

Vision Becoming Reality

When the Susan and John Sykes Ars Sonora® and Sykes Plaza were dedicated last fall, a 25-year vision focused on enhancing student character and value development came to fruition. Despite ever-evolving trends in higher education, financial realities and other initiatives, we stayed true to this project, and this speaks to our larger mission of providing an exceptional learning and living environment for students. Our goal of educational excellence through continuous improvement — making

UT better in every way, every year — was also bolstered this year by the openings of two new buildings, the launch of new academic programs, the groundbreaking of UT’s biggest building, and the continued support of UT’s most valuable asset — its people.

The following pages describe some of the efforts and the results of those efforts to make UT a model institution.

A drone s eye view shows a peaceful UT campus with the Susan and John Sykes Ars Sonora® and Sykes Plaza in the foreground.



ACADEMICS

Building a top-notch faculty has always been a high priority for UT and is predictive of its future. We had an infusion of intellectual talent this year as we hired 27 new faculty. UT now has almost 500 full-time faculty and instructional staff plus part-time faculty. Our successful faculty hiring efforts keep our full-time student ratio at 1:17 and our average class size at 21 students. Accordingly, we completed a full compensation review for faculty (and staff), and have steadily increased UT's investment in faculty development programs.

Many of the new faculty members support several new academic programs

that will begin to be offered this fall term. These include a bachelor's in health science, a master's in athletic training, and a new online delivery of the master's in education. UT also implemented a partnership with SkillStorm, a tech talent accelerator that hires, trains, certifies and deploys IT talent in the most in-demand technology fields.

We have continued a focus on improving student retention and graduation success. To this end, we now have a new Advising and Student Success Center and a new Transfer Center housed in the Jenkins Health and Technology Building, and a new Mathemat-

ics Center — to help students master mathematics — is in the works.

UT also increased opportunities for students to engage in high-impact learning experiences, such as faculty/student research projects. We are committed to increasing the number and quality of these professional-level learning experiences.

Lastly, UT announced Spartan Studies, which is a revamped and reimaged general education curriculum. The curriculum is spread over four years, and the goal is to prepare students to be successful, contributing members of the global community.

ENROLLMENT

We had a strong enrollment year with 10,566 total students. These students presented a very strong academic profile: the entering class boasted an unweighted 3.5 overall GPA and an average SAT of 1190.

In order to maintain this success in a competitive higher-education space, we have implemented a variety of new admissions strategies and tactics to keep UT enrollments strong for the future. As such, our Fall 2023 enrollment is on track to be between 10,700 and 10,800 students. We are also expecting an improved academic profile for Fall 2023 to a 3.6 average GPA and an average SAT score of about 1200.



Rankings, Recognitions and Certifications

UT has been consistently ranked among the finest institutions in the country for many years. These rankings include being on the *Forbes* list of top colleges and being listed as one of the best institutions for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review. UT is ranked as a top-tier regional university by *U.S. News & World Report*; was recognized for our outstanding business school for the 17th year by The Princeton Review; and is regularly featured as a "military friendly school." Here are a few more honors and recognitions to celebrate:

- *U.S. News & World Report* cited UT as one of the most innovative colleges.
- UT's nursing program was highlighted as one of the best private nursing schools nationwide by the Nursing Schools Almanac. On a related note, UT's NCLEX nursing licensing exam first-time pass rate last year was 23 percentage points higher than Florida's statewide average passing rate. UT's NCLEX passage rates have surpassed national and state trends for more than a decade.

- *Washington Monthly* highlighted UT as a "Best Bang for the Buck" college and as a "Best College for Student Voting."
- UT was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. This designation augments UT's classification as the only university in the nation with two prestigious international ISO certifications in information security (ISO/IEC 27001) and business continuity management systems (ISO/IEC 22301).
- *Bloomberg Businessweek* ranked UT's graduate business school No. 79 in the world.
- UT's Sykes College of Business part-time MBA was named by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the best programs in the country.
- *CEO* magazine recognized UT as Tier One in North America for its MBA Program and ranked UT No. 33 for its global executive MBA programs.

STUDENT LIFE

Career preparation is always a priority at UT, and the number of Career Services job placement events increased to 230 this past year, serving more than 2,300 students. Career Services also provided 19,252 internship opportunities for students (many were local opportunities, but regional and national opportunities were also provided).

There were 59 student organizations added this year for a total of about 315 student clubs, teams or organizations.

In the second year of the family online orientation program, the Office of Orientation and Family Engagement implemented an assessment component for participants. As a result of attending the family online orientation program, 93% of participants stated that they felt prepared for their student's first semester on campus. The participants also stated that the family

online orientation program allowed them to develop an understanding of the academic resources available for their student's success (90%) and resources that are available to help support their students (92%).

Resident Assistants (RAs) conducted over 12,000 Spartan Chats (intentional conversations) during the 2022-2023 academic year. RAs individually met with their residents four times throughout the academic year to build relationships, reflect on their academic journeys and learn about their residential experiences. Themes from the chats were collected and reviewed by professional staff to guide programming and development of educational materials.

Student care and advocacy services continued with many programs to enhance student wellness, mental health and general well-being.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



In alignment with UT's commitment to diversity, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion focused on visibility, developing new systems and structures and expanding its reach within the UT community. This was achieved by developing the UT History and Heritage Months Committee. This committee provides university-wide programming and education that celebrates and honors UT's diversity. Additionally, we launched a multiday pre-orientation program for first-year and transfer students; an educational diversity training series for all community members; affinity spaces for faculty and staff; a comprehensive bias reporting system; and the Spartan Inclusion Team, an ongoing working group to ensure that UT is actively working toward the inclusion of all staff, faculty and students. This year, more than 3,000 community members participated in DEI programming and spent over 2,000 hours advising students and diverse student organizations. Also, we launched a new vendor registration process that led to a 159% increase in minority-owned business vendor utilization.

