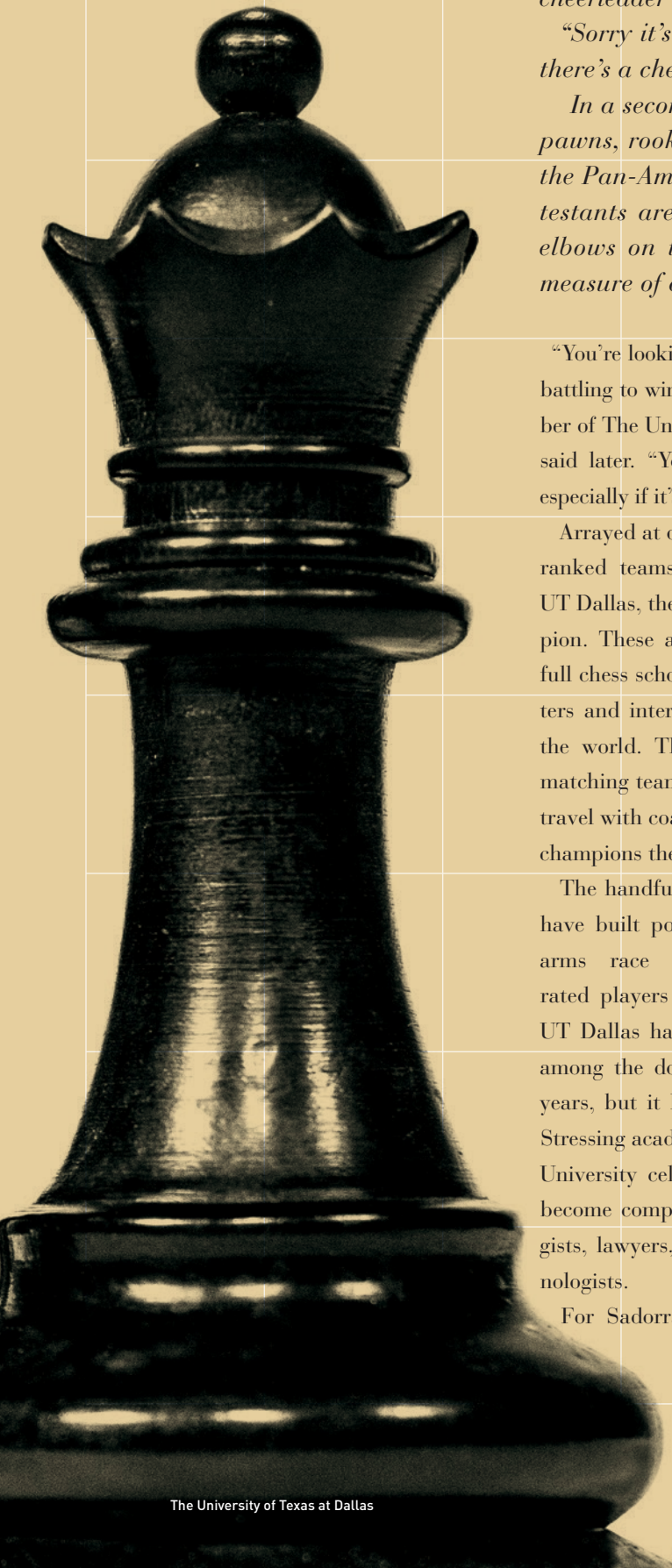


GRANDMASTER JULIO SADORRA BS'13

with a degree in business administration, his college chess career would end in Lubbock—and on his last outing, he knows the difference between a win or a loss can be the thinnest of margins.

On the last day of the tournament, the pairings for the sixth and final round follow the tournament's "winners-play-winners" structure and the top teams face off.

"I call this clash of the titans," says Jim Stallings, director of the UT Dallas chess program. His reference is to the first five seeds, which are, in order: Webster University, Texas Tech University, UT Dallas, the University of Texas at Brownsville and the University of



Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

The top four finishers will be invited to play for the President's Cup, which has been dubbed the "Final Four" of collegiate chess. In the 13 years that the Final Four has been held, UT Dallas has qualified for the tournament every time and won four times.

Two hours into the final round, Stallings looks at his players' boards and declares himself concerned. One game has already been conceded and the other three could go either way. "I'm worried, but I've been worried before," he says, talking outside the tournament room. "You can look like you're losing three-to-one in the middle of it and you end up winning. ... It's the fog of war."



At the Pan-Am, it's difficult to miss UT Dallas and its nearest rivals making easy work of their matches against Columbia, Harvard, Princeton and other universities considered the pinnacles of American higher education. The Ivy League schools, the University of Chicago and some major state universities enroll a number of exceptional chess players without the lure of chess scholarships. But they don't often beat teams of players with chess titles, which are awarded by the World Chess Federation to the game's most accomplished practitioners.

The leading academic universities, which dominated the Pan-Am until the 1990s, have their hands full playing "B" teams



(left to right, right side of table) UTD Grandmasters Julio Sadorra, Valentin Yotov, Conrad Holt and Cristian Chirila defeated Harvard players Jake Miller (not pictured), (left to right, left side of table) Aaron Landesman, Vincent Nguyen and Indira Puri, 1-0, in the first round of the 2013 Pan-Am tournament.

from the top chess programs.

Alan Sherman, a professor and cryptology expert at UMBC, was a pioneer of the idea that an elite chess team could serve as a source of pride, prestige and publicity for a university aspiring to keep company with the best. Starting in the early 1990s, he built a chess dynasty at the mid-sized research university by institutionalizing the awarding of chess scholarships.

Sherman recruited grandmasters from Russia, Germany and other chess bastions and they gave UMBC its first win at the Pan-Am in 1996. "It's been enormously

helpful in gaining national and international recognition and being emblematic for a university that values activities of the mind," Sherman said.

In the mid-1990s, UT Dallas was similarly looking for ways to raise its profile and attract top students and faculty. Dr. Tim Redman, a literary studies professor who played as a member of the 1974 and 1975 U.S. championship chess teams at the University of Chicago, and Dennis Kratz, former undergraduate dean and now dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, approached Executive Vice

BOLD MOVES

MAJOR MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF COLLEGIATE CHESS



1850

First college chess club formed at Yale University.

1946

First Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship held.

1960-1990

Championships most often claimed by Ivy League and major research universities such as MIT, Yale and Harvard.

President and Provost Dr. Hobson Wildenthal about making chess a significant activity at the University.

“I thought that meant putting chess boards around the campus and encouraging people to play. We’d look intellectual, like Washington Square,” Wildenthal recalled, referring to the park near New York University that is often filled with people playing chess. When Redman explained they had more in mind — recruiting chess masters and fashioning a team, Wildenthal remembered, “I never told them, ‘No,’ and they started building a program.”

In 1996, the first year scholarships were offered, UT Dallas finished ninth at the Pan-Am. The team dominated the tournament between 2000 and 2012, winning or tying for first place 10 times. In the spring of 2001, UT Dallas hosted an invitational tournament that morphed into the present-day Final Four.

The program has given UT Dallas a name around the world and infused the school’s identity. The team is embraced as a symbol of intellectual rigor and achieve-

ment. It’s rooted for at pep rallies, complete with cheerleaders, pep band and campus mascot Temoc.

When the \$30 million first phase of an ongoing campus enhancement project was completed in 2010, at its center was the majestic Chess Plaza, where a life-size chess board is set in cement. There, during the annual ChessFest, grandmasters don blindfolds and play regular students. Computer engineering students have developed robotic chess pieces sized to fit the plaza board.

During the early years of UT Dallas’ program, a duopoly ruled the top spot in collegiate chess, with UT Dallas and UMBC trading Pan-Am wins and President’s Cups. But Texas Tech and UT Brownsville saw what championship-level chess was doing in Dallas and they, too, built teams using generous chess scholarships.

“It’s like democracy. Once you see it, everybody wants it,” kidded team coach Rade Milovanovic, who grew up in Bosnia, earned a law degree in Serbia and has been coaching at UT Dallas since 1999.

The Brownsville effort is perhaps unique in that it grew out of a widely popular chess program in the Rio Grande Valley’s public schools. “In Brownsville, chess in the schools is a phenomenon. When we have a scholastic tournament, it’s not unusual to have 5,000 kids,” said Douglas Stoves, UT Brownsville’s dean of students. “So our program at the university level becomes an aspirational model. For a lot of these students, who come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, there are a lot of good effects beyond the flash of the chess. When we have events, they want to meet the grandmasters and have their programs autographed, like they’re seeing [Dallas Cowboys quarterback] Tony Romo.”

The chief building blocks for constructing a team are scholarships, worldwide recruiting by an aggressive program director, and a coach with major chess credentials. Texas Tech chess coach Alexander Onischuk, winner of the U.S. Chess Championship in 2006, is currently rated third among all U.S. players. UT Brownsville’s Bartek Macieja is a former European champion and two-time



ALAN SHERMAN



JIM STALLINGS



TIM REDMAN



SUSAN POLGAR

1996-2011

A duopoly rules collegiate chess. UTD and UMBC dominate the Pan-Am, as each wins or ties for first nine times.

1996

UT Dallas creates chess scholarships.

