



UT—In the Heart of Tampa and Spartans Everywhere

**AN ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN**

2006-07

Seventy-Five Years in the Heart of Tampa

This tagline was often repeated in 2006-07, as we marked the birthday of the University. The Oct. 5, 2006, opening celebration, and the April 15, 2007, closing festivities served as official bookends to the year, punctuated by a unique Chairman's Ball in November, and countless events, programs and commemorative memorabilia.



It also caused a collective pause, when we reflected on the University's humble start and the many stories of courageous individuals who risked much because of a dream of postsecondary education in the heart of Tampa. The dream lives on, from the 67 students of 1931 to the 5,600 enrolled this fall, from 12 faculty members to 450, and from the inaugural offering of 32 courses to the 3,000 offered today. It was a year of stories, reflections, and, perhaps most importantly, expressions of fondness for this enterprise, and the birthday theme did what all birthdays do: created nostalgia for the past and anticipation for the future.

In that spirit, let me share with you a brief look back at 2006-2007.

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Dr. James Harf (standing, third from left) director of international academic programs, spent three weeks traveling across Italy with a group of students. They saw the leaning tower of Pisa on their trip to Tuscany. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Harf.)



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13 faculty-led
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Transformation of the Academy

The academic reorganization of the University continued with the expansion of our college structure from two to four colleges. The College of Arts and Letters, the John H. Sykes College of Business, the College of Natural and Health Sciences, and the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education provide focused academic homes for our students. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, along with the four college deans and the deans for Graduate Studies and Academic Services lead the academy. Tenure and promotion processes were redesigned to

ensure uniformity and to improve the processes for faculty evaluation appeals. A new faculty senate structure was created to improve the faculty governance system and make it more compatible with the new academic structure.

The University also enhanced several programs this year, including the addition of a new Associate Dean for International Programs to strengthen the leadership of the many facets of our international efforts. In one area 13 faculty-led international study abroad programs took 255 students out of the country, and 20 more programs are planned for this year. New academic programs were launched, including a Master of Education Curriculum and Instruction,

Academic Successes

Expanding the Honors Program

The Honors Program now has 850 students participating in this demanding program. The program includes symposia, special education conferences, independent projects with faculty, internships, and exciting study travel courses such as "Andean Civilization and the Inca Legacy" (in Peru and the Sacred Valley of Machu Picchu), "Tropical Biology Conservation" (in the Galapagos Islands and the Amazon Basin), and "Nuclear Proliferation Nonproliferation" (in Japan).

Receiving Top Marks

UT remains ranked in the top tier of universities

by *U.S. News & World Report*. The John H. Sykes College of Business was recently included in the *Princeton Review's* "Best Business Programs." UT's Sport Management program achieved specialized accreditation from the North American Society for Sport Management and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Helping Family Businesses

The Entrepreneur & Family Business Program at the College of Business has been named the winner of the Family Firm Institute's 2006 Interdisciplinary Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the advancement of interdisciplinary services to business families. 



a philosophy major and a certificate program in nonprofit management. Financial services and operations systems was added as a major for evening students. UT's innovative first-year program added an element called "Great Ideas and Critical Thinking," as well as a customized *College Success* textbook and online tools to aid student development and success.

Most UT classes are taught by full-time faculty and approximately 90 percent have the terminal or highest degree in their field as we continue setting the bar high for faculty qualifications. Nine new full-time faculty positions and two dozen replacements or temporary full-time positions were filled for fall 2007. The full-time faculty to full-time student ratio is 1:15, and the average class size is 20 students.

The University also improved its ranking in *U.S. News & World Report's* list of best colleges in 2007. It rose from No. 36 to No. 22 on the list of the south's Best Master's Universities, which includes universities that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's programs but few, if any, doctoral programs.

