



# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

**NOW**

AN ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN



STUDENTS COME FROM EVERYWHERE TO GO HERE . . . AND FROM HERE, THEY CAN GO ANYWHERE.\*



Last year was extraordinary as UT was buffeted by various challenges. We responded to a rapidly declining economy, to legislative attacks on the Florida Resident Access Grant and to many competitive, individual and personal challenges.

Competition in higher education continues to accelerate at a time when college enrollment growth has slowed nationwide and the economy has weakened.

But UT continues to thrive. This year we celebrated another record enrollment, bringing together a community representing 50 states and 100 countries. We started new programs and made numerous improvements to services, technology, facilities and other areas.

Most of all, our students and our graduates are excelling. For example, 10 students presented papers at national, regional, and state conferences, and our students competed at the Regional American Collegiate Moot Court Association. This year's group of 1,400 graduates reported a 94.2 percent success rate in their postgraduate plans, with a quarter of those planning to continue their educations in graduate school.

Because of the UT educational experience, our graduates truly can — and do — go anywhere.

*\*Quoted from the new UT promotional video at [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu).*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2007-08

Left: Dr. Thomas Jackman, assistant professor of chemistry (far right), teaches environmental chemistry and has significant experience in managing hazardous waste, water and wastewater.

Center: Senior communication major Andrew Klein interned for City of Tampa Television this summer, writing scripts, editing video and reporting on camera.

Right: The women's soccer team won their first Division II National Championship in fall 2007, after only 10 years of existence.



### Building on the Tradition of Faculty Excellence

Last year marked the completion of the academic reorganization project begun in 2004, resulting in a four-college system, accompanied by Graduate Studies and Academic Services. This reorganization provided the academic infrastructure that better supports the parallel growth of students and faculty.

There is new vigor in the academic ranks, and further commitment to strengthening UT's academic focus. Plus, we remain committed to building international competencies for students and exploring strategic partnerships with universities in India, China and Canada.

This year the faculty created more than 150 publications, as well as dozens of recitals, solo exhibitions and conference presentations.

Our innovative Gateways (GTW) program for first-year students continues to be one of our most innovative programs. This year faculty has chosen a theme — "GTW Goes Green" — that revolves around sustainability and complements several campus efforts to conserve resources.

### Gaining Momentum in the Co-Curriculum

Complete educational engagement calls for partnerships between the curriculum and co-curricular activities. One symbolic manifestation of this connection occurred this year when the Student

Activities Office changed its name to the Office of Student Leadership and Engagement (*see story page 3*). This new identity more accurately describes the intended outcomes of students and their activities.

Another co-curricular focus is on career services. With new offices and a full staff in the renovated Riverside Center, the Office of Career Services has the space and resources to guide students on internships and career paths. As such, recruiters on campus have increased and the Hire-UT system is gaining popularity among students and employers.

During this academic year, students, faculty and staff demonstrated their leadership and engagement in many ways, providing more than 80,000 hours of service to more than 200 community organizations.

### COMMITTED TO TOMORROW'S LEADERS

▲ The PEACE Volunteer Center registered 13,057 student volunteer hours, a 37 percent increase over the previous year.

▲ UT saw a 59 percent increase in participation in student leadership programs and a 72 percent increase in the number of freshman who participated in E.L.I.T.E., the first-year student leadership program.

▲ The Office of Student Leadership and Engagement offered its first leadership abroad trip, and 10 students traveled to New Zealand where they studied cultural leadership practices and styles.

*"There is new vigor in the academic ranks, and further commitment to strengthening UT's academic focus."*

— President Ronald L. Vaughn

### ADVANCES ARE ACADEMIC

▲ Criminology faculty obtained a grant from the Canadian Government to organize a conference in Mexico City on criminal justice policy in North America.

▲ Newly approved and launched or redesigned programs included public health, biochemistry, journalism, Asian studies and advertising/public relations.

▲ UT finance students won first place in the Global Investment Strategy Forum out of 257 universities from 69 countries with 2,300 other students.



An exciting new development was the President's Leadership Fellows program, which starts this fall. Each year 25 first-year students will be selected through a competitive process, and they will refine and expand their capacity to lead in a global society through participation in the four-year program. Those selected earn an annual \$1,000 scholarship.

