

Frederic H Spaulding DR

UT University



PHOTOGRAPH
BY ALEX STAFFORD



FROM A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN
TO VISION
REALITY

IT'S FITTING THAT THE STREET WHICH RUNS THROUGH THE heart of UT's campus has now been renamed Frederic H. Spaulding Drive, in honor of UT's founder and first president. Spaulding gave his heart and soul to this institution in order to provide Tampa's youth with access to higher education, and ultimately, access to their goals and dreams.

Almost 85 years later, we're still giving our hearts and souls to fulfill the same mission. Our campus has transformed from one building to 58, enrollment has grown from 67 to 8,000, faculty started at 12 and now number 600, but we still are about the same thing — providing youth with access to a high-quality educational experience with rich dimensionality at a reasonable price.

The wonderful thing is that time and time again I see the outcomes of our work in fulfilling our mission. There are so many ways to measure educational outcomes, but many of our students get recognized nationally and internationally for what they learn in our classrooms and laboratories.

For instance, this year we've been following closely as two UT student teams advanced amongst 20,000 teams in the ultra-prestigious Hult Prize. This is a worldwide entrepreneurial competition, sponsored by the Clinton

Global Initiative, in which a student team will win \$1 million in startup capital to address early childhood education in the urban slums. One of our teams is one of six finalists and the only team from the U.S. (*see page 3*). The winner will be announced on Sept. 26.

Another student won a Fulbright Award as a language-learning assistant to English teachers in Indonesia.

Two communication students had their film premiere at the Short Film Corner at the Cannes Film Festival in May (*see page 4*).

And, a team of graduate students was awarded second place worldwide in the 7th annual International ERPsim Competition 2015, in which students had to demonstrate their ability of managing their virtual company with ERP sim, a real-life SAP enterprise resource planning system.

These are just a few of the recognitions that our students have received this year. I could list many more. These recognitions come only through the hard work of so many people in our educational community, all of which started with Frederic Spaulding back in 1931.

The following is a summary of our work in continuing to transform The University of Tampa and support students in their personal quests to reach their goals and dreams.

academics

WHILE ENROLLMENT RECORDS GIVE US CAUSE TO CELEBRATE, WE MUST ALSO ENSURE THAT INCREASED NUMBERS OF STUDENTS do not impact our educational experience. As a result, we have succeeded in adding a very talented and diverse set of 55 new faculty members to join us for this fall.

They will join an already talented and diverse group of scholars. Faculty scholarly productivity was high this past year with 189 books, peer-reviewed articles or book chapters published during the year along with 32 gallery exhibitions, performances or recordings.



And, as enrollments increase, we must ensure we are offering the programs that students — and society — need. A new undergraduate program in cybersecurity will be launched this fall and will be housed in our new Cybersecurity Center in the newly opened Innovation and Collaboration Building. The facility features two cybersecurity learning labs, additional faculty and technical staff members, the latest cyber software for protecting and managing information, as well as its own server network for students to work in actual, live cyber environments.

A new MBA concentration in business analytics

and a new minor in linguistics were also created. Counting all undergraduate and graduate programs, UT now offers over 200 academic programs of study.

Lastly, retention efforts remain a high priority. We're aggressively working on a broad variety of new initiatives to help students graduate and succeed, many of which center around our Academic Success Center.

At May commencement we celebrated the fact that nearly 10 percent of the bachelor's degree candidates had participated in a partnership with the Helios Education Foundation. Four years ago, the foundation provided UT with a \$1.3 million grant to develop a program focused on improv-



200

Academic programs of study offered by UT.

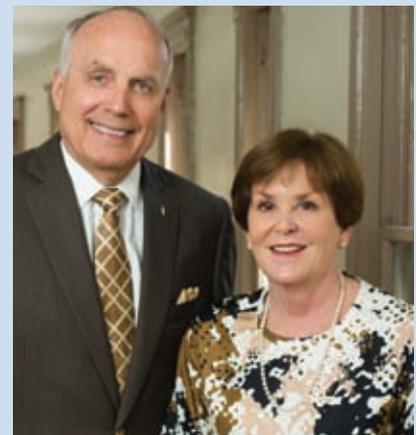
ing the academic success and persistence of students considered to be at higher risk of attrition. This was the first four-year cohort of Helios Scholars to graduate, which showed clear success in retention and which we intend to continue.