Spring 2001

UTD chess director Tim Redman founds President’s Cup, inviting top four teams from Pan-Am for college chess “Final Four.” UT Dallas takes first title.

Dec. 2006

UTD fields two teams that tie for first place at Pan-Am.

Spring 2011

Texas Tech emerges as a new contender, and under the direction of Susan Polgar wins President’s Cup for the first time. UTD is second.

Dec. 2011

UTD wins the Pan-Am.

Spring 2012

After Tech wins President’s Cup second consecutive year, Polgar leaves Lubbock for Webster University in St. Louis. The Tech team moves with her.

Dec. 2012

UTD wins Pan-Am in tiebreaker over UMBC, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and two teams from Webster.

Spring 2013

Webster wins President’s Cup, with UTD taking second place and UMBC in third.

Dec. 2013

Webster wins Pan-Am, takes two teams to President’s Cup. UMBC and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign also advance.

Chess Brings Mind, Body, Soul of Campus into the Game

By Chaz Lilly

An original intention of creating a world-class chess team at UT Dallas was to bring national attention to a lesser-known campus. Fifteen years later, the team has not only helped put the University on the international stage, but also created an undercurrent of pride among its academically focused student body.

That's exactly what Dr. Tim Redman, who founded the chess program in 2001, had hoped for.

Here, chess is not just considered a nerdy endeavor, but evidence of intellectual prowess, hard work and superior strategy—all considered virtues by students in the University's largest programs, such as management, computer science and engineering.

Chess permeates life at UT Dallas, so much so that it has been built into academic programs and into the campus architecture itself—Chess Plaza on the south end of the mall features four human-scale outdoor chessboards. In the main dining hall, it's not unusual to see students with chess pieces set up on the chessboard-printed tabletops.

Redman recalled Provost Hobson Wildenthal's early guidance that the University should not only create a team but also build related educational opportunities and conferences for students and the public.

Redman took the provost's words to heart and has organized two conferences on chess and education. The first George Koltanowski Memorial Conference on Chess and Education, held in 2001, led to the publication of the book, *Chess and Education: Selected Essays from the Koltanowski Conference*.

Ten years later, chess players, scholars and researchers from across the globe came to Dallas again for a second meeting. The 2011 conference covered topics like "chess and character" and "chess and self-esteem." There was a session on the connections between

chess and neuroscience.

Since the chess program began at UT Dallas, "chess in the classroom" courses have been taught by the 1989 U.S. Women's Chess Champion Dr. Alexey Root to show K-12 educators how chess can improve student performance.

Chess is also the subject of research at UT Dallas, where cognitive neuroscientists have conducted several studies on how players process visual information. Engineering students have gotten into the game, creating robotic 3- to 4-foot chess pieces.

Beyond the rigors of the classroom and laboratories, the chess program also provides social outlets. The Student Chess Society invites players of all levels to play at its weekly gatherings. The Student Chess Society also hosts several events during the annual ChessFest, a week of chess-related events and activities, including members of the chess team playing blindfolded against any willing challengers.

ChessFest, which was organized by the Eugene McDermott Library in 2001 to honor the University's chess team and program, includes the announcement of the Chess Educator of the Year. Elizabeth Tejada, commissioner of the Florida Scholastic Chess League, chess coordinator of Title I, and International chess coordinator for FIDE (World Chess Federation), received the 2014 award.

Summertime brings area grade-schoolers to campus for chess camps. Taught by members of the chess team and the chess team's coach, Rade Milovanovic, campers play matches on Chess Plaza with a giant-sized teakwood chess set. With a king that stands nearly four feet tall, the game is aptly called "Chess Grande."

So while the outside world is most aware of the championships and tournament victories, perhaps the greater shift for campus was the change within.



Chess Plaza, on the south end of the mall between the Student Services Building and the Naveen Jindal School of Management, features four human-scale chessboards each measuring 256 square feet.





(top) A highlight of summer chess camp sessions is applying what has been learned in a game of "Chess Grande." Children ages 7 through 13 are instructed by members of the chess team, the chess team coach and professional educators.

(center) Outreach projects to local schools and the community include demonstrations by the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science Robot Chess Team. The robots were a project designed by UTDesign students in partnership with Rockwell Collins.

(bottom) It's not unusual to find students engaged in a friendly game on the chessboard-printed tabletops in the main dining hall.

champion of Poland. UT Dallas' Milovanovic was co-champion of the 2008 U.S. Open.

Redman, who directed the UT Dallas program until Stallings took over in 2006, said college chess will have arrived when there are at least a dozen teams capable of winning top honors in any given year. There are more than half that number today, but still, the collegiate game has seen its share of bareknuckle competition. For all of its outward politesse, this is a game that draws fervid competitors and some intense personalities. At times it can be a fissionable mix.



In college chess over the past 20 years, whichever team has been ascendant has been at a disadvantage because, in the words of UMBC's Sherman, "It becomes the target."

Sherman's Maryland program adopted the idea of recruiting grandmasters from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, a two-year school that won the Pan-Am three times in the mid-1990s, he said. UT Dallas, in turn, one-upped Sherman's squad with more scholarship players.

Now, the school to beat is Webster University, a regional institution in St. Louis with about 3,000 undergraduates. The head of its program, Susan Polgar, made news well beyond the chess world when she announced in April 2012 that she was leaving Texas Tech for Webster and taking her team — eight grandmasters and two international masters — with her.

Polgar, a chess prodigy from Hungary who became the top-ranked woman in the world at age 15, told reporters when she left Texas Tech that chess was not getting enough funding there. Her announcement just as Tech was capturing its second Final Four crown led some to speculate there was more to the parting of ways than a lack of university support for the team.



International Master Rade Milovanovic, co-champion of the 2008 U.S. Open, joined the UT Dallas Chess Program as its coach in 1999.

While at Tech, Polgar and her husband, chess coach Paul Truong, engaged in a well-publicized feud with other board members of the United States Chess Federation (USCF) that spilled into several civil lawsuits and even a criminal case. Among the lawsuits filed and later settled was one that accused Polgar and the manager of her chess discussion website of intercepting email messages between the federation and one of its lawyers. The webmaster, who was indicted on a host of federal charges related to the intercepted email, pleaded guilty in December 2011 to unlawful access to stored communications and received a sentence of probation. Polgar and Truong have denied any wrongdoing and nothing more has come of the matter.

When Polgar returned to Lubbock for the Pan-Am in December, she brought a team with chess fighting strength previously unknown in collegiate ranks.

Only the Russian Federation and the Ukraine, fielding national teams of professional players, could put together stronger teams than Polgar

continued on page 42

Providing a gender based violence prevention training in the Yida refugee camp.



Children in the refugee camp.

Dispatch from Yida Camp, South Sudan

2:30 p.m., November 10, 2011

Story and Photos
by Tiffany Ornelas de Tool BA'o6, MPA'o8

Editor's Note: This is an eyewitness account by Tiffany Ornelas de Tool BA'o6, MPA'o8 of the November 2011 bombing of the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan, 10 miles south of the border with Sudan. The attack was widely reported by international and American news organizations. Initial reports from South Sudanese officials claimed 12 people had been killed and 20 wounded. Aid workers later interviewed in the camp confirmed that four bombs had been dropped but that there were no casualties.

The dry season is in full effect in the newly established Republic of South Sudan. Everything in sight is brown, either from the dusty earth or from the smoldering sun.

I have been in the Yida refugee camp as the team leader for the international nongovernmental organization Nonviolent Peaceforce for a month now. Thousands of Sudanese have fled from the fighting to the north (South Sudan gained independence in July under a peace deal that followed decades of north-south conflict) and I now live in the camp situated in Unity State, bordering Sudan.

Our team is focused on providing emergency civilian protection; in other words, attempting to prevent violence within the camp. I spent the previous eight months working to resolve tribal conflict in the state of Western Equatoria in South Sudan.

A fellow international protection officer and I are providing training on community protection to our recently hired national staff teammates (Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese host community members). We are gathered in our compound, which consists of two grass huts and three safari tents surrounded by a grass fence.

One of my Sudanese teammates, Ever (pronounced "Eva"), has stopped paying attention to the training. She has shifted her small handmade wooden bench to be in the sun outside of the grass hut and now sits frozen with fear, staring upward. My colleague and I have no clue what is wrong, until the others run out of the hut, pointing in the direction from which the sounds of an Antonov cargo plane can be heard.

Antonovs are Russian-built cargo planes improvising as bombers for the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). Since June, the SAF has continuously bombed its own states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile that border South Sudan. The bombings are a power tactic designed to remind these two states that they are still a part of Sudan and to demonstrate that the Khartoum government can operate with impunity. In the Yida refugee camp, frequent Antonov flyovers are the Sudanese government's attempts to show refugees that just because they have fled across an international border, they are still not safe.

But today is different. This isn't an intimidating flyover. Instead, as watchful Ever exclaims, the Antonov is circling back. Peter, one of our South Sudanese teammates,

Blocking off the area around the one bomb that did not detonate.



dismisses Ever's concern, wanting to ignore the plane and return to training. A child soldier who grew up in conflict, Peter has lived in paranoia. Today, he does not want to be afraid.

By now, the Antonov has circled a third time when we see two tiny dots fall from the plane and feel the ground shake.

