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PHOTOGRAPH  
BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

# EVANSCY AND XCELLENCE FOR THE FUTURE

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

AS PRESIDENT OF UT FOR 21 YEARS, AND HAVING spent many years in business and consulting before that, I know that even the most iconic, prosperous enterprise can decline overnight. That's why we work so hard, year after year, to ensure UT's relevancy and excellence into the distant future.

For example, on May 3, the morning's issue of the *Tampa Tribune* was to be its last. After 121 years of existence, one of UT's longtime friends and an unflinching supporter of higher education, passed into history. The *Tribune* supported UT during our founding in 1931 and over the years partnered in many initiatives, helped spread UT's good news and provided critiques when necessary.

In fact, in his book *A University is Born*, UT's first president, Frederic Spaulding, wrote that during the early years of the University the *Tribune*, as well as the *Tampa Bay Times* (then the *St. Petersburg Times*) "did not falter in their active interest in the growth of the college." In fact, Spaulding recalls that the *Tampa Tribune* published UT's first college catalog on credit, even knowing the University had no funds to pay for it.

I believe the *Tampa Bay Times* will carry on our area's outstanding journalistic tradition and will result in a strengthened and stabilized role of the media in Tampa Bay, which will benefit the entire community.

But what strikes me most about this situation is the fragility of even the most long-standing, exemplary institutions. What may have been a solid, profitable, prolific enterprise 10 years ago can easily become obsolete or redundant due to new technology, competition or due to the ever-changing habits and needs of the public.

It is a reminder that higher education is not immune to evolving economic, demographic, regulatory, and global challenges and realities. We as a university must constantly evolve, must take advantage of opportunities, must be a leader in higher education, must move deliberately and quickly when necessary, must follow best practices and must plan for the future to ensure UT's foundation is strong.

This is much of what the capital campaign, *Creating Tomorrow for UT and our World*, which we announced last year, strives to achieve. The goal of continuous improvement throughout our educational experience and enterprise is what we work toward on a daily basis, and I thank everyone who helps us reach our goals.

The following pages summarize our work over the past year in continuing to transform and strengthen The University of Tampa and support students in their personal quests to reach their goals and dreams.



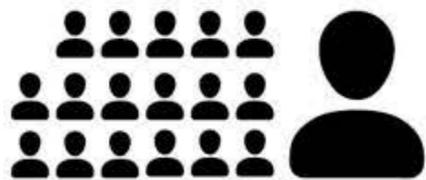
# academics

STUDENT SUCCESS CONTINUES TO BE A FOCUS AT UT, as we strive to help students thrive academically, graduate on time and achieve their academic and career aspirations. This year UT focused on its Academic Success Center to support student success and graduation.

As such, we added advisors to focus on incoming first-year students. We expanded our major exploration program to help students in their selection and research about programs of study, related careers and jobs. We added a new pre-professional advising program. We continued to broaden and improve our Helios Student Success and Retention program, which was implemented over four prior years with help from the Helios Education Foundation's \$1.3 million gift. And we expanded and improved our Students Overcoming Academic Roadblocks (SOAR) program.

We also began implementation of our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which calls for us to invest \$1 million over several years to expand and improve student internship and research opportunities. While we al-

ready have a robust program in both these areas, this QEP will provide students with even greater opportunities.



**1:17 faculty-to-student ratio**

In order to provide students with the academic experience that is so critical to their success, we strive to keep the student-faculty ratio low. As a result, we hired several dozen new and replacement faculty for the coming academic year. The quality of this new intellectual talent continues to be high. One new faculty hire of particular interest is the director for our new graduate physician assistant program that is in development for launch in the not-too-distant future.

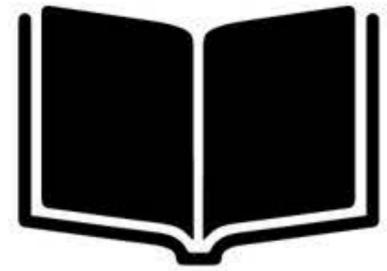
Current faculty scholarly

productivity was high this year with 192 books, peer-reviewed articles or book chapters published during the year along with 35 juried or peer-reviewed gallery exhibitions, performances or recordings. External faculty grant applications increased 16 percent, with total current grant awards of more than \$1.4 million.

Speaking of grants, the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center, located on the top floor of the Maureen A. Daly Innovation and Collaboration Building, received an Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation grant to study Tampa's entrepreneurial ecosystem. This grant is an important piece in studying how individuals and institutions interact with the Tampa Bay environment to facilitate start-ups.

We constantly evaluate new programs that students and society need. We now offer more than 200 programs of study. These include new programs that were developed this year.