An Engaged Campus Community

Excellent educational experiences begin with quality teaching and learning, and they are enhanced by engagement outside as well as inside the classroom. UT's campus life brings opportunities for student growth and development, and we have more than 5,000 student enrichment, life skills, leadership, safety and entertainment opportunities each year. More than 130 student organizations are available, and some of the new offerings include the UT Film Society, Up til Dawn (service club), Chabad Jewish Student Union, ultimate Frisbee, men's lacrosse, roller hockey and water skiing.

Approximately two-thirds of our graduates were involved in community service while at UT, and student and employee volunteerism totaled about 80,000 hours to 200 community organizations. This summer, the P.E.A.C.E. Volunteer Center sponsored its first international service trip working with Orphanage Outreach in the Dominican Republic.

Above, left: Junior Molly Murphy spends time with students at the orphanage in the Dominican Republic where she volunteered. (Photo by Casey Stevens.)

Above, right: Director of the Annual Fund Taylor Albertson Pinke (second from right, back row) volunteers with United Cerebral Palsy. (Photo courtesy of Taylor Albertson Pinke.)

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Two-thirds of our graduates say they were involved in community service while at UT.



Above, left: At the Women's History Luncheon this spring, UT student and event speaker Melissa Wadley (right) chats with fellow UT student Ivelys Vega (left) and Michelle Verrill.

Above, right: Senior Lisa Ladany tends to petri dishes under a protective hood, while Elyn Bender, her chemistry instructor, looks on.



Pioneers and Professionals

- UT made substantial progress in the area of Career Services with the number of campus interviews increasing and more employers accessing our HIRE-UT site for job announcements and resumes.

- UT celebrated women pioneers at the Women's History Month luncheon. Dr. Suzanne Hiebert, founder of UT's Women's Re-entry Program (which eventually became the Evening College) spoke to the past, while Maureen Rorech Dunkel, incoming chair of the Board of Trustees, and senior Melissa Wadley addressed the present and the future.

- Club sports were on the rise at UT this past year as new sports groups were established. UT now offers club sports level competition and fun in crew (men), lacrosse (men), roller hockey (men), ultimate Frisbee (women and men) and water skiing (women and men). 

Student athletes recorded many successes this year, including National Championships in baseball and women's volleyball, plus a Final Four appearance in women's soccer. Chris Catanach and Joe Urso were named National Coaches of the Year, and we had 15 All-American athletes in baseball, women's



Chris Catanach



Joe Urso

volleyball, and men and women's swimming. Even more important, UT's six-year graduation rate of all student athletes was an exceptional 96 percent, much higher than the national and conference average.

In addition, the National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA) recently ranked UT number 7 among Division II schools in its fifth Annual NCSA Collegiate Power Rankings. These comprehensive rankings are based on student athlete graduation rates, academic strength and

athletic performance. The institutions ranked are part of an elite group of less than 6 percent of colleges and universities in the nation.

Campus safety was on the minds of the country this spring, and we continued our strong commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment with a Campus Safety and Security Study Group, staff additions, technology enhancements and communication improvements. The "SMART/Spartan Mobile AlERT" text messaging service and an electronic panic button system were launched, and additional campus security officer personnel were added. UT's system for identifying "Students of Concern" was initiated two years ago, and a new "Silent Witness" program expanded our confidential reporting system to identify campus safety concerns or security improvement opportunities. AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) were also installed throughout campus and appropriate staff members were trained.

An Environment Conducive to Teaching and Learning

Part of the educational experience is designing spaces and investing in tools that advance learning. The new Cass Building science labs and classrooms opened, along

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Above, clockwise from left: The exterior of the newest residence hall, Stadium Center; its front desk and secure entrance for residents; and the dining area with an eclectic mix of concepts to choose from.

Above, right top: The West Parking Garage after its expansion.

Above, right bottom: Kennedy Place opened last fall, providing housing for 182 students.



with a modular Cass Communication Faculty Office facility. Technology improvements included additional computer labs (bringing the number to 33 on campus), increased lab hours, and expansion of our campus wireless network to more than 80 sites.