I rattle off a series of questions. "Was that close to us or far? Are they dropping bombs? Who are they targeting? Really? Is the Sudanese government confident enough to bomb South Sudan, the newest country in the world? Aren't they concerned that we [several high-profile international organizations working in this refugee camp] just witnessed that?"

The national staff not only can't keep up with my questions, but none can answer.

Ever is now screaming that the Antonov is circling again. They look to me as team leader, asking, "What do we do?"

Well, what do we do? We have no foxholes for people to take cover in. I can't stop thinking how ridiculous I have been for not making foxhole digging a priority. Peter steps in, dividing us into pairs, then pointing to places of refuge on the ground near trees. He tells us to stop looking up and to cover our ears with

our faces in the dirt. He has been through this many times.

I can hear some of the staff whimpering. Many of them have lived with this type of fear their entire lives. The Antonov has descended, and its belly is directly above us. The entire ground under my body shakes and my ears feel as though they will burst. Am I dead? Hurt? No. No.

None of us move until Peter tells us to get up. The Antonov has finally flown north and is not turning back, but only after dropping two more bombs. One of them detonates a few hundred feet from our compound and the other drops in the middle of the refugee children's compound, but miraculously does not detonate.

The camp is in utter chaos. Thousands upon thousands of refugees are screaming and running in every direction, not knowing what to do or where to go. Our team needs to maintain a strong presence and make ourselves available to assist the refugees during this time of fear.

Late into the night, we dig foxholes in our compound. The following day, we rope off the unexploded bomb, erecting warning signs in English and Arabic. We speak to the



Tiffany Ornelas de Tool, who holds a bachelor's degree in government and politics and a master's degree in public affairs from the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, lives in San Francisco. While a student at UTD, Tiffany was a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens and the Chess Club. She also served as president of Sigma Lambda Alpha and held a graduate student seat in Student Government. After graduation, she worked in West Papua, Indonesia, with Peace Brigades International. She went on to study peace building at the Akademie für Konflikttransformation in Germany and then worked with Nonviolence Peaceforce.

Tiffany returned to South Sudan in the summer of 2013 to work in several camps and to visit colleagues and friends in Yida. Of the current South Sudan conflict that erupted in December 2013, she said, "The underlying reason for the present conflict is the same as it has always been: South Sudan is sitting on vast reserves of oil, gold and other natural resources. Those in power are fighting to control the profit from the resources, and the civilians are suffering. Again."

community to make sure everyone understands that it is still dangerous to go into the children's area.

The United Nations is evacuating, along with some other organizations. After long and lengthy conversations with my Nonviolence Peaceforce country director, I decide we will stay. There is a lot of urgent work to do. Foxholes are needed throughout the camp. The community chiefs need training to establish standard operating procedures and contingency plans if Yida is bombed again.

Looking back, I can say that I never learned to dig foxholes or take cover during my years at UTD. But my campus leadership experiences did prepare me in other ways for working on the ground in conflict zones. And it was at UTD, with the guidance of my professors, that I first came to the realization that I wanted to do something to promote humanity as a whole.

When lives are on the line, it isn't easy to sit back and take a break. But on the flip side, this is the most rewarding work I can imagine. [UTD](#)

Digging foxholes the night after Yida was bombed.



Working in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Jongeli State, South Sudan.



Thank
You

In March, donors to the UT Dallas *Realize the Vision* campaign surpassed the \$200 million goal for gifts and pledges almost one year early. Thank you for bolstering student support, faculty research and other programs vital to the continued push for UT Dallas to become a Tier One research university.

The five-year campaign will continue through its scheduled end on December 31.

With your continued investment, we can continue to change lives, make a difference, and realize our vision of the future.

realize the
VISION
The Campaign for Tier One & Beyond
Learn more at utdallas.edu/campaign

TOP SPOTS WHERE COMETS LIVE AND WORK

COMETS CONNECTING

Did you know that more than 80,000 UT Dallas alumni live all over the globe? No matter where you land, UT Dallas connections exist for your benefit. We're proud to offer several ways to join the Comet network.

HOW TO GET CONNECTED

@ Stay in touch with fellow alumni through the alumni group on LinkedIn, "University of Texas at Dallas Alumni," and the alumni page on Facebook, [facebook.com/utdallasalumni](https://www.facebook.com/utdallasalumni). Find updates about classmates and friends with *The LINK* e-newsletter and the *UT Dallas Magazine* app.

Globe icon From Zurich to Houston, alumni regional representatives connect Comets around the globe. It's easy to find the representative near you at alumni.utdallas.edu/regionalreps.

Graduation cap icon Alumni chapters are a great way to meet fellow graduates, stay in touch with UT Dallas and build your network. Chapters can be organized by location or interest. Learn more at alumni.utdallas.edu/chapters.



“It has been a fun and rewarding experience helping to bring UT Dallas alumni together in the Greater New York City area. In just two months, we’ve attracted close to 50 members. I can confidently say we have brought together a great mix of diverse, career-oriented and sharp-minded alumni who are excited in connecting with other Comets in the region.”

Matthew Thompson BS'12

DONORS REACH \$200 MILLION GOAL EARLY

Donors have raised \$200 million in gifts and pledges for *Realize the Vision: The Campaign for Tier One & Beyond* almost a year before the five-year effort's conclusion on Dec. 31, 2014. Supporters brought UT Dallas across the finish line in March, but the campaign will continue to its scheduled end.

Since the campaign's start in 2009, donors have responded in unprecedented numbers to support students, faculty research and programs vital to the University's quest to become a public research university.

The growth in the University's endowment stands out as one of the campaign's highlights. Over just four years, the endowment has jumped nearly 75 percent, from \$195 million to nearly \$340 million. As a result, student scholarships and fellowships have enjoyed a boost, as well as faculty chairs and professorships.

"One of the major goals of the campaign is to grow the endowment to \$400 million," said Dr. Aaron Conley, vice president for development and alumni relations. "Thanks to all our remarkable donors, we are closing in on this ambitious target."

One of the campaign's accomplishments is the broadening of the University's base of support. During the last four years, UT Dallas has received more than 22,000 gifts of all sizes, from sources such as alumni and friends, companies, foundations and other organizations. By comparison, the four-year period before the campaign drew a total of 13,687 gifts.

The impact is being felt across the University. More than 70 Opportunity Funds — permanent unrestricted endowments — have been established to benefit every school, department, research center and other units throughout UT Dallas.

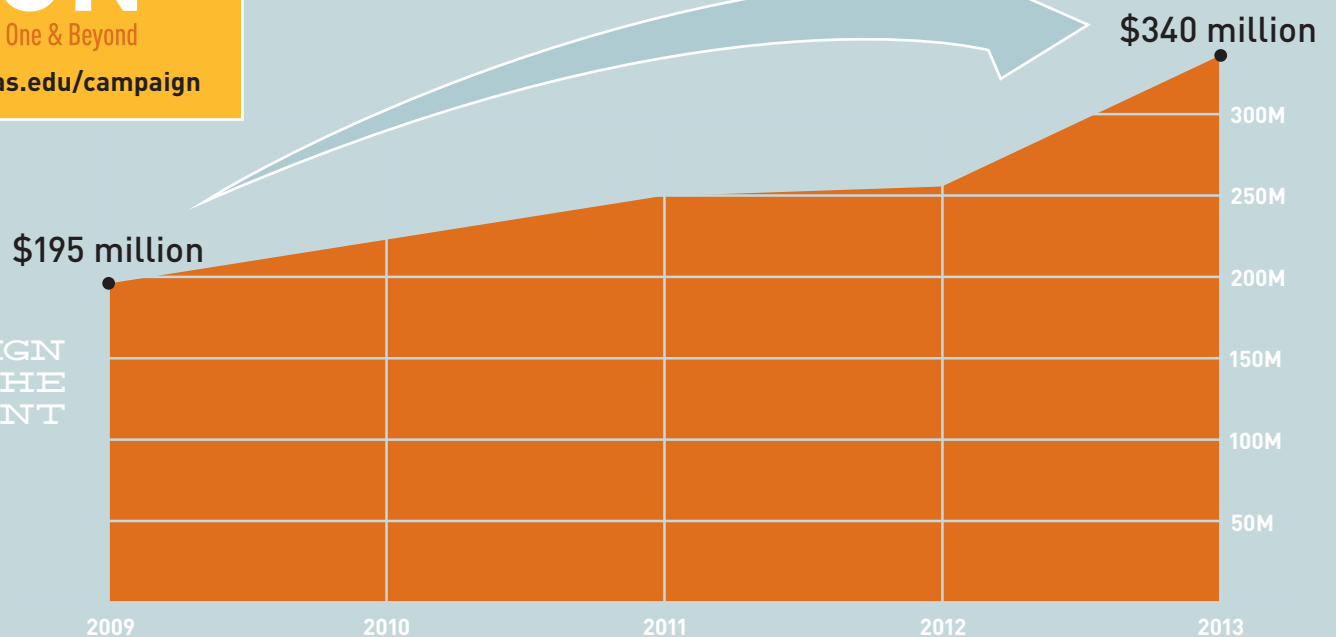
Alumni are helping fuel this giving. The number of alumni who make gifts annually has more than doubled during the campaign. Alumni who give are helping to boost a measure that is considered in some national university rankings that figure in the percentage of alumni participation. Whoosh!