- M.Ed. in Educational Leadership
- M.S. in Entrepreneurship
- B.S. in Business Information Technology
- Minors in Animation and Interactive Media
- Combined "4 plus 1" B.S. in Business and MBA degree
- Combined "4 plus 1" B.S. in Education and M.Ed. in Education degree



**There were 192 books, peer-reviewed articles or book chapters published, along with 35 juried or peer-reviewed gallery exhibitions, performances or recordings by faculty.**

The Lowth Entrepreneurship Center has become a popular spot for a variety of entrepreneurship and business-related programming, including student boot camps, speaker series programs and pitch competitions. In fact, in September the center hosted a watch party for the UT student team that was a finalist in the \$1 million Clinton Global Initiative Hult Prize in New York City. The team didn't win, but it set the standard for student entrepreneurial endeavors.

The center also announced that the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO), the largest and premier national organization devoted to collegiate level entrepreneurs, will now be housed in the center, giving UT students unprecedented access to entrepreneurship resources.

Lastly, we began operation of the redesigned Center for Teaching and Learning based on a faculty survey and a new strategic plan to enhance the favorable impacts of center activities on faculty, students, curriculum and educational technology.

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# enrollment

UT ENJOYED ANOTHER RECORD ENROLLMENT YEAR, AS WELL as our strongest academically entering class, despite the national decline in college-bound students and the intensifying competitive environment. We also continued to be on track for another record student enrollment for Fall 2016.

This year we stayed focused on our overall strategy and strengthened the University's market position in a variety of ways, including new and improved academic programs, expanded

co-curricular learning opportunities, a stronger academic profile of incoming students, enhanced campus atmosphere, new facilities, improved services, new international program op-

portunities, etc. Over this past year, UT's admission program became better and more efficient in many ways and more improvements were also readied for implementation in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Our enrollment marketing effort remained strong and continued to adapt to a variety of new challenges.

The Telecounseling Center handled record volumes of inbound and outbound phone calls (about 100,000 calls in total).

All of this leads to what I believe will be an outstanding new first-year and transfer class that is academically curious, diverse and eager to take advantage of all that UT has to offer.

## UT AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- UT won the 2016 Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization by NAFSA-Association of International Educators. UT was described by NAFSA as a "model for overall excellence in campus internationalization," and joined an impressive list of prior winners, including MIT, Yale University, Rutgers University, University of Virginia and Ohio State University.
- Our nursing students once again achieved a 100 percent exam pass rate on the first time of taking their licensure examination for registered nurses.
- The Princeton Review, once again, recognized the Sykes College of Business as one of the 295 outstanding business schools in the world.
- The Spartan ROTC unit received the 6th Brigade ROTC Award for highest cumulative GPA and STEM contracts in the mission category.
- The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship recognized UT as the 2015 Outstanding Entrepreneurship Program, and the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers gave UT its Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching.
- The Cybersecurity Lab achieved certification to the international standard for effective information security programs, similar to the certification UT's Office of Information Security received in 2015.
- UT's intramural sports program was named by [BestColleges.com](http://BestColleges.com) as one of the top 50 intramural programs in the nation.

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# athletics and campus recreation

WE CONTINUALLY STRIVE TO ENSURE OUR SCHOLAR-ATHLETES are as proficient in the classroom as they are on their playing fields. This summer we were notified that the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) selected seven Spartan swimmers for its Scholar All-America team. Our volleyball team had the highest team GPA in Division II nationwide. Additionally, UT placed 117 student-athletes on the 2016 Sunshine State Conference Spring Commissioner's Honor Roll, including three with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

All UT athletic teams were involved in community service, and athletes totaled more than 10,000 hours of service for 28 community organizations. They also raised \$30,000 for several community programs.

We successfully completed our formal NCAA athletics self-study that is done every five years. As part of this effort we made numerous improvements to support athletics, focus on athlete welfare, adhere to

NCAA guidelines and meet our own expectations.

The big news in campus recreation this year was that UT's Ice Hockey Program qualified for the first time to participate in the Division III National Championships and finished the season with a record of 25-6-1, plus one overtime loss.

**UT's Ice Hockey Program qualified for the first time to play in the Division III National Championships.**



# co-curricular learning

MUCH OF THE LEARNING AT UT IS DONE OUTSIDE THE classroom, and much of it reflects the topics and issues that impact our students as well as the broader local, national and global community. As such, several new initiatives provided important learning opportunities. These include One Student, which focuses on sexual violence on college campuses; Spartan Ready, which provides holistic student initiatives for career and life preparation; and various diversity training programs that benchmark our Title IX efforts.

UT's campus environment continued to be vibrant with more than 10,000 officially registered campus and community events held by the University and 229 student organizations, clubs and teams.

We tallied 29 new organizations this year, including the Digital Marketing Club, Bodybuilding Club, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Poet's Society, Spartans in Service, Special Olympics, Society for Collegiate Leadership and Achievement, Emergency Medical Service Club, Gospel Choir and Women Business Professionals Association.



Student Productions' annual Party in the Park continued to be one of the social highlights of the year. This year, more than a quarter of the entire student body

attended the concert in Plant Park, which featured country singer Hunter Hayes.

Fraternity and sorority life continued to grow this year with three new Greek chapters: sororities Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta, and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. UT now has 26 fraternity and sorority organizations (13 each) that comprise nearly 20 percent of our full-time undergraduate population.