Kennedy Place residence hall and the West Parking Garage expansion opened last fall, and another new residence hall, Stadium Center, opened this fall to house 448 students. Stadium Center's dining facility has seven new food options: Dairy Queen/Orange Julius, Jazzman's, Panini's, Panache, Gourmet Grocer, Salsa Rico and Sedona Grill. UT's food program now offers great breadth of choice with 22 different venues on campus.

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Summer Projects Keep University Busy

While most students spent the summer away from campus, UT was not as quiet as one might think. The University had 36 individual projects under construction or completed this summer, including a new residence hall and a presentation center for the admissions office.

New Residence Hall

Stadium Center opened this fall, providing residences to 448 students. The residence hall features suites with a small living room and two double rooms that share a bathroom. Students will also have the use of a large community room with a TV and a kitchen on the second floor.

The center includes eight new dining options including a Dairy Queen/Orange Julius, Tex-Mex restaurant, a Gourmet Grocer and an Italian concept called Pandini's with its own pizza oven.

Admissions Presentation Center

The University also created a multimedia presentation center for the admissions office in the Riverside Center building, which will welcome prospective students and their parents. There they will meet admissions staff and receive an overview of the University.

Nursing Faculty Offices

Across Kennedy Boulevard from the main part of campus, UT converted nearly 6,000 square feet of leased space into offices for the nursing faculty. Near Stadium Center, the second floor space in the Cass building is being renovated and will support the communication department. It will be ready for use by the spring semester.

Plant Hall Renovations

Finally, one of the biggest renovation projects was to renovate space in Plant Hall for new offices to support the academic reorganization. Three deans moved into new offices for them and their support staff. 

Funding the Present, Securing the Future

Once again UT set a record for total student enrollment with almost 5,600 students this year, and for the 12th consecutive year, UT ended the year in the black. We are prudent stewards of our shared resources and are grateful for

the \$5.1 million in donations this past year.

As good stewards, we avoided a major property insurance crisis by joining a network of other schools, allowing us to maintain good risk coverage in a Florida insurance environment that has deteriorated and affected many companies. We completed a first ever

employee benefits survey of benefit awareness, attitudes, preferences and utilization to help understand employee perspectives and help the University to maintain market competitive benefits.

We are always looking for better ways to meet the needs of students, both traditional and nontraditional, who now represent almost 20 percent of UT's student population. It is part of our culture to seek excellence for all experiences, whether in or out of the classroom.

The Next 75—in the Hearts of Spartans

The last decade has been a stellar one for UT, and I am often asked "What's next?" The questioner is inevitably puzzled when I respond: "It is only the beginning." This fall alone we will see:

- Growth to almost 5,600 total students, with a targeted enrollment of 6,000 total students by about 2010;

- Class size averages that will be maintained at 20 students, and faculty/student ratios of 1:15;

- Improvements in student learning and academic success;

- Stronger college-community linkages;

- Continued construction on new communication academic spaces and planning for other forthcoming academic facilities; and,

- Launch of a comprehensive capital campaign (UT's second) to raise funds for these much-needed facilities, as well as for scholarships, academic programs, faculty support and the pursuit of educational excellence.

As we leave behind this tagline of "75 years in the heart of Tampa,"

I think the next tagline may read "75 years in the hearts of Spartans." Our common heart is this place, but as we become a national and international community of alumni, friends, and scholars, so do our hearts transcend the local community. Although we may spend relatively little time at UT, we take with us, to all parts of the globe, our shared values, experiences and memories.

Isn't it great that we had the unique opportunity to celebrate these 75 years? We can only imagine how much more significant UT will become in the lives of future generations of students we've yet to meet.

Here's to the next 75 years! 



Students mingle in the lobby of Plant Hall, where new carpet was installed last winter.

New and Improved

- A new 600-seat baseball stadium was opened and appropriately christened by the team, which won UT's fifth baseball national championship.

- The University and the Chiselers Inc. had the perfect holiday gift for their first love. Plant Hall received new carpeting on the ground floor lobby and hallways during the Winter Break. Brick tuck pointing and window replacement also continued on our grand historic building. 

Here's to the next 75 years!