At the Celebration of Support event in October, another record-setting year was announced.

realize the
VISION
The Campaign for Tier One & Beyond
Learn more at utdallas.edu/campaign

CAMPAIGN
INCREASES THE
ENDOWMENT



RAGS TO RICHES

By Sara Mancuso

When entrepreneur Scott Birnbaum's trucks pull up to area charities, they pick up millions of pounds of unwanted shoes, shirts, stuffed animals and blankets. In doing so, his local operation collects a portion of the 4 billion pounds of textiles that are recycled annually in the United States.

By collecting unsold and unwanted salvage items from charities, Birnbaum's Reclaimed Textiles Co. keeps millions of pounds of trash from going into landfills and contributes to a \$700 million recycled textile industry.

At Birnbaum's Dallas-based manufacturing and distribution center, his trucks

deliver belts, purses, wallets, hats, caps, backpacks, toys, sheets, towels and curtains, among other things. Once baled, the items are shipped to sorting centers overseas, to places like Dubai and Malaysia. The best items are then sold through resale outlets in countries that span from Kenya to Chile. Unwearable items come back to Dallas where they're made into rags used by the oil, janitorial and paint supply industries.

"I am proud of what we do," Birnbaum said. "Each month we divert from landfills in excess of 4 million pounds of refuse. Like other companies, we have to make a profit.

We employ 150 people and operate out of two plants. Beyond that, we support non-profit organizations in the U.S. and assist in building economic growth in developing countries. Our clothing and shoes are made available at affordable prices to some of the poorest people on the planet."

Birnbaum brought the company — and his entrepreneurial dream — to life after spending years behind a desk as an accountant crunching numbers, which he found too routine. To get sales experience, Birnbaum tried recruiting. He was miserable, but knew that he lacked the know-how



Workers sort through truckloads of discards purchased from local charities.

to start his own company without those skills.

Birnbaum later heard about a recycler that produced wiping rags. “I couldn’t think of anything more uninteresting,” he said. But during a plant tour, he changed his mind.

“It was a throwback to the industrial revolution and I fell in love with it. It was so unautomated and raw,” Birnbaum said.

For the next few years, he learned the business as the company accountant. When new management later called for layoffs, including Birnbaum, he was ready to make a move.

“When it comes to being an entrepreneur, you need a catalyst,” Birnbaum explained. “Everyone talks about wanting their own business and inventing something, but I think it’s about doing something that already works, and doing it better.” So, in 1994, Birnbaum traded his Honda for a line of credit, and Reclaimed Textiles was born.

Since then, the company has grown and attracted other UT Dallas grads. Matt Kersting MA’91 works in sales, putting to

work his master’s degree from the Jindal School of Management. Employee Shaun Hills BS’84, who manages the company’s online business, has known Birnbaum since their days together at Richardson High School, followed by college at the Jindal School.

Birnbaum said the trash collection business can get interesting with the Internet. Vintage belts, old-school Converse and Air Jordans are among the treasures that the online team easily sells on auction sites. While sorting shoes, the team once found a pair of Nike Waffle Racers — originally introduced in 1974 and named for the new rubber treads. Even after a \$10,000 offer from a collector on eBay, Birnbaum couldn’t part with the collectible kicks. And he says he probably never will.

Birnbaum enjoys the trash and treasure hunts too much to give up any of it. “One thing that I would tell current students is to pursue a career path that they are genuinely interested in and that they will love for a long time,” he said. **UTD**

Scott Birnbaum’s company has diverted from landfills hundreds of millions of pounds of refuse — 55 million pounds in 2013 alone. Collected T-shirts and linens not suitable for resale are often made into and sold as cleaning rags.



ALUMNI NOTES

1970s ▶

Lois Finkelman MAT'78, MS'80 has been a civic volunteer for more than 30 years. She completed four terms on the Dallas City Council, retiring in 2005. A longtime planning and public involvement consultant, Lois has worked with many public agencies, including the U.S. Department of Defense and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Mary Murphy BA'79 has been appointed by Gov. Rick Perry as the presiding judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region, which covers 34 northeast counties. Her term expires in 2017. She earned a law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1983 and worked in private practice before being elected to the bench in 2001.

Ron Nash MS'79 has been appointed CEO of Pivot3, an Austin-based supplier of video surveillance and virtual desktop software defined storage appliances. He has been with the company for eight years as an investor, member of its board of directors and chairman. Ron has served in leadership roles at numerous technology companies, including Perot Systems (now Dell Services). He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from UT Dallas in 2011.

1980s ▶

Bonnie Lou Coleman BA'83, an award-winning classical guitarist, is a private art and music instructor near Tempe, Ariz. She is the founder, president and former co-executive director of the Phoenix Conservatory of Music and the Community School of the Arts.

Laurence Hiney BS'83 is a consultant at DeWolff, Boberg & Associates, a Dallas-based management consulting firm. He has more than 25 years of experience in logistics and supply chain management for food, technology and consumer sectors.

Charles Foster MA'84 wed Grover Hartt III in Victoria, British Columbia. He is a loan support specialist at the Richardson branch of Texas Capital Bank.

Clark Hickock BA'87 is the CEO and director of Axesstel, a telecom company based in San Diego. Clark previously served in leadership positions at E-Systems Inc., REMEC Inc. and Cherokee International Corp.

Warren Rapert BS'87 is the CFO of Trans-Trade Inc., a DFW-based domestic and international shipping company. He previously served in leadership roles at Ernst & Young and American Airlines, where he was CFO of its air cargo arm, Worldwide Flight Services.

Lorraine Ball MBA'88 is the creative director and owner of Roundpeg, an Indianapolis, Ind., marketing strategy firm.

André Davidson BA'89 was honored by the Plano Chamber of Commerce with the ATHENA Award, which acknowledges the achievement of women leaders. A member of the Plano City Council and an avid volunteer, she is the former executive director of Leadership Plano and was named Plano Citizen of the Year in 2005.

1990s ▶

Scott Shaw BA'92 is an independent human services consultant to the rehabilitation, brain injury and military/veteran sectors. He also serves as second vice president on the board of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania and is a mental health professional with Goodwill Industries of the Conemaugh Valley Inc.

Thomas Tunstall MBA'92, PhD'00 is research director of the Institute for Economic Development at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Alumna Brings Science Experiment to Life



Like mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, **Christine Rittenhouse MA'13** has a day job. But when she was a graduate student at the University, her superwoman alter ego was a high-flying role model for young girls interested in science.

Christine recently hung up the bright orange wig and spandex costume she donned to play Cindi, the android spacegirl in a

science comic book series written by University professors Dr. Marc Hairston and Dr. Mary Urquhart. Although no longer in costume, the physics teacher at Liberty High School in Frisco does retain Cindi's superpower: helping students understand science.

While working toward a master's degree in science education, Christine had volunteered to bring Cindi to life at outreach events for students and science teachers. She also helped with the Women in Science Alliance's Women in Physics camps for middle and early high school girls.

"Usually, when kids think of a scientist role model, they think of a guy in a lab coat with a bubbling beaker. I think my favorite part of dressing up as Cindi is that she's such the opposite of that stereotype of a stuffy scientist," Christine said. "Cindi's young, she's got a crazy hair color, and she wears brightly colored spandex—all while researching space weather! I hope that my role as Cindi helped show girls that it's OK to be yourself, and that pursuing your interests, despite what others may think, is endlessly rewarding." **-Amanda Siegfried**

2000s ▶

Souren Soumbatiants MS'94 was honored with the Robert L. Bailey Teaching Award at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio, where he is chair of the Business Economics Department and lead faculty for the managerial economics course in the university's MBA program.

Elijah Dusek BA'95 married Lana Davis in Denison, Texas. Elijah is a systems technician with Texoma Cash Register of Denison.

Hank Mulvihill BA'95, a registered investment advisor and wealth manager, has launched his own radio show, *The Plan*, on KLIF 570 AM in Dallas. He is the principal of Mulvihill Asset Management LLC, an independent financial management firm in Richardson, Texas. Hank has been a licensed securities professional and a licensed life and health insurance agent since 1987.

Ron Rice MA'95 is the general manager of Hunter Douglas Architectural Products in Atlanta. He has been involved in the construction business since 1985 and previously held leadership positions at DONN Corp. and USG.

Rufus Green MBA'96, a board-certified urologist and Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, has been named one of the "Best Doctors in Dallas" by *D Magazine*. A retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Rufus is the recipient of the Air Force Legion of Merit Medal. He is an assistant professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center and is the medical director of the Urology Institute in Dallas. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from UT Dallas in 2008.

Keith Pearson MBA'97 has been elected CEO, vice chairman and president of Pearson Partners International Inc., a Dallas-based executive search firm that he launched with his father in 2002. He is the vice chair of the board of directors of the North Texas Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and is chair of its corporate development committee.

Stirling Boston BS'98 has been named regional sales manager for the South Central Region of A.O. Smith, a Wisconsin-based global manufacturer of residential and commercial water heaters and boilers. Most recently, he served as director of marketing for Tennessee-based Lochinvar.

Chad Ribault BS'98, a hedge fund tax manager, has been appointed to the New York State Society of CPAs' Taxation of Financial Instruments and Transactions Committee.