Organizations provide a natural foundation for leader development. Counting all student clubs, teams and organizations, UT boasts 140 different opportunities for involvement and individual development. Twenty-three new student organizations registered this past year, including the Astronomy Club, Recycle UT, Forensic League Debate Society, Indian Cultural Association, Pre-Law Society, UT Public Relations Association and Women's Club Lacrosse.

Students also enjoyed on-campus events. Those with the largest attendance this year included a concert

in Plant Park, Greek Sing, Campus MovieFest and the Haunted House. There were more than 5,000 different programs offered in the residence halls.

The 2007-08 academic year marked expansion of the intramural sports program, with more than 2,700 students participating in more than 800 games. Club sports were active as well, and the fledgling Roller Hockey Sport club earned an invitation to compete in the collegiate national championships.

## Continued Excellence on the Playing Fields

Student athletes collectively posted a stellar performance this year, not only on the playing fields but also in the classroom. Their average GPA was 3.10, and the swimming and both the men's and women's cross-country teams had the highest team GPA in the country.

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## SPORTING SUCCESS

▲ UT had one of the nation's highest NCAA "academic success rates" as 94 percent of all athletes graduated.

▲ The Student Athletic Association (SAA) raised \$6,000 for the Make-A-Wish foundation.


▲ UT baseball, cross-country and volleyball coaches were all named coaches of the year.

▲ The winning tradition continued as women's soccer won a national championship, and women's cross country, soccer and volleyball, and men's baseball all won Sunshine State Conference championships.

## UT'S FUTURE

Our vision calls for UT becoming a model 21<sup>st</sup>-century metropolitan university. Key elements of that vision a decade from now include:

- ▲ A distinction for academic excellence
- ▲ Committed faculty and staff
- ▲ A medium-sized independent institution of approximately 6,500 students
- ▲ A curriculum to prepare students for contributions into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- ▲ Co-curricular programs that enable students to develop socially and culturally and build their values
- ▲ Support services and technology necessary to match the full range of teaching and learning styles

- ▲ Students who are fully engaged with academic programs, and the surrounding community
- ▲ Enhanced global cultural understanding with programs and activities
- ▲ A vibrant campus atmosphere and learning environment
- ▲ An institutional sensitivity to meeting the changing needs and expectations of students
- ▲ Focusing on continuous institutional evaluation and improvement
- ▲ A University that is well-connected to the community
- ▲ A sound financial structure derived from a larger endowment, prudent financial planning, and vigorous efforts to acquire the breadth of resources necessary. 



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2007-08

Students can grab a snack and do their homework on the first floor of Stadium Center, which is networked for wireless Internet and includes a café serving coffee drinks and pastries.



### ENHANCING THE EXPERIENCE

▲ Today the campus has 22 different food venues.

▲ Providing for the safety and well-being of all of the UT community continued to be a high priority in 2007-2008. Our campus security staff was expanded to 31, who serve campus 24/7.

▲ UT completed a new energy audit and continued with aggressive efforts to improve economic and environmental impacts.

### Strengthening the Learning Environment

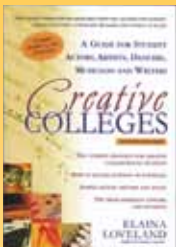
Part of the strategy for building the foundation for the future and for successfully engaging students today is to create the very best educational environment.

For the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row, UT ended the year in the black, which is a testament to the fiscal responsibility of all areas on campus. UT now has a budget of \$135 million, and almost 1,100 employees who are all strongly committed to our educational mission.

With the help of alumni and friends of the University, our development area had another strong year. To ensure sound management of the UT endowment, trustees and staff implemented a new investment management system.

Stadium Center, a residence hall with a first floor dining area and seven dining venues, opened successfully last fall. It's a popular residence hall for students and a convenient dining spot for the entire community. And it, along with 120 other areas of campus, supports wireless Internet access.

# UT Recognition



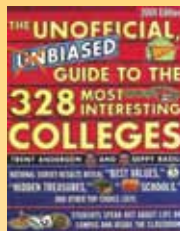
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**1.** *Creative Colleges: A Guide for Student Actors, Artists, Dancers, Musicians, and Writers (2008)* — UT is one of seven universities in the Southeast that is lauded for its creative writing program.