ATHLETICS

UT's varsity teams performed well this year and achieved post-season NCAA invitations in women's basketball, baseball, softball, men's soccer, women's and men's lacrosse, women's cross country, men's and women's swimming, men's and women's golf, and volleyball. In addition, beach volleyball won its third AVCA Division II Small College National Championship.

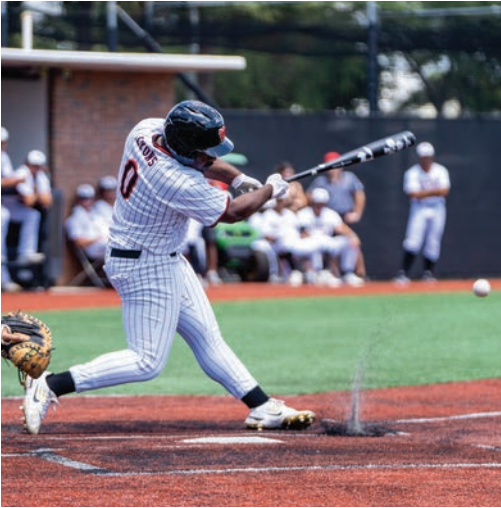
UT student-athletes also performed well in the classroom, as the average of all team GPAs was 3.298. The women's volleyball team had the highest team GPA of 3.7, followed by women's soccer, tennis and beach volleyball with team GPAs of 3.6.

The baseball field received a major upgrade with artificial turf, and the turf covering the lacrosse field was replaced this year.

UT now has 28 club sports with 1,240 student participants. Eight of those teams traveled to compete at a nation-

al level. Last spring the men's golf club won the National Collegiate Club Golf Association (NCCGA) national championship, beating club teams from the universities of Florida, Virginia and Michigan, as well as Ohio State University, Clemson University and Arizona State University. One female swimmer tied for first in the 100-meter freestyle in the College Club Swimming national championship. Both men's and women's hockey were undefeated in regular season play but lost in the semifinals of their championship tournaments. I am excited to add that for the 2023-2024 season, the men's hockey club has been moved up to Division 1 of Amateur Athletic Union College Hockey, along with club teams at the universities of Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina and Auburn University.

UT's intramural sports program was also successful, with 3,222 participants making up more than 390 teams.





OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES

I am proud to report that UT ended its fiscal year financially in the black, as has been done every year since 1995. Long-term debt reduction continues on an annual basis. This year, we reduced our long-term debt by about \$5 million, and over the past three years, our reduction of long-term debt has totaled \$15 million. Fitch Ratings noted UT's strong fiscal management and increased UT's bond debt rating from "A-" to "A" with a "stable outlook."

The University's ITS operations moved to the Jenkins Health and Technology Building with no downtimes in network operations. The new building also boasts a one-of-a-kind Advanced Digital Learning Center which helps students to become more digitally literate. In its first year of existence, the center conducted more than 1,000 sessions with 20 guest speakers and 32 types of programs.

A new faculty/staff Information Technology Training Center also opened this past fall to advance employee skill levels and improve work efficiencies. This new center is a big help for UT operations, which are becoming increasingly technical and complex.

Several newly completed buildings were celebrated, resulting in much-improved student and faculty learning environments. These included:

■ **Benson Alex Riseman Fitness and Recreation Center.** The center boasted a total number of 193,412 visits this year (126 more visits than the prior year) for a weekly average of 6,447 visits. Additionally, 444 group fitness classes were held during the same timeframe.

■ **Jenkins Health and Technology Building.** These two six-story buildings total almost 200,000 square feet and house the nursing and physician assistant medicine programs, as well as many academic programs related to information technology and cybersecurity.

■ **Susan and John Sykes Ars Sonora® and Sykes Plaza.** Soaring over 105 feet high in the center of campus, UT's Ars Sonora is the biggest in the world and the first of its kind in the U.S.

Groundbreakings also occurred this year:

■ A new **chiller plant** on the north tip of campus will provide chilled water capacity for the several new buildings that are in UT's campus master plan. This plant will be operational this fall.

■ We also broke ground on a new multipurpose building, which is now called **Grand Center**. This project includes housing for more than 600 students, parking for about 450 cars, and room for classrooms, faculty offices and several student support programs. The building will also feature UT's second full Starbucks location.

■ We began work on UT's 29th food venue by beginning construction of Aussie Grill by Outback, located in Morsani Hall.

Lastly, a new campus master plan has been developed, which looks at least a decade into UT's future. Planning is now underway for future facilities, including a new Science Building and the Morsani Honors College Building.

PHILANTHROPY AND UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

We made continued progress with UT's third comprehensive capital campaign. More than \$102 million has now been raised, and, of course, our campus work is just beginning.

We raised a total of \$26 million to form the Leadership Endowment Challenge to inspire other donors to try to match these endowment gifts for scholarships and program support. And Give Day had another successful year with more than \$1.1 million pledged.

The Janet R. Matthews Ph.D. Endowed Chair of Psychology, which was established in 2019 by Lee Matthews '67 in honor of his wife, Janet '66, named its inaugural recipient this year: Stephen Blessing, UT professor of psychology who has been a faculty member since 2004. This is the first endowed chair in UT's history to be named after a UT alum and the first endowed chair outside the Sykes College of Business.

The University also realized a great deal of publicity as President Joe Biden visited campus in February and spoke to a group of students, faculty, staff and VIP guests in Fletcher Lounge. News and photos about the visit landed on more than 1,750 news sites worldwide.



THANK YOU

Thanks to our trustees, donors, alumni, faculty, staff, students, families and friends of the University for help in building a great University!