Kris Kramer BS'00 published a new fantasy novel, *The Wind Riders—Tales of the Lore Valley*. He began his career as a programmer and Web developer.

Marc Marchand BA'00 has been named director of the Burleson Public Library. He most recently served as the director of the Arlington Public Library for seven years.

Samuel Ross MS'00, chief executive officer of Bon Secours Baltimore Health System, has been elected to the executive committee of the Maryland Hospital Association. Samuel has been named one of the nation's top 25 minority executives in healthcare by *Modern Healthcare Magazine* and is the recipient of the Community Service/Healthcare Executive Award from the National Association of Health Services Executives.

Brad Tyler BA'00, BS'00 has been named principal at Parkwood Hill Intermediate School in Keller ISD. He previously served the school district as assistant principal at Caprock Elementary School, and taught math and science at Chisholm Trail Intermediate School.

Eric Flavill BS'01, an ear, nose and throat surgeon, has joined the medical staff of CMH Regional Health System in Wilmington, Ohio. He earned a doctorate and completed his residency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Cheryl Gates BA'01 married Lance Crosby in Dallas. She is the owner of Agency Celebrity Artists, which represents hair and makeup artists for film, video and print. She was a member of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders from 1996 to 2000.



Robert Greeson MS'01 was promoted to partner in the global legal practice of Norton Rose Fulbright in January 2014. His focus is intellectual property transactions and patent prosecution.

Humair Mandavia BSEE'01, MBA'03 has been named executive director of the new Zuken SOZO Center in San Jose, Calif. He joined Zuken, a global technology company, in 2004.



Amit Murumkar MS'02 is the founder and CEO of Canvsly, a mobile platform to capture, organize and share children's artwork. The iOS application was winner of the 2013 Kiip Build Fund. Amit, who lives in Princeton, N.J., has served the technology sector for 11 years.



Erin Dougherty BA'03, MPA'07 and **Ray Mitchel BA'03** are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Cecilia. The future member of the class of '36 was born in October 2013.



Kim Vance MBA'03 is the director of marketing at Frog Street Press, an early-childhood educational materials company located in Grapevine, Texas.

Tim Houlné MBA'04 is the CEO of Working Solutions, a virtual agent and technology company in Plano, Texas. He is the chairman of the board of The Movie Institute, a nonprofit organization, and also serves on the board of VisionBank Texas.

Brooke Lemmons BS'04 wed Michael Newland in McKinney, Texas. She is a marketing consultant at the Richards Group in Dallas.

Ramy Mahmoud BS'04, Teacher Certification '04, MAT'06 was recently named Plano ISD's Secondary Teacher of the Year. Ramy, who is head of the science department at Williams High School in Plano, had previously been named that school's Teacher of the Year.

Michael Clock MBA'05 is CFO of Le Duff America, the parent company of La Madeleine. During his tenure, the Dallas-based company has added seven brands, including Mimi's Café and Bruegger's. He is an active volunteer and works closely with MakeAWay Charities, which assists single-parent families in crisis.

Wendy Curran BA'05 was appointed senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Sachse, Texas. She previously served two years as associate minister of evangelism and missions at Custer Road United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas.

Juan Solis BS'05, a longtime educator, has been appointed principal of Furlough Middle School in Terrell ISD. He previously served as assistant principal at Utley Middle School in Rockwall ISD and was principal of an academy in Quinlan ISD that is aimed at helping dropouts and other at-risk youth.



Sijy Mathew Voit BS'05 and **Richard Voit BS'06** welcomed their daughter, Avery Rose Voit, in November 2013.

ALUMNI NOTES

Neil Basu MS'06 is a geoscience supervisor for the Eagle Ford and South Texas asset team at Pioneer Natural Resources in Irving, Texas. In his previous roles as business analyst and senior geologist, he has explored resources worldwide, from the Niger Delta in West Africa to the Permian Basin in Texas.

Susan Ballabina PhD'07 has been named associate director for program development for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in College Station. She joined AgriLife Extension in 1994 and served as an agent in Dallas, Williamson, Cherokee and Upshur counties prior to becoming regional program director.

Jayshree Bihari MPA'07, PhD'13 had a showing of her 3-D artwork at the Plano Art Association Gallery.



Lauren Shaddox Clark BA'07 and her husband, Brian, welcomed their son, Connor, in August 2013.

Christopher Jacob BA'07, MS'09 is a student at the Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies. He recently received an award for his role as director of the Salybia Mission Project, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing medical care to the indigenous population of Dominica, the Kalinago people.

Melissa Schapero BA'07, BS'07, MS'08, a member of the UT Dallas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, was named a recipient of the honor society's Love of Learning award. She is a doctoral student in the School of Psychology and Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Her research focuses on the effects of depression on executive functioning and other cognitive abilities in adolescents and young people.

Elizabeth Wilder BS'07 graduated from The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine, where she attained membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She recently began a dermatology residency at Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas and will complete her first-year internship at University Medical Center Brackenridge in Austin.



Irv Zeitler MS'07, vice president of medical affairs at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo, received the Public Service Award from the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a board-certified family practice physician and serves as president of the Texas Medical Board.



Amanda BA'08 and **Chris Rohleder BS'08, MS'10** welcomed their son, August James Joseph Rohleder, in February 2013, in Plano, Texas. At birth, he weighed 6 lbs., 7 oz. and measured 19.25 inches long.



Jeff Stover MFA'08 is an assistant theater professor and technical director at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo.

Jan Kallberg MA'09, PhD'11 is an assistant professor of emergency management and homeland security at Arkansas Tech University. He was a speaker at the second annual Cyber Resilience for National Security conference in Washington, D.C.

2010S ▶

Momodu Omamegbe PhD'10 is director of Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC in Westlake, Texas.

Charles Russell Jr. BSEE'10 is an equipment engineer II at Samsung Austin Semiconductor. He previously interned as a traffic engineer with the city of Richardson and worked at Texas Instruments as a lead quality control technician.



Jacqueline Smith BA'10, MA'12 published her first full-length novel, *Cemetery Tours*, which is a paranormal ghost story.

Willie Baronet MFA'11 is an artist whose work has been featured in exhibitions worldwide. He is the former owner and creative director of GroupBaronet (now MasonBaronet), a Dallas-based advertising agency. His design work has been featured in publications including *Communication Arts* and *Graphis*. His print and broadcast work has received medals from the Dallas Advertising League's Tops Show and other organizations. Willie also teaches at Southern Methodist University, where he is a visiting executive-in-residence.

Robert Dryden BSEE'11 married Mary Langston in Fort Worth. He is an engineer at Vinson Process Controls in Lewisville, Texas.

Patrick Madden BS'11 joined Chicago startup TempoDB as a software engineer.

Erin Orrick PhD'12 is an assistant professor at the Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice. A specialist in the field of corrections, including contemporary issues, prisoner reentry and recidivism, criminal careers and criminal justice policy, she recently published articles in leading academic journals, including *Crime and Delinquency* and the *Journal of Criminal Justice*.

Joshua Brumett BA'13 is an editorial intern at the *Oxford American* magazine and is a Community Voices volunteer columnist at *The Dallas Morning News*.



Courtney Keeler BS'13 and **Philip Campbell BS'12, MS'13** were married Nov. 9, 2013, with many fellow Comets in attendance.

Lise Labiche MS'13, a vascular neurologist and stroke expert, has been named one of the "Best Doctors in Dallas" by *D Magazine*. She is the medical director of the Medical City Dallas Hospital Stroke Program. She earned her medical degree from Louisiana State University School of Medicine in New Orleans and completed a residency and fellowship at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Sachin Shah BS'13, a member of the UT Dallas chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, received a Love of Learning award from the honor society. He is a medical student at UT Southwestern Medical School.

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In Memoriam

REMEMBRANCES OF UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Barbara J. Helmick BS'77, MA'82, Oct. 21, 2013, Richardson, Texas. Helmick, who grew up in Fort Wayne, Ind., was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Toastmasters International. She and her husband, Robert Helmick, lived in Richardson, where she pursued her longtime hobbies of crocheting and painting.

Harry "Dennis" Odell BA'78, July 30, 2013, Baytown, Texas. Odell played French horn in the famous Robert E. Lee band, and was affectionately given the nickname "Digger" by his bandmates. After earning a bachelor's degree, he taught high school and junior high band in Garland, Texas. Odell moved to Baytown in 1981, where he met Brenda Sturrock, whom he married in 1982. He taught elementary music and private French horn lessons in the Baytown/Houston area and was an adjunct music instructor at Lee College. Odell recently began a career in sales and service support at Weir Seaboard in Houston. He earned a master's degree in instructional technology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 2005. Odell played in the Bay Brass Quintet, Baytown Concert Band and Baytown Symphony Orchestra.

Jesus A. Beltran Jr. BS'79, Jan. 4, 2014, Carrollton, Texas. Beltran served for four years in the U.S. Air Force before moving to Dallas to work as an aircraft electronic technician at General Dynamics in Fort Worth. In Dallas, he met and married Linda Pae, with whom he had three sons. He later worked at Texas Instruments for 37 years, first as an engineering technician and then as a circuit design engineer and engineering configuration manager. He also worked as an aircraft configuration manager at Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth. He was a fourth-degree Knight of Columbus and a member of that organization's Color Corps.