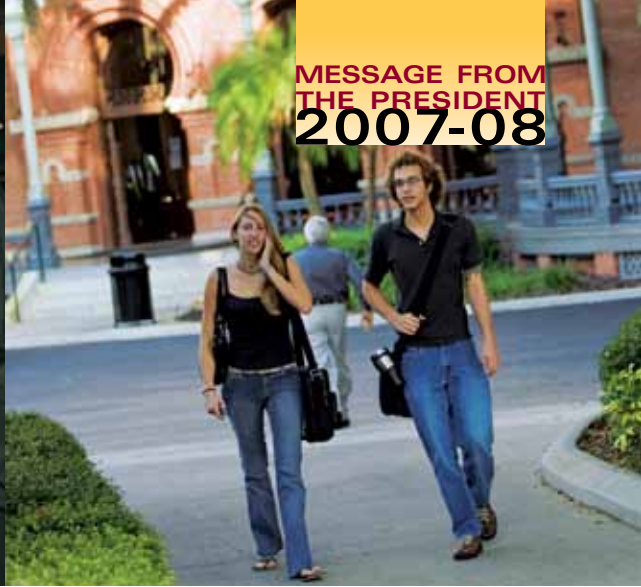
**2.** *Princeton Review "Best 290 Business Schools (2008)* — UT's John H. Sykes College of Business was named an outstanding business school — and one of the 290 best business schools in the world. UT students are quoted as saying that "teamwork and leadership skills" are "the focus of this MBA program," and that professors here "have a genuine interest in students' success and academic endeavors." Students also praise the "beautiful campus" with "state-of-the-art facilities."

**3.** UT is listed as 46<sup>th</sup> of 100 colleges that are "better than you think" in *Harvard Schmarvard (2003)*. A counselor is quoted as saying UT has an "unbelievable business building and a rapidly growing arts program."

**4.** UT is named in *The Best 201 Colleges for the Real World (2000)*. UT's Evening College, MBA program for working professionals and "culture without going through customs" were named as being among its unique features.

**5.** UT is "hot and trendy," according to the 2004 edition of *The Unofficial, Biased Guide to the 328 Most Interesting Colleges*. The "hot and trendy" list is based on responses from high school guidance counselors across the nation.

**6.** In 2007 UT was named to the **President's Service Honor Roll**, sponsored by The Corporation for National and Community Service, for its work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters, its days of service and its alternative break programs.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2007-08


The new Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values (see page 1), is a critical piece in the educational environment as it will provide a central space for students to develop holistically.

Administrative, academic and athletic spaces were upgraded as well, ranging from a renovation of the soccer field to moving Career Services to new offices in the Riverside Center. The next issue of the *UT Journal* will give you a glimpse of the amazing transformation of the Cass Science and Communication Building.

## Our Bright Futures

We are poised and ready to make the next giant step into UT's future. Already we're setting another record in enrollment — 5,800 students this fall.

It is clear that we must prepare for new challenges and remain focused on improvement efforts as we continue our commitment to providing an excellent educational experience for all UT students.

I believe the best days of UT are ahead of us, and especially ahead of the students who will be able to go anywhere and do anything because of the experiences they had at UT. 

Left: Construction will begin this fall on the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, and it is tentatively scheduled to be completed by January 2010.

Center: UT graduated a record 981 students this May in a ceremony at the St. Pete Times Forum.

Right: UT set records in enrollment as well, as more and more students are drawn by the beautiful campus and an increasing number of academic programs.

# n and Rankings


**7.** At the Redefining Investment Strategy Education (RISE) 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Global Student Investment Forum**, UT students who manage a \$150,000 university portfolio won first place in the 2007 student managed portfolio competition. The forum included students from 257 colleges and universities from 69 countries.

**8.** In the *U.S. News and World Report* annual ranking, **America's Best Colleges 2009**, UT is listed in the top tier in the category Universities — Master's (South).

**9.** In 2007 the UT student affiliates chapter of the **American Chemical Society (ACS)** received a commendable award from the ACS for its activities in undergraduate science education and in preparing the next generation of chemical professionals.

**10.** The Sykes College of Business is a member of the University Partnership Program with the **National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBA)**. The partnership provides select academic institutions an expanded pool of qualified Hispanic applicants for graduate business programs. NSHMBA is widely known as the "Premier Hispanic Organization."

**11.** The Sykes College of Business is one of only 19 private schools in the Southeast accredited at both the graduate and undergraduate levels by the **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International)**.

**12.** In 2007 UT's major in sport management was named an approved program by the **Sport Management Program Review Council (SMPRC)** and the **North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM)**. According to the NASSM, there are 221 sports management programs in the United States and of those, 48 have been approved by the NASSM and 50 by the SMPRC. 



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