

On a dusky evening in May, the Susan and John Sykes Ars Sonora lit up the sky for the first time. The UT community looks forward to a grand opening this fall to celebrate the gorgeous new musical sculpture: a concert that will include performances with the bells.

Success Despite Uncertainty

UT continued to grow and transform with a higher-than-expected incoming class this past fall, while the Spartan Shield Health Safety Plan, steered by dozens of faculty and staff members in various work groups, kept us safe as we carefully navigated the pandemic this past year. Despite the challenging year, I can emphatically say that UT has had another purposeful, memorable, record-setting year with many positive outcomes, and that UT’s future is strong.

The following pages describe some of the efforts and the results of those efforts to make UT a model institution. If you haven’t been to UT in a while, you will find it an energetic, fulfilling place to be.



ACADEMICS

Building a top-notch faculty has been central in UT’s becoming a model university. As such we had a giant infusion of intellectual talent this year as we hired faculty for a total of 48 new positions.

Despite the pandemic, faculty were busy last year with over 800 scholarly opportunities that included faculty presentations (on and off campus), publications, expositions, performances, conferences and seminars conducted, as well as domestic and international study trips.

And students were busy with research too. A new Office of Undergraduate Research was formed to support incoming first-year students interested in research. The Spartan Undergraduate Research Experience,

or SURE program, was created in partnership with the First-Year Experience Office and Admissions to engage and prepare selected students for research and creative inquiry. They learned about research ethics, working with a research mentor, information literacy, insightful questioning, and bias in research. The students presented their research at the Florida Undergraduate Research Conference.

Academic program and curricular efforts continued with new undergraduate academic programs being offered in Environmental Studies and Data Science, as well as a new Executive Doctorate in Business Administration. The University also designed nine new for-credit graduate

certificate programs and has formed a regional partnership with SkillStorm to offer technology and cybersecurity noncredit courses and certificate programs to benefit the community and area corporations. All of these opportunities will be launched in the upcoming academic year.

After many pandemic disruptions, we have reconnected with the globe in our international studies. This year we signed bilateral exchange and direct enrollment agreements with six partner institutions to facilitate more accessible study abroad opportunities for students. We welcomed 168 new international degree-seeking students this past year and organized more than 65 globally focused campus events.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

The Fall 2021 enrollment class was another all-time record of student enrollment with 10,794 total students, a 12% increase over the prior year.

Nonetheless, the student recruitment cycle for the Fall 2022 incoming class has once again been extremely challenging and unpredictable. Continued uncertainty in student behavior, increasing inflation, and the expanding impact of the Ukraine conflict have all severely limited the predictability of student enrollment behavior. As was the case for the past two years, there is little data that enables reliable projections with respect to student behavior and enrollment predictions.

Despite these difficulties, Admissions and Enrollment Management has met UT goals for the number of students expected for Fall 2022. Other enrollment successes and accomplishments for this past year include the following:

- Despite lingering pandemic concerns, Admissions successfully resumed in-person open houses. Attendance re-

bounded to mirror student attendance prior to the beginning of the pandemic.

■ Due to consistent, segmented marketing efforts, along with utilization of predictive modeling, the University had a huge volume of undergraduate applications (about 45,000) which caused a record-low acceptance rate of 26% for the Fall 2022 entering class of students.

■ The Office of Admissions implemented a permanent SAT and ACT test-optional policy with the approval of the Admissions Policies Committee. This policy helps to break down barriers to admission for many first-generation and underrepresented students.

■ UT named Mike Hendricks, Ed.D., previously vice president for enrollment management at Furman University (SC), as vice president of strategic enrollment planning. At UT, Hendricks will oversee all of the University’s enrollment management activities, including financial aid, registrar and outreach efforts for undergraduate and graduate enrollment.

RANKINGS AND RECOGNITION

■ UT has again been named by the Princeton Review as one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education.

■ The Military Science/ROTC program was once again honored with the prestigious MacArthur Award, given only to eight ROTC units in the country.

■ UT received recognition as the safest college campus in Florida, and the 19th safest college campus in the U.S. The ranking was compiled by [YourLocalSecurity.com](#).

■ UT’s part-time MBA and master’s degree in nursing were named as two of the best programs in the country in the 2023 edition of “Best Graduate Schools” by *U.S. News & World Report*.

■ UT’s Department of Education received the 2021 Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). UT is one of 26 institutions that were recognized this year by CAEP for their leadership and commitment to continuous improvement in educator preparation.

■ In March, Nneka Jones ’20 won the “Best of Show” top prize in the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts. Jesse

Goldstein ’23 also won the Gasparilla Art Collegiate Scholarship award.

■ Austyn Keelty ’23 has helped hundreds of students prepare and present speeches in the three years she’s been a tutor in UT’s Center for Public Speaking. This April, her skills and dedication were honored with the National Association of Communication Centers’ (NACC) National Tutor of the Year award.