Ann L. Charlson MAT'81, Nov. 18, 2013, Plano, Texas. She earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Denver and

a master's degree in teaching from UT Dallas and pursued additional graduate study at the University of Illinois. During Charlson's 37-year teaching career, she taught public high school and community college mathematics in Dallas; Midland, Texas; Denver; and Rantoul, Ill. Outside of teaching, she had a great love of travel, animals and her husband of 47 years, Gary Charlson.

Juanita Osterman BS'83, July 30, 2013, Bryson City, N.C.

Mary Inman BS'85, Nov. 14, 2013, Frisco, Texas. After earning a bachelor's degree in education from Southern Methodist University and a degree in accounting from UT Dallas, Inman began her long career with the General American Oil Company of Texas. She subsequently held positions at Mobil, Exxon Mobil and Exco.

Ida R. Wellsman MA'86, July 29, 2013, Plano, Texas. After earning an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska, Wellsman moved to California to teach. There she met and married Howard C. Wellsman, a naval officer. The couple eventually settled in Plano, where Wellsman was an active member of the American Association of University Women, and was a founding member of both the Junior League of Plano and the Information and Referral Center of Plano. She returned to teaching in 1980, teaching theater at Plano Senior High School for 19 years. "Miss Ida," as her students called her, received the Texas Educational Theatre Association award for High School Educator of the Year in 1993 and was also honored as Plano Senior High School Teacher of the Year.

Lanny W. Yoder BS'87, Oct. 10, 2013, Mesquite, Texas. Yoder, who had been a quality manager for more than 40 years, retired from Interstate Batteries in 2011. He was an active member of Grace United Methodist Church in Dallas. He and his wife, Brenda, lived in Mesquite.

Sharon B. Williams-Hoch MA'89, Sept. 10, 2013, Minneapolis. Williams-Hoch graduated with honors from UT Austin with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and the humanities. She later earned a degree in nursing and worked as a psychiatric nurse at various private and public hospitals in Austin, including as nursing supervisor at Austin State Hospital. She continued her education at UT Dallas in public and health policy and served as a part-time instructor of health courses in the Dallas County Community College System. Williams-Hoch moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked as a nurse at George Washington University Hospital while attending graduate school in health policy and Georgetown University in medical ethics. In 1993, she married Irving Joseph Hoch in Corsicana, Texas, and moved to Richardson. She worked in the Dallas area for the remainder of her life.

Ann A. Tubbs PhD'90, Jan. 4, 2014, Canyon Lake, Texas. Tubbs, who earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Texas Christian University, taught nursing in Galveston, Texas, and in Dallas. She was certified as a rehabilitation counselor and Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners. Tubbs was ordained as a deacon at First Presbyterian Church of Garland, where she was active in local and foreign mission activities. She and her husband, Dr. Charles Gordon Tubbs, owned a five-acre property in the Texas Hill Country that was recognized as a Best of Texas Backyard Habitat by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She was an active volunteer in numerous organizations, including Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.

Steven E. Vincent BS'91, Nov. 18, 2013, Alpharetta, Ga. After graduating summa cum laude from UT Dallas, Vincent joined The Coca-Cola Co., where he became vice president of distributor operations of North America. He lived in Georgia with his wife, Lori Ogan, and their two daughters.

continued on next page

In Memoriam

REMEMBRANCES OF UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

continued from previous page

Susan E. Oliver BA'93, Nov. 11, 2013, Dallas.

David Zebe MSEE'93, Sept. 2, 2013, Plano, Texas. After earning an undergraduate degree in computer engineering from Iowa State University, Zebe relocated to Dallas in 1985 to begin his engineering career at Texas Instruments. He eventually became an engineering fellow at Raytheon Co., where he worked for more than 20 years as a specialist in the design, development, integration and testing of advanced sensor systems and signal processing technologies. In 2011, he began missionary work in Peru, where he was part of a team that built churches in support of the Anglican Church of Peru. He and his wife, Susan Williams, had two sons.

Kathryn "Ranea" Wilson BA'94, Nov. 12, 2013, Plano, Texas.

Francis "Frank" C. DeVault BS'02, Jan. 11, 2014, Plano, Texas. DeVault grew up on military bases from Japan to Germany. After high school graduation, he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Air Force at the height of the Vietnam War. He was a radar bombardier navigational systems analyst for C and D type B-52 bombers, providing support from U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield in Thailand. He left the military in 1972, but was soon back in Asia as a civilian, supporting a Texas Instruments contract for radar capability to the U.S. military. He worked as a principal systems engineer for Raytheon Co. in its air and missile defense systems segment until 2012. He played a role as a talented and seasoned weapons systems engineer in the creation and improvement of many of America's primary weapons systems. DeVault and his wife, Donna Elaine Rice, were married for 32 years. The couple shared a love of shotgun sports, including competing in sporting clays tournaments and shooting at the Dallas Gun Club.

Kyle W. Buckley BA'13, Aug. 12, 2013, Laramie, Wyo. Buckley served in the U.S. Army from 2007-2011 in Iraq, for which he received numerous honors, including the Medal of Valor, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Rifle Badge. He was pursuing his master's degree in public policy at UT Dallas.

In Memoriam

REMEMBRANCES OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS



CHARLES BRANCH SR.
1926-2013

Dr. Charles Branch Sr. was a leading research scholar, neurosurgeon and humanitarian whose pioneering and groundbreaking work aided in creating a definitive approach to mapping brain function.

Branch grew up in West Tennessee and graduated from Vanderbilt University Medical School in 1953. After a rotating internship at the University of Chicago, he completed his neurosurgical residency at the Montreal Neurological Institute. In 1968, he joined the faculty of UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and entered private practice. After retiring in 1994, Branch dedicated much of his time, energy and support to medical missions in Haiti, Guyana and Nigeria.

In 2010, the UT Dallas Center for BrainHealth established the Charles L. Branch BrainHealth Award to honor him. The center bestows the award upon a pioneering cognitive neuroscientist who has greatly contributed to brain research.

Branch gave to the center a collection of memorabilia and scholarly material recounting his study with legendary Montreal neurosurgeons Wilder Penfield and Theodore Rasmussen. Several medical devices from the late 20th century that he donated are on permanent display in the center's lobby.

"Dr. Branch's scientific study and medical practice have significantly impacted our knowledge of the human brain," said Dr. John Hart Jr., the center's medical science director. "His innovative work laid the foundation for many future discoveries and alleviated the burden of epilepsy for countless individuals over the years."



ISTVAN OZSVÁTH
1928-2013

Dr. Istvan Ozsváth, a professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, was one of the University's founding faculty members.

Ozsváth came to the University's precursor, the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, in 1963 as an associate professor in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Laboratory. A gifted mathematician, he was one of the original members of the center's relativity research group, along with founding department head Ivor Robinson and associate professor Dr. Wolfgang Rindler.

Ozsváth, known to his friends as Pista, retired in 2012 after a distinguished research career focused on relativistic cosmology, solutions to Albert Einstein's field equations and differential geometry, areas that relate to the structure and dynamics of the universe.

Born in 1928 to a farming family in a small village in Hungary, he was the first in his family to leave the village to attend high school.

Ozsváth was one of 15 Hungarian students admitted annually to the prestigious Eotvos Lorand Collegium in Budapest, where he studied mathematics. After college, he pursued graduate studies in astronomy, earning his PhD from the University of Hamburg in 1960.

While in Hamburg, Ozsváth met Dr. Engelbert Schucking, a relativity expert. In 1962, Schucking took a faculty position in physics at The University of Texas at Austin, and Ozsváth joined him there as a visiting lecturer. Their 50-year collaboration concluded with a paper published in 2012 dealing with Einstein's equations.

In 1950, Ozsváth married an aspiring pianist. His wife, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, is the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust

In Memoriam

REMEMBRANCES OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

Studies, professor of literature and the history of ideas in the School of Arts and Humanities, and director of the Holocaust Studies program at UT Dallas.

"Pista Ozsváth was a brilliant intellect, dedicated to his scholarly quests and to his exceptional family," said Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, executive vice president and provost.



THOMAS B. RHODES 1917-2013

Thomas Burton Rhodes served as vice chairman of the UT System Board of Regents from 1981-1983. He also was vice chairman of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

A retired oil executive and civic leader, Rhodes was a life member of the UT Dallas Development Board, an honorary trustee for the UT Southwestern Medical Foundation, and a member of the UT Texas 125 Commission. He and his wife, Lily, created a Campus Enhancement Fund to sustain the beautification of UT Dallas, which led to the naming of the first reflecting pool on the campus mall.

"Tom Rhodes was a great friend and will be missed," said President David E. Daniel. "His service to both the UT System as a member of the Board of Regents and to UT Dallas as a member of the Development Board were just some of the many ways he demonstrated his passion for education. He left a lasting impact on this campus and throughout Texas."

Rhodes, who received his bachelor's degree from Stanford in 1939 and his LL.B from UT Austin in 1942, served as an officer on a fleet mine sweeper in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He returned to Dallas after the war and practiced law for 10 years. In 1960, he joined Southeastern Drilling Corp. (SEDCO), where he eventually became executive vice president and later served as honorary board chairman. After retiring from SEDCO, Rhodes served as budget director in the Office of the Governor of Texas during the first term of Gov. Bill Clements.