Our University, colleges and departments are regularly ranked highly in such publications as the Princeton Review, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Forbes*. But we were especially pleased when the MBA program in the Sykes College of

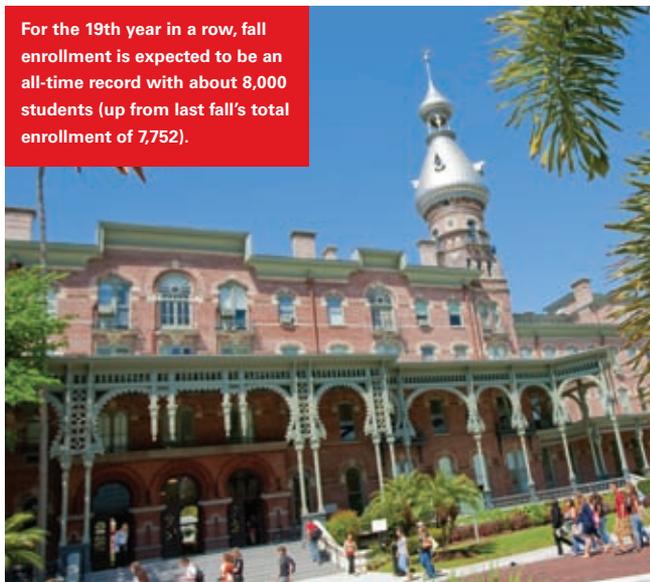
Business was named a best value nationally (No. 7 in the country) and ranked higher than the University of Notre Dame, Harvard University, Duke University and Ohio State University. The ranking was completed by GraduatePrograms.com, based on a survey of 10,000 business school students and alumni. In addition, UT's ranking was well covered by the local media, and the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* article was the third most read online story for the first half of 2015.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

WHEN I RECENTLY SPOKE TO FREDERIC Spaulding's son, who still visits campus regularly, he told me stories about growing up in Plant Hall ... and how UT still holds a special place in his heart. I think we all share that sentiment. UT is a unique place that, with your continued help, will serve generations to come. On behalf of my wife, Renée, and I, senior staff colleagues and the entire University community, we would like to thank the Board of Trustees, The Chislers, Fellows, Counselors, alumni, parents, as well as faculty and staff, for their help in building our great University. Thanks to all for your interest and support!



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enrollment

HIGHER EDUCATION NATIONALLY CONTINUES TO FACE considerable challenges due to the decline in the number of college-bound students graduating from high school. This national decline, along with more intense competition amongst colleges, are causing college and university enrollments to suffer. Once again, many institutions are not likely to meet their enrollment targets for Fall 2015.

Throughout this year, UT has continued to pursue its sound overall strategy and has strengthened the University's market position. We are fortunate to have a very good faculty and staff, an attractive campus with excellent facilities, a sophisticated enrollment effort and a strong marketing team that makes numerous strategic adjustments every year.

As a result, while we are a few weeks away from announcing our final enrollment numbers for Fall 2015, we appear to be on target for achieving our overall enrollment goal. For the 19th

year in a row, fall enrollment is expected to be an all-time record with about 8,000 students (up from last fall's total enrollment of 7,752).

Despite the challenging environment, we have been slightly more selective in recruiting students with better academic records. And, UT had a substantial waitlist of over 1,700, which reduces institutional enrollment risk and provides a quick start for student recruitment for the January 2016 semester.

Lastly, enrollment in our new M.S. in Exercise and Nutrition Science degree program has far exceeded initial estimates.

accreditation

WE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A SITE VISIT BY THE ACCREDITATION visit team for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) in February. This is a massive effort that occurs every 10 years and is also part of our ongoing improvement efforts. We will receive their final report in December but are very confident about the outcome.

As part of this effort, the University has submitted a five-year, \$1 million Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that focuses on the expansion of learning opportunities for our students through expanded undergraduate research and internship program initiatives.

Our first QEP, which started in 2006, focused on internationalization. It had the intended effect of making internationalization a prominent part of the UT student experience. While we already provide a thousand or so internship and research opportunities annually, our new QEP, "Learning by Doing," focuses on expanding and improving our inquiry-based experiential learning opportunities for students. We aim to infuse opportunities for research and inquiry-based internships throughout the undergraduate curricula. This program responds to what students and their families ask of us and what employers want to see — demonstrations not just of what one has studied or the grades one has earned, but what one can do with any of the many major fields of study students choose.

INQUIRY
LEARNING BY DOING
5-YEAR
\$1 million Quality
Enhancement Plan

During this past year we also secured official approval of our forensic science program's accreditation by FEPAC (Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission). Currently, only about three dozen U.S. universities have forensic programs accredited at either the Bachelor or Master of Science level.

I'm pleased also to announce that UT is amongst the first universities to gain ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certification, which is an internationally recognized best practice framework for an Information Security Management System. Major organizations worldwide, primarily in the corporate sector, have also become ISO/IEC 27001 certified. (For more information, see page 7).

Finally, the overall quality of UT's Study Abroad programs was recognized by being selected as a Generation Study Abroad Partner by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

recreation, fitness and athletics

IT WAS A BANNER YEAR FOR ATHLETICS AS UT ATHLETES BROUGHT HOME NOT ONE, BUT TWO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. THE UT baseball and volleyball teams, both perennial national powerhouses, brought home championships in convincing fashions.