UT once again offered a rich collection of hundreds of programs which contributed to campus' and Tampa's cultural life. These included the PNC Bank Concert Artist Series in the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values; the MFA Lectores Visiting Authors Series; musical and choral performances; art exhibits; a variety of dance and theater shows; and the Global Scholar Speaker Series.

A new partnership was formed with Tampa General Hospital to provide on-campus health and counseling services. Overall medical visits to the Dickey Health and Wellness Center increased by 11 percent this year, improv-

Three new chapters were added to Fraternity and Sorority Life, bringing the total to 26 organizations.



ing the overall health of the UT community.

UT continues to focus on career preparation and assistance for our students. Nearly 8,000 companies nationwide are now active on HIRE-UT. Additionally, 499 companies participated in

eight job and internship fairs and employer engagement programs, including the annual Etiquette Dinner and Fashion Show, the Elevator Pitch Competition, UT After Hours, as well as general information sessions and classroom presentations.

## SERVICE AT UT

UT remained heavily committed this past year to serving the broader Tampa Bay community and beyond. This important part of our service learning co-curricular experience speaks to UT's heritage of being started by community leaders as well as the importance we attach to developing responsible citizens. More than 300,000 student and employee service hours were provided last year to more than 300 community organizations, including these three examples:

- The PEACE Volunteer Center administered 67 community service events with 840 student participants and also hosted more than 100 students in eight "alternative break" opportunities, including at four Florida locations and projects in Atlanta, Tucson, Tennessee and Ecuador.
- Approximately 100 tax students assisted 700 taxpayers in a volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in cooperation with the IRS and United Way.
- Fraternities and sororities logged more than 10,000 hours of community service. More than 200 members contributed service to Tampa Bay in just one day.

# operations

IN NOVEMBER WE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY OUR \$150 million-plus campaign, which is designed to elevate the quality and breadth of education at UT. We initially had targeted \$105 million, but, due to the generosity of many donors over the past several years, that goal was surpassed. Today, the amount raised is about \$140 million, and we are still going strong. *See page 40 for more information.*

Many of the projects and new programs that I've written about in previous annual reports — such as the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, Jenkins Hall, the Dickey Health and Wellness Center and the renovation of the Martinez Athletics Center — were all achieved during the silent phase of the capital campaign.

In the last year, we set records with employee and alumni donor participation as well as in capital campaign donations. We raised more than \$21 million, including 100 percent participation by UT trustees. We also were able to announce the Spartan Challenge, in which an anonymous benefactor pledged to give \$1 for every \$2 raised, up to \$10 million.

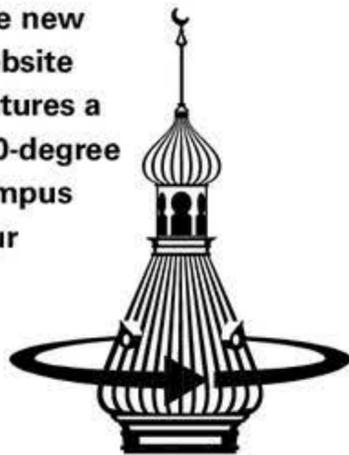


**Spartan Challenge:**  
an anonymous donor will match \$1 for every \$2 given, up to \$10 million.

If you haven't been to [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu) in a while, it's definitely worth a glance, especially if you haven't been to campus lately. The site was redesigned to look especially good on

smartphones and tablets, and features a 360-degree campus tour, live views from campus webcams and more.

The new website features a 360-degree campus tour



Also, the University received official notice that we have once again earned regional reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The decision was based on a self-study report and a three-day campus visit by SACSCOC

in early 2015. Accreditation is a critically important part of any university, and I'm

proud that we will continue this excellence that we've earned since 1951.

## TRANSFORMING UT

Much due to the continued success of the capital campaign, this year we continued to transform our living, learning and campus environment. We completed or had underway six major construction projects during the 2015-2016 fiscal year:

- The Maureen A. Daly Innovation and Collaboration Building, which was completed in September and named in March in recognition of Maureen Daly's commitment to the University. The new facility was lauded by many around the U.S., and there were more than 850 scheduled tours of the Lowth Entrepreneurship Center. A total of more than 6,000 community visitors were hosted in the new center since its September 2015 opening.
- The Fitness and Recreation Center, which was begun in early 2015, was completed in August.
- The remaining two wings of ResCom were demolished in May, allowing for construction of Phase II of Palm Apartments.
- The total renovation of McKay Hall was completed.
- Agliano Park, which surrounds on two sides the Daly Innovation and Collaboration Building and provides peaceful greenspace and seating areas, was completed and dedicated to the Agliano Family.
- Construction on the Kennedy/Boulevard Building, a new, two-story academic facility located at the corner of Kennedy and North Boulevards, is also underway.

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF MY WIFE, RENÉE, MYSELF, senior staff colleagues and the entire University community, we thank all members of the Board of Trustees, the Chiselers, Fellows, Counselors, alumni, families, friends, faculty and staff for your help in building our great University. As UT enters its 85th year of existence, we thank all of you for your interest and support!