Rhodes was also dedicated to his community, serving as chairman of Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind, as well as for the Dallas Chapter of the United Nations Association. He served on the board of trustees of the Southwest Legal Foundation, Dallas and the Center for American and International Law.



JOYLYNN HAILEY REED 1959-2013

Dr. JoyLynn Hailey Reed taught as a senior lecturer in the Naveen Jindal School of Management, as well as in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science and in the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. She held a variety of posts while at UT Dallas, including director of the University's former Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, a faculty training and development resource.

Most recently, Reed was an assistant professor and program director in the Office of Medical Education at UT Southwestern. Her career in higher education ranged from associate provost at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor to faculty appointments at Austin Community College, UT Austin, St. Edwards University, Richland College and the University of Phoenix.

Reed earned a PhD in educational psychology as well as two undergraduate degrees and a master's degree, all from UT Austin.

She served as governing board chair and advisory board member for the Academy of Oriental Medicine at Austin and was a member of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League.

"To Dr. Reed, students always came first," said Dr. Marilyn Kaplan, Jindal School associate dean for undergraduate programs. "She was the faculty member who went out of her way to help students learn, listened to their problems and shared her positive outlook on life."



ROY CHANEY 1943-2014

Dr. Roy Chaney, a faculty member in the Department of Physics, joined the University in 1970. He retired from active research and teaching after a 40-year career. Chaney's expertise in computer hardware interfacing was key to the successful completion of several space missions in which UT Dallas was involved.

Chaney wrote the communications software that linked University space science computers to the Goddard Space Flight Center in support of the Dynamics Explorer satellite, which launched in 1981 to study Earth's upper atmosphere. He also wrote software to collect data from a University-built instrument deployed on the Giotto mission to study Halley's Comet in 1986.

Dr. John Hoffman, professor of physics and faculty member of the William B. Hanson Center for Space Sciences, said that Chaney played a pivotal role in the success of a mass spectrometer instrument that was included on board NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander in 2008.

Chaney also collaborated with researchers at UT Southwestern Medical Center on several biomedical instrumentation projects.

"Complementary to his work with software development, Dr. Chaney contributed several seminal theoretical papers that provided an insight into the electronic behavior in a number of materials," said Dr. Robert Glosser, head of UTD's physics department. "This was very helpful to experimentalists, including myself, in investigating their properties."

Born in Beaumont, Texas, in 1943, Chaney earned three degrees in physics from the University of Oklahoma.

He is survived by his wife, Judy; sons William Chaney and his wife, Lori; Robert Chaney and his wife, Lisa; Thomas Chaney; David Hood; and Blake Hood and his wife, Susan; and nine grandchildren.

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has assembled, said Redman, adding, “She’s taken it to the furthest possible level.”

Tournament-level chess players receive ratings that predict the likelihood of one player defeating another. Under the system used by USCF, the average player rating on the Webster-A team was 2730. Two players rank so high they’re listed among the top 50 players in the world.

The UT Dallas-A team, its strongest ever with an average rating of 2648, faced Webster-A in Lubbock in the fifth round. UT Dallas lost three games and drew one, kicking the team into a final round struggle with UMBC for a place among the Final Four. While there are always upsets, a player rated 100 points below another is expected to lose three out of four times. Webster-A had taken on Tech’s top team the previous day, chalking up two wins and two draws.

The morning of the fifth round, Polgar hovered over her players’ games. Later, she made small talk in the hotel hallway.

“Gamesmanship is part of chess,” she said when asked about the poker-faced look good chess players tend to assume. She agreed to talk at length following the tournament and provided her cell phone number, then declined the interview when called.

“In the chess community, by and large, with rare exceptions, everyone is very helpful to each other,” said Al Lawrence, a former USCF executive director and chess journalist who is now Texas Tech’s chess director.

Like Stallings, whom he credits with helping him re-establish Tech’s program after Polgar’s exit, Lawrence played college chess in “the Bobby Fischer era,” the years around Fischer’s historic 1972 win over Boris Spassky that broke four decades of Soviet Union chess dominance. Almost overnight, chess became cool and the number of teams traveling to the Pan-Am doubled to more than 100. When the eccentric Fischer refused to play again, morphing in time into a bizarre and troubled recluse,

America’s chess boom quickly faded.

“It’s smaller today, but far more powerful,” said Stallings, who played for the University of Texas at Austin before a career in sales. Twenty-three grandmasters were on hand in Lubbock, a record total.



The question of who is eligible to play collegiate chess has been perhaps the most controversial part of the game in recent history.

To keep the college game within certain bounds, the College Chess Committee of the USCF, much like the National Collegiate Athletic Association, maintains basic eligibility rules.

The standards used today were set in 2004, when it was decided that players must be enrolled at least half time in a degree program and have a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

“At one point in time there were no limits,”



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said Stallings. “There were players who were living out of the country taking online courses, or they weren’t diligent students. There were 40-year-old grandmasters. It’s like playing your father.”

Age-related rules have turned out to be the most contentious, with the committee revising them several times before settling on a requirement that titled players over the age of 26 must keep a 3.0 average and take at least 12 credit hours.

“We’ve been elitist in wanting to compete on terms we aren’t embarrassed by,” said Wildenthal. “Our standards are players do go to class, they do maintain grades. Our sincere hope is they become Wall Street brokers, not professional chess players.”

So to receive and retain a UT Dallas chess scholarship, one must meet University entrance requirements and maintain a 3.0 average, which for younger team members is a full grade higher than the USCF college committee’s rules. This has meant the University had passed on some would-be recruits, and a few student-players left the team for academic reasons.

While the USCF rules are uniform, the academic rigor of the competing schools varies, and so does the amount of time players can devote to chess. As Stallings put it, “We won’t give you a basket-weaving class, and no professor is going to grade you any easier. At UTD, chess comes second. Academics come first. I call them chess player-scholars.”

Chess mastery requires ability and “work, work, work,” said Stallings. He calls the title of grandmaster — of which there are fewer than 1,500 in the world — a “PhD in chess.” Attaining the rank requires as much as 10,000 hours of study. “If you really want to be a professional chess player [it invites the question]: ‘Why do you want to be in college?’” he said. Professional players typically devote even more time to chess study and play in more tournaments than students. Given UTD’s academic requirements, Stallings’ players don’t have time to take



Stephen Spillman, *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*
Grandmaster George Margvelashvili considers his next move on the first day at the 2013 Pan Am.

regular trips to three-week professional tournaments in Europe and elsewhere.

For UT Dallas to excel against the tough competition, Stallings said he looks across the globe for talent, often finding it in international chess hubs such as Eastern Europe and Asia. He mentions two prospects: one in India who became a grandmaster at age 13 and an extraordinarily talented high-schooler in Dallas.

Two members of UT Dallas’ 2013-2014 team — Sadorra, a native of the Philippines, and Conrad Holt, a senior from Kansas — attained grandmaster titles while enrolled. They are exceptional, said Stallings, explaining that most players’ ratings remain fairly constant while they are at the University. To keep up with rival university teams, Stallings needs to find freshmen or graduate students whose skills are already fully formed.

So how does this look to the rest of the collegiate chess world? Is it healthy to have a handful of heavyweights, or are teams discouraged by the unbalanced competition?

Constantine Ananiadis, faculty advisor to Oberlin College’s chess club, traveled to the Pan-Am to learn about hosting the event. The selective Ohio school does not offer chess scholarships, but it has an enthusiastic team, he said: “We’re playing for the love of the game.”

Oberlin competes in a different division

than UT Dallas, based on rating points. But in the early rounds it played two teams from scholarship schools. “We got our butts handed to us, but it’s good to get exposed to that level. You take away some small moral victories,” Ananiadis said. “I’d compare it to Oberlin playing Texas Tech in football, except here nobody gets hurt.”



UT Dallas’ chess ambition has it reaching out to places like Bucharest, Romania, in search of players with skills beyond those previously known in the college ranks. That’s where the University found Cristian Chirila, the son of a chess teacher who, in 2007, won the World Youth Championship for boys under 16.

His father taught him to play when he was in kindergarten and he already was a grandmaster by the time he enrolled as a freshman in 2009. “It was a dream of mine to go to America,” he said. “It was a chance I didn’t want to miss.”

Now a senior majoring in international political economy, Chirila said he wakes up at about 6 a.m. to find the three hours a day he devotes to chess. He studies huge chess databases that are integral to the present-day game. “You look to recent games to see what new ideas are out there,” he said.

Like other team members, he attends weekly meetings and coaching sessions, and trades thoughts and plays games with players in and outside of the University.

Sadorra recalls how he’d get his neighbors in Cavite, near Manila, to play chess. He was just seven or eight, but difficult to beat. “I’d take a bag of canned goods and my wooden chess set and I used the cans to pay them to play with me,” said Sadorra, whose father gave him chess books when he ran out of things to teach him.

Sadorra says he read about the UT Dallas chess team making a trip to Beijing, China, to play the Nankai University team, which prompted him to email Stallings and apply for a chess scholarship. He learned enough

from the team and through studying chess about 18 hours a week to fulfill the “norms” of becoming a grandmaster.

