



# BUILDING A GREAT UNIVERSITY

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

OFTEN I AM ASKED HOW THE CHALLENGING NATIONAL AND GLOBAL economy has impacted The University of Tampa. Fortunately, I have good news to relay. Admissions numbers are up, we're still hiring faculty and staff, we're adding new programs and financial support remains solid. The bottom line is, we continue to change lives and build the next generation of leaders.

But, it's not as easy as it might sound. Due to the weak economy, continuing family financial pressures and increased competition, we are forced to be especially creative, thoughtful, strategic and nimble. Just like any business, we have to respond to market changes, and fortunately, we have administration, faculty and staff, as well as supporters, who are helpful and committed to our goals.

I firmly believe the best days for UT are still ahead, and I am emboldened by the progress we've made in past days, months and years. I have selected a few highlights — in all areas of campus — that illustrate the success we had last year and ensure our relevance in future years.



Jenine Rossington '11 was chosen for a prestigious State Department program this summer.

## ACADEMICS

The strength of an institution lies in its people, especially in its faculty. In past years the faculty ranks have grown steadily, and this year was no exception as we recruited 34 full-time faculty members. This large transfusion of talent helps lead UT into the future and supports our emphasis on quality teaching/learning and educational excellence. It also allows us to build new programs, which this year included minors in leadership and speech and five new majors in Continuing Studies. UT now offers 125 program areas of study.

Our academic success is striking, as the following examples in each of our colleges bear:

- In the College of Business, approximately 600 students participated in more than 120 consulting assignments with area organizations through the Naimoli Institute.

- Faculty in the College of Social Sciences, Mathematics and Education reported 40 articles, 42 conference papers, seven chapters and six books.

- One of the College of Arts and Letter's most popular majors, film and media arts, saw students screen prize-

winning films at the Young Florida Filmmakers and Sunscreen Film Festival.

- In the College of Natural and Health Sciences 100 percent of our graduating nursing students passed their licensing board exam on the first try. Only one other Florida institution achieved that.

The American Chemical Society granted UT specialized accreditation, upping our institution-wide licensing and accreditations to eight. These attest to our educational quality and enhance our soaring reputation.

UT's international focus has been particularly strong this past year. We contracted to open an ELS Language Center to support international student language skills and strengthen worldwide recruitment of students. We also have launched a unique new freshmen year abroad program with Roehampton University in London that is targeted at our top incoming freshmen.

Finally, we made progress in planning new academic facilities. Con-



The Cass Science Annex is a candidate for LEED certification.

struction is now complete on the Cass Science Annex, which houses chemistry and biology; new anatomy and physiology labs; and faculty offices and classrooms.

## ENROLLMENT

Traditional undergraduate admissions faced another very competitive year due to the economy, intensified competition and changing demographics. Despite that, we:

- Set an enrollment record in 2009-2010 with 6,300 students.

- Achieved this year's goal of approximately 6,500 total students. We are on track toward our 2015 enrollment target of 7,000 students, while maintaining an average class size of 21.

- Increased our admissions selectivity.

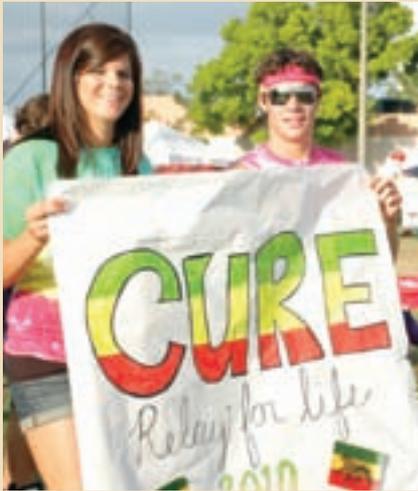
We also focused on accessibility. UT's financial aid office faced a record number of appeals from students for additional funds, and we have responded well. New scholarships established this year have been particularly helpful.

Lastly, UT is experiencing one of the best years in our history for recruitment of international students who now come from 100 countries.

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

Last year the Student Government Association (SGA) initiated two new services that proved especially successful. The first, Connect by Hertz, provides rental cars on campus for students at low, hourly rates. I hope students will utilize this program as an alternative to bringing cars to campus, thus alleviating parking issues and adding to campus sustainability. Secondly, SGA installed a Blockbuster Express DVD rental kiosk. The kiosk, located in the Vaughn Center, had the most DVD rentals recently in Blockbuster's "University" category.

**“The bottom line is, we continue to change lives and build the next generation of leaders.”** — PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN



Hundreds of students participated in Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

The PEACE Volunteer Center expanded its alternative break program, offering students the opportunity to volunteer at such locations as Horses and the Handicapped in Boca Raton and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Students also traveled to an impoverished region in Peru to work with orphans and other children from poor families. UT was again named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, the Greek organization community developed and implemented a strategic plan with one-, three-, and five-year goals to focus on academics, accountability, alumni/advisors, campus/community involvement and member education as strategic priorities.

Construction of a new health and wellness center is under way and will be completed later this fall.

Two-thirds of UT students participated in career services programs this past year, and our Office of Career Services continues to provide opportunities despite the challenging economy:

- Several hundred employers came for on-campus interviews, information sessions, workshop presentations and career fairs.