■ Bridgette Froeschke, associate professor of biology, was named the 2022 Faculty Mentor of the Year by the Florida Undergraduate Research Association (FURA).

■ UT was recognized again by PhiTheta Kappa’s 2022 Transfer Honor Roll as one of only 171 colleges to receive this prestigious honor that acknowledges excellence with transfers. Note that about 48% of all college students transfer at least once during their undergraduate college years.

■ Videos about the Ars Sonora, produced by Round house Creative of St. Petersburg, FL, earned four gold awards in February at the American Advertising Awards competition for Tampa Bay for webisode series, branded content, cinematography and video editing. They also received the judge’s choice award. View the videos at [ut.edu/arssonora](#).



Students participated in Greek Week in March. Greek Week emphasizes wellness and service as students raise money for charity through competitions and educational events.

STUDENT LIFE

The Office of Student Affairs continues to implement the Spartan Ready™ framework for the division's strategic focus as part of UT's priority to better prepare students with life skills important to career and life success. For instance, we had nearly 1,600 students working on campus with 300 campus supervisors, gaining the skills necessary for life beyond UT. Despite the pandemic, Career Services programming and individual appointments touched nearly 9,300 students and alumni via in-person and virtual services.

Following a hiatus due to COVID-19, UT Fall Weekend was held in Fall 2021, and 2,193 family members and guests participated, an increase of 7% from Fall 2019.

Student Productions hosted 60 engagements which included off-campus trips, stage shows, and DIY events. Of

note was Party in the Park, which had 3,500 ticketed attendees, a record.

Fraternity and Sorority Life was busy this past year, with over 1,616 students actively representing 18% of student enrollment that are involved in UT's 25 sororities and fraternities.

Residence Life continued to support an on-campus residential community of 4,800 residents including a nearly full Barrymore Hotel residential community. Resident assistants conducted over 14,000 Spartan Chats (intentional conversations) during the year. These student staff members met individually with their residents to build relationships, reflect on their academic journeys, and learn about their residential experiences. The staff also worked closely with off-campus housing options, and assisted the incoming class in securing safe and affordable housing.

Six of UT's 27 club sports competed at the national level: roller hockey, women's soccer, men's ice hockey, golf, men's volleyball and wrestling. UT's hockey teams had an extraordinary year with the top men's team being ranked No. 1 for most of the year.

Maggie Palmore '24 became the 2022 NCWA National Wrestling Champion, making history as UT's first national champion wrestler.

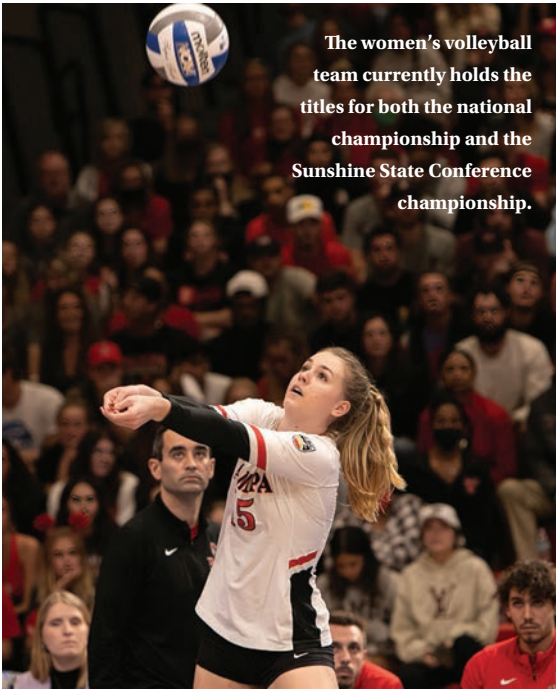
The Academic Success Center supports learning skills, tutoring, student skill development, and success in a variety of ways, and the staff recorded 18,844 in-person interactions with 7,145 unique students. Likewise, the Spartan Support Program helped to build personal resiliency and supported students and faculty through challenging individual situations, identifying nearly 700 cases.

ATHLETICS

Intercollegiate athletics had a tremendous year. With more than 600 student athletes on 20 NCAA teams, the Spartan athletic program is the largest in the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) by over 100 athletes. UT student athletes' cumulative grade point average was 3.25. Female student athletes set a new academic record with a grade point average of 3.5.

It was a banner year for national championships, as the women's volleyball team and the men's lacrosse team both won their respective national championships. Additionally, men's baseball, lacrosse and soccer, and women's basketball, lacrosse and volleyball won SSC championships.

Together, the student athletes participated in seminars to learn about drug and alcohol abuse, nutrition, job searching, dealing with stress and financial literacy. The Student Athlete Advisory Committee had record participation and raised over \$3,000 for holiday gifts for students in need and the Let's Make a Wish Foundation. Together, student athletes accumulated 6,000 hours of community service.