Sadorra says his chess style is that of a risk taker. Now that he has graduated, he expects to carry that characteristic into a career. “I see myself doing something entrepreneurial,” he said. For now, Sadorra said he is not finished with competitive chess. He plans to see how far his game will take him, expecting to play for the Philippines, where he is ranked second, in the 2014 Chess Olympiad this August in Norway.

Alumni who have played chess at the highest levels for UT Dallas have gone on to careers in finance, technology, law, medicine and other attractive fields. The strategic thinking and mental discipline required of the game are attractive qualities in a variety of fields, they say.

Marko Zivanic BS’09, MSCS’10, PhD’13, who was born in Serbia, played six years on the team and was MVP of the 2008 Final Four. An international master in chess, he

earned a PhD in computer science last year. “I thought I’d better put my education to use,” he said, describing how he landed a position as a software engineer shortly after graduation. He is researching and developing financial software at Trintech Inc. in Addison.

Dmitri Shneider, an international master and Archer Fellow who graduated in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in finance, returned to UT Dallas this year for a team workshop on marketing chess mastery to potential employers. Shneider, who works for JP Morgan in New York as an equity strategist, says he landed his job in no small part because his interviewer “was aware of the skill and work that go into becoming an accomplished chess player.”



It was inevitable that UT Dallas’ perfect record in qualifying for the Final Four would end someday. That day arrived

with a loss to longtime rival UMBC in the final round in Lubbock. The team fell one game short.

Stallings and Milovanovic had devised a strategy they thought might counter the team’s third-place seeding and the unprecedented strength of top-ranked Webster. They added two grandmasters as alternates to their four-man, all-grandmaster lineup, allowing them to make substitutions and spell players after the tense four-hour matches.

The strategy proved to be doubly useful when, in the later throes of the event, several UT Dallas players fell ill with the flu. Still, the illnesses, a difficult road through the pairings and the strength of the rival teams added up to a rare seventh-place finish.

“One or two things go wrong in the right sequence and that’s all it takes in chess,” said Stallings. “The times that we won, it wasn’t as easy as it looked.” **UTD**

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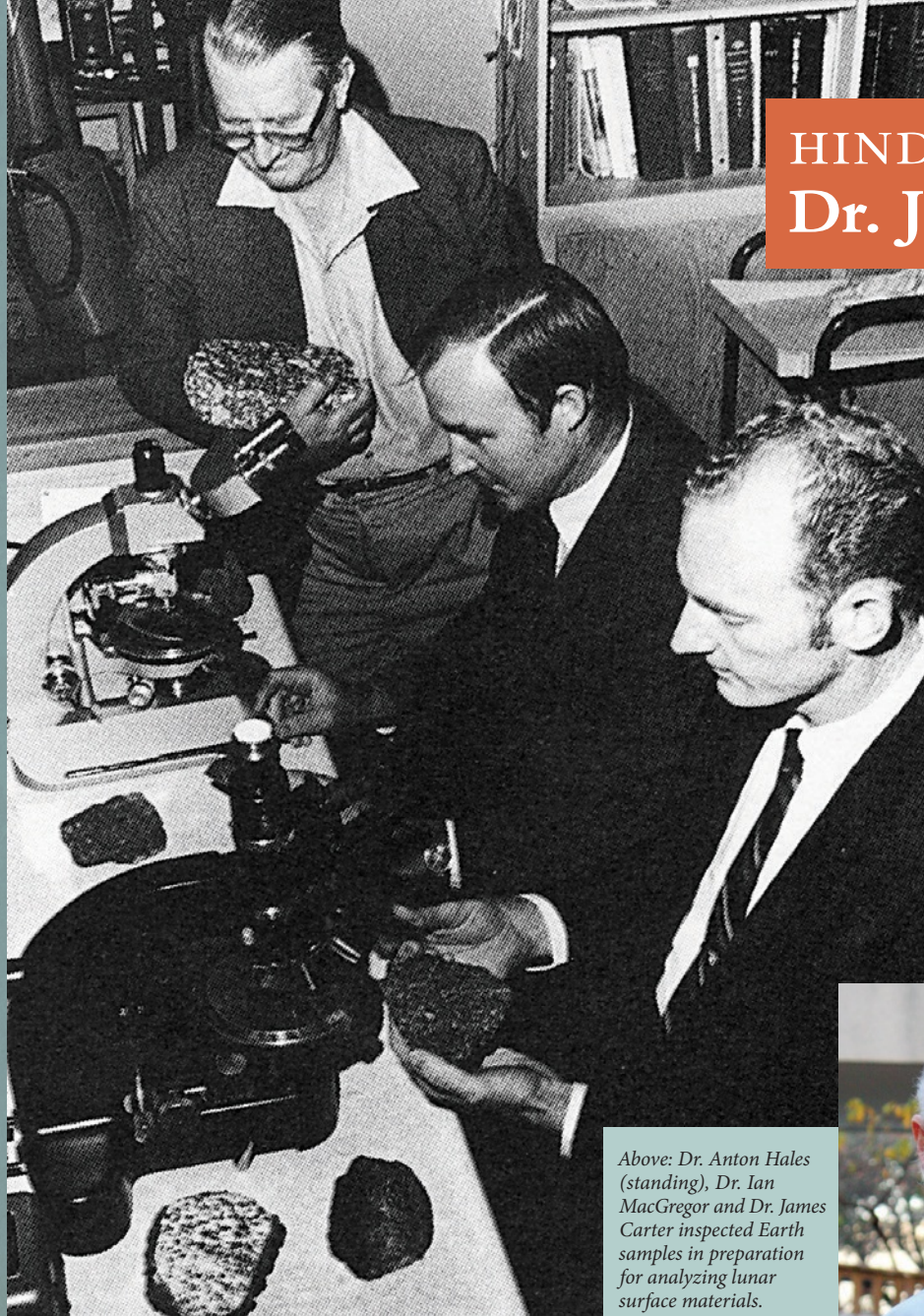
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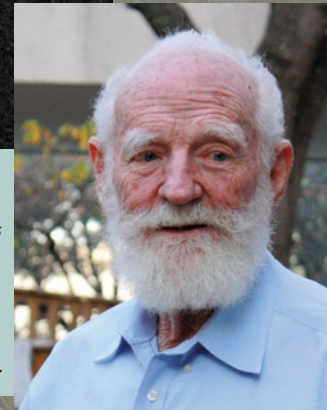
HINDSIGHT: Dr. James L. Carter

For 43 years, Dr. James L. Carter, associate professor emeritus, conducted research first at the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies and then at UT Dallas, taught classes in the Department of Geosciences, and led countless numbers of geology field camps. He is world-renowned for his expertise in “simulated lunar regolith,” which is virtually indistinguishable from moon dirt. He is also known for discovering and helping to excavate in Big Bend National Park the articulated neck of an *Alamosaurus*, which is displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.



Above: Dr. Anton Hales (standing), Dr. Ian MacGregor and Dr. James Carter inspected Earth samples in preparation for analyzing lunar surface materials.

Right: Dr. Carter in 2010.



“I came to UT Dallas as a research scientist in fall 1964, when the University was the Southwest Center for Advanced Studies. What brought me here was the opportunity to become part of a group of individuals who were working on cutting-edge science that had to do with the whole earth.

“I was intrigued by the nature of the people here and their vision. It had nothing to do with the physical structure that was here, as such, because it [Founders Building] wasn’t here. When I came and interviewed, Founders was nothing but a hole in the ground.

“One of the things that I personally like to see is for young students of all ages to develop critical thinking skills. They come to UT Dallas to look at things like these collections of specimens and get turned on to science, especially geosciences.

“Rocks always fascinated me. On visits to my maternal grandparents in Illinois, I had my parents stop along the road so I could look at the rocks and road cuts. Sometimes I might find a fossil — it was really exciting!

“Then I would go to the museums and look at the dinosaurs or specimens on display. But as a kid, it always bothered me to look at a specimen and not be able to see the back of it.

“So that’s why I’ve designed our display cases with mirrors. They allow you to see the front and back of the specimen at the same time. You can begin to appreciate nature and the rarity of such pieces. These pieces are very aesthetically pleasing. They’re nature’s art.”

Retired since 2007, Carter continues to be a presence on campus, curating and maintaining dazzling displays of geological specimens as well as an outdoor rock garden.

The display cases and rock garden were designed by Carter to provide 360-degree observation of fossils, gems and minerals from around the world.

While Carter, an inveterate collector, personally found and added to the department’s collection of several thousand specimens, much of it also was acquired through donations from businesses and individuals, such as the Zale Corp. and the family of John D. and Eva Watson Williamson.

To learn more about the University’s mineral, gem and fossil collection, visit utdallas.edu/geosciences.

A Whoosh Heard 'round the World



[Left to right] Ivan Sotelo BS'11, Jennifer Sotelo BS'10, MS'12 and Jacob Ramjeet BS'10, MS'11 do the Comet Whoosh in front of Park Güell in Barcelona, Spain. The couple has been friends with Jacob since meeting as undergraduate speech-language pathology and audiology students in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. The number of declared majors in the program has more than doubled since 2004, increasing from 127 students to 315.