- More than 1,000 employers directly accessed our HIRE-UT website

to look at students' resumes and for other services.

- UT students had access to 295,750 full- and part-time jobs and internships throughout the U.S. and beyond in the Experience network of our HIRE-UT site.

- UT graduates in this difficult global economy still reported success in finding jobs. Ninety-six percent of the undergraduate Class of 2009 reported success in achieving their post-graduate goals.

Lastly, for the first time in UT's history the sitting president and vice president of the United States made an official visit to campus. Barack Obama and Joe Biden held a town hall meeting in the Martinez Sports Center and approximately 3,000 people, including many UT students, attended. This visit added to the intellectual dialogue on campus, provided students a once-in-a-lifetime experience and gave UT international exposure.

### ATHLETICS

UT athletics had a banner year with seven of our 14 teams winning conference championships and eight competing in NCAA post-season play.

- Twenty-four students were recognized as Athletic All-Americans.



Mike Blanke '11 runs in a grand slam, which gave UT the lead in the South Regional championship.

- Five of our athletics staff members were recognized as Coaches of the Year.

- Our athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.10 and our nearly 500 student-athletes maintained a 96 percent average graduation rate. Seventy-six of those students were named to the Sunshine State Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll for the Spring 2010 semester, and 66 were named for the Fall 2009 semester.

- Student athletes also set records for community service with more than 5,000 hours and \$15,000 in donations raised.

### OPERATIONS

Over the past 15 years, UT's operating budget has grown from \$28 million to \$160 million. UT once again ended the fiscal year in the black — our 15th successive year. Plus, we were able to balance the budget while continuing transformations to the educational experience and campus.

UT's Office of Information Technology expanded the wireless computer network (with more than 200 campus sites as well as full wireless buildings), continued to upgrade our four dozen computer labs, strengthened network, identity and virus security, collaborated on specialized instructional software, and enhanced disaster recovery and business continuity plans.

The University continued to be very active with energy and water conservation and general sustainability efforts:

- We replaced light fixtures with more efficient options (e.g., LED and induction lighting systems).

- We continue to expand campus recycling programs.

- We completed a central air renovation of Smiley Hall to replace numerous window air conditioner units.

- We hosted Earth Charter's annual Sustainability Awards Program.

- Two new buildings under construction meet the requirements for

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) sustainability certification.

Campus safety and security efforts continue to be a high priority with a variety of efforts to strengthen systems and enhance communications. UT was one of only 33 colleges and universities in the country to be certified as StormReady by the National Weather Service.

Due to our enrollment growth, we planned, designed, determined funding, launched and managed several building

construction projects totaling more than 40,000 square feet. Of course, the biggest project under way continues to be the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values. The 3,184-pipe Dobson organ is now being installed and tuned.

## FUTURE DAYS

Constant improvement is one of the keys to UT's success, and anyone visiting campus on a typical day would see that improvement in action. This

includes faculty fine-tuning curricula, teaching and embarking on new research projects. It includes staff overseeing construction projects, recruiting new students, advising current students, managing facilities and increasing the University's reputation. Most of all, it includes students improving themselves — academically and personally — and shaping their successful futures. UT has done remarkable things in the past, and will continue to do remarkable things into the future. **UT**

## EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Whether through participating in internships, conducting research, serving in the community, studying abroad or leading campus organizations, students who learn by doing learn more effectively. Experiential learning allows students to act on what they have learned, to use the theories and skills gained in the classroom to solve real-world problems. It also gives students an edge in the competition for jobs and graduate school.

UT has a long history of valuing experiential education, and we have deliberately created an environment where education through application thrives. For example:

- Students complete almost 500 internships annually. There were 60 internships coordinated by the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice this year alone, at such locations as the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI.



Micol Castelbolognesi '11 interned at the Humane Society of Tampa Bay this summer, working in the surgery ward.

- Nearly 300 students participate in UT travel courses or study abroad each year.

- Approximately 75 students participate in research-oriented projects for honors credit.

- Dozens of students present their research at regional and national conferences.

- In an accounting class that focuses on federal taxation, students assist elderly and individuals with moderate income with their tax returns.

- The cross-disciplinary minor in leadership studies, which includes theory courses, leadership-focused classes and 90-plus hours of experiential activities and events, began this fall.

- Campus-wide, students, faculty and staff combined to provide more than 100,000 service hours with more than 200 organizations. Approximately 600 students participated in each of our biannual days of service.

- Nearly 1,000 students are employed on campus each year. The more than 100 students employed by the Office of Residence Life help to provide more than 6,000 social and educational programs in the residence halls each year.

Each issue of the *UT Journal* abounds with examples of experiential education. The story about seahorse research on page 10 describes a faculty member including students in her research. The entrepreneurship program, on page 16, provides real-world experience based on practical, classroom learning. The story on page 19 about Greek life illustrates the progress we've made ensuring that system builds leaders.

UT has been recognized as a leader in experiential education by the National Society for Experiential Education, and we believe it is just one more aspect of the UT experience that is unparalleled in higher education. For more information, see [www.ut.edu/experiential](http://www.ut.edu/experiential).