The baseball team made a bit of additional history this year, as it beat the Philadelphia Phillies in an exhibition spring training game. UT now is only the fourth college team in history to defeat a major league squad.

UT teams have now won 15 national championships. But perhaps even more important, last year's first semester GPA for all student-athletes was 3.2, with volleyball and women's

cross-country leading the pack with 3.4 GPAs.

Campus recreation also had a banner year with 428 intramural teams comprised of 4,401 individuals. Additionally, more than 400 students were members of 13 club sport teams. We competed regionally and nationally in these club sports, and the ice hockey club team was nationally ranked in the top 10 this year.

The announcement

in April of the immediate construction of a new, 60,000-square foot fitness center was certainly the buzz amongst the campus community (see page 2). Completion of phase I is set for next spring.

Finally, while the city of Tampa introduced its bike rental program in downtown Tampa this year, UT's five-year-old free bike loaner program, BikeUT, grew by 56 percent to 4,051 loaners during the year.



UT won two national championships in 2014-2015 bringing the total to 15.

student affairs

DID YOU FEEL READY FOR THE REAL WORLD WHEN YOU GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE? WELL, NOW UT STUDENTS WON'T JUST be ready, they'll be "Spartan Ready." The Office of Student Affairs launched a new initiative as part of co-curricular learning to help prepare students for life after UT. Topics include work/life balance, creating your personal brand, conflict resolution, personal budgeting, financial literacy, customer service, cybersecurity, identity protection, diversity in the workplace, handling workplace stress and developing a professional presence. While the program is still new, we expect it to flourish.



Programs like this also support our efforts in making sure UT students will become employed after graduation. The Office of Career Services hosted eight job and internship fairs with a total of 432 companies and 1,900 students participating. More than 2,600 students also attended other career development programs embedded in over 80 classroom-specific programs.

Leadership programs also continue to be a major push

from the Office of Student Affairs. Last year, we offered 116 campus leadership development programs; this year, we added several more leadership programs, including the inaugural Walt Disney World Leadership alternative break program and the Bonner Leader Program, which included work at six area nonprofit agencies. Several existing leadership programs were also expanded to serve more students.

In total, UT students and employees are involved in

service each year totaling over 200,000 hours to more than 300 organizations.

UT's campus environment continued to be vibrant with almost 10,000 officially registered campus and community events amongst 224 student organizations, teams and clubs. We had about 30 newly registered student organizations this year, including the UT Gospel Choir, Pakistan Student Association and Spartan Investment Banking Organization. This year's popular Party in the Park featured musician Big Sean and drew a crowd of 2,775 students (approximately 36 percent of the entire student body).

Fraternity and sorority life grew this year with the addition of two fraternities during the 2014-2015 academic year, which puts us at 23 fraternities and sororities on campus. With five new fraternities and two new sororities approved for colonization over the next few years, our Greek organizations are expected to grow to 30 in the future. In addition to this organizational growth, our Greek student participation has increased by 12 percent.

The inaugural Greeks Give Back community service program contributed more than 300 community service hours at six locations throughout Tampa Bay. The program received the Outstanding Student Affairs Program for campus culture and was so successful that it will become an annual initiative.

facilities and operations

DURING 2015 WE COMPLETED OR HAVE UNDERWAY SIX MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. You'll read more about these stories in this and future issues of the *UT Journal*:

- 1 Phase I of Palm Apartments;
- 2 Thompson Building Expansion and Redesign;
- 3 Innovation and Collaboration Building (see page 3);
- 4 Kennedy/Boulevard Building
- 5 McKay Hall Renovation
- 6 The new Fitness Center (see page 2.)

And there's more to come. We acquired certain necessary real estate, updated and secured city approval for our new planned development and continued to plan for other near future projects.

This past year has also been extremely demanding for the University due to an explosion of new federal, state and agency regulatory requirements on such things as the Affordable Care Act, Department of Labor employee jobs reclassification, Title IX and the forthcoming Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which by itself has about 80 new areas of requirements.

Our Emergency Communications Group worked diligently this year to implement a new integrated emergency notification service that will more rapidly alert students in crisis situations. Student safety remains a very high priority on our campus, and

we continue to explore ways to better prepare for and communicate about potential threats.

And, if you haven't visited UT online recently, click over to www.ut.edu. This summer we launched a new UT website to be more appealing, to work more effectively on mobile devices and to provide an even better online experience.

Lastly, we marked another record year in fundraising. Our total of cash,

\$39 M

total of cash, planned gifts and pledges received

planned gifts and pledges received was about \$39 million. This is about double our previous high. You can browse a couple pages further in this issue and see the lists of individuals who share our vision for The University of Tampa.

UT's newest residence hall, Palm Apartments, opened in January.