The women's volleyball team currently holds the titles for both the national championship and the Sunshine State Conference championship.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Thomas Witherspoon, chief diversity officer, shared remarks at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event in January.

This year the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion launched despite the global pandemic. The office opened after a thorough internal review of diversity, equity and inclusion and focused on educational equity, collaboration and advancing inclusivity. This approach has been well received by the campus community. There are many examples of this work in progress, including Lunch & Learns spaces, inclusion skill-building workshops, History and Heritage Month programming and Legacy Round Tables, a program built out of the Intergroup Dialogue Model, a social justice education program that fosters dialogue at an intergenerational level. There are many requests for individual consultations and trainings for departments and organizations, as well as substantive collaborations that have formed in a short period.

The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) reported in October 2021 that voting by students at UT increased by 41% in 2016. The increase in student voter turnout was likely partly due to a campus-wide initiative led by the nonpartisan ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge coalition that aimed to increase both student voter registration and student voting.



UT celebrated the grand openings of two new buildings in the spring and is preparing for two more opening events later this fall.



The Technology Building will house programs in computer science, business analytics, cybersecurity and more.



This year's Give Day saw giving increase 73% from last year.

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

On April 1, 2022, we celebrated the grand opening of the Ferman Center for the Arts (the celebration was delayed due to COVID-19). This center was designed to transform the creative arts for both UT students and the Tampa community. Hundreds of people attended, although they were spread out in smaller groups as they enjoyed performances all over the new building.

A month earlier, Benson Riseman '78, along with his family and more than a hundred faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, gathered to watch the unveiling of the new name on the fitness center: the Benson Alex Riseman Fitness and Recreation Center. This facility makes possible a new level of individual, intramural, and club sport activity: the center had 172,730 visits this past year, with a weekly average of 5,801.

We broke ground on the construction of a new, 10-story multipurpose

building on campus that will be UT's largest building with about 460,000 square feet. The building is set to have three distinct components: a residence hall that will house 607 students, primarily incoming students; academic and student support, including approximately 40 faculty offices, five classrooms, study rooms, a study lounge for veterans and spaces for the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, UT's Institute for Sales Excellence and the International Programs Office, as well as parking for approximately 450 vehicles.

The Technology Building is set to open this fall. This building will house many academic programs related to information technology with state-of-the-art labs and audio-visual equipment. The building will also be a hub for UT's Information Technology and Security (ITS) organization and will provide a service desk to assist stu-

dents and the campus community with various diagnostic and service needs. A newly formed Advanced Digital Literacy Center will also be housed in the building and will offer regular educational programs, modules and certificate programs to elevate campus technology knowledge, skills and applications.

Construction of the Ars Sonora has been underway for several months. It will be the most technologically advanced bell tower of its kind in the world, because its bells can be played in real time by a musician using an electronic piano keyboard. The Ars Sonora will also be the first of its kind in the U.S. The structure, generously funded by Susan and John Sykes, will be part of the new Sykes Plaza next to the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values. The bells are expected to be playing on campus this fall. A fountain has also been built around the base of the Ars Sonora.

TECHNOLOGY

The University's technology infrastructure continues to improve to support teaching and learning. We have continued to exploit the capabilities of Workday, UT's cloud-based institutional software platform, including final implementation of the Human Resources benefits module.

We are reaching the world through social media platforms. The total audience includes 211,972 followers on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok. A new YouTube channel was launched that carries live broadcasts of most events taking place in the Charlene A. Gordon Theater in the Ferman Center for the Arts.

FUNDRAISING

We achieved new gifts and commitments totaling more than \$20 million, representing a 7% increase over last year. The average amount of gifts increased from \$7,589 to \$9,558. For the fourth straight year, annual giving surpassed the previous fiscal year (by over 65% this year).

This year saw another record-breaking Give Day with a 73% increase over the prior year's record to reach a total of \$1.09 million. We engaged 20 "minaret climbers" to help raise funds through their personal networks including Board of Trustee members, alumni, Alumni Board members, Board of Fellows, Board of Counselors, friends, faculty and staff to support student scholarships and programs.

The Momentum UT Campaign Steering Committee and Alumni Campaign Steering Committee were formed and have been very active during quarterly meetings, and in between they have been making personal capital campaign gift commitments as well as making new prospect referrals. This referral program will allow for the expansion of new and engaged donors and has already led to some new first-time donors. During the early "quiet" phase of UT's third comprehensive capital campaign, we have raised about \$58 million in gift commitments.

Finally, we are proud that we have prudently managed University resources and once again ended this year in the black for the 27th consecutive year.



UT President Ronald Vaughn and First Lady Renée Vaughn

THANK YOU

UT, once again, had a great year in which our achievement and progress was unbelievable. We thank all Trustees, Chiselers, Fellows, Counselors, alumni, UT faculty/staff, students, parents and friends for their help and support!