BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

It’s easy to illustrate UT’s progress in terms of construction and increasing enrollment. This year we’re set to mark a 16th year of record enrollment, and the three major construction projects currently underway — Residence Hall 7, the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex and the Martinez Athletics Center renovation and expansion — probably sets some sort of record as well. Each brick laid, foundation poured, cable run and tree planted is visible proof that UT is solid.

What’s not so easy to illustrate is the work and sacrifice of so many people who construct new buildings, recruit new faces and create necessary academic, athletic and co-curricular programs on campus. The amount of work that goes into providing a top-notch educational environment is inspiring. UT has a history of achievement, and we will continue to improve our operations to ensure our students receive the best education possible, and that the University’s legacy will endure.

One of the high points this year was when we were notified by the Princeton Review that we would be included as one of the best colleges in the United States. This list is a very prestigious one, and the recognition is long overdue. It is a recognition that validates the progress we’ve made academically and structurally. Also, it will make us even more appealing for prospective students who seek to be educated at only the top universities, as well as for prospective faculty and staff who want to be associated with a renowned institution.

Each year we take steps toward our mission of improving students’ ability to learn and succeed as productive citizens. We look at how to welcome the most deserving students, how to make campus more comfortable for current students and attractive to future students, how to streamline processes and how to best invest in our future. This year was no different. We have been successful in finding ways to break enrollment records and continue to improve the campus, all while staying true to our mission of transforming students.
Residence Hall 7, set to open in August 2013, is the seventh new residence hall at UT in the past 14 years.
In January, the MFA in Creative Writing program initiated its speaker series, “Lectores,” which featured prominent authors like Amy Hill Hearth ’82 and Michael Connelly.

academic affairs

Each year, UT further secures its place as a model institution that provides an excellent education. As our enrollment has climbed, we have worked hard to maintain a low average class size and a low student-to-faculty ratio. This has been achieved by hiring professors who are experts in their disciplines, who are excellent teachers and who engage in cutting-edge research.

The 2011-2012 full-time faculty stood at approximately 275 members, with 31 new members. This year we look to hire nearly 40 new faculty members, to replace retiring professors, to support our growth and to simply add expertise to our academic departments. You’ll read on page 16 how more than a dozen of our full-time faculty received their bachelor’s degree at UT. The UT experience is so strong that some of our top scholars choose to come back here to teach as professors.

Interestingly, UT is fulfilling the national trend towards health-related and STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) fields. The number of undergraduates with a declared major in the College of Natural and Health Sciences increased by 35 percent from the previous year. This has, of course, prompted more faculty hiring, new construction and renovations in various labs, classrooms and offices around campus.

Last summer, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reviewed our campus internationalization/global education, and said that UT is continuing its “transformation” in these areas. UT sent almost 500 undergraduate and graduate students abroad this year, nearly a 14 percent increase from last year. These students studied in more than 34 locations around the globe, including a pilot six-week internship program for four students in London.

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student affairs

When Residence Hall 7 is completed in August 2013, it will be our biggest residence hall. But it will also be our most interactive. The hall has been uniquely designed to allow for student interaction and to build students’ sense of community. The top floor will resemble the ninth floor of the Vaughn Center — except that it will be specifically for student programming. We know that students who are more comfortable in their living arrangements and extracurricular activities do better academically, and this new residence hall certainly follows that model.

It’s hard to talk about student affairs at UT without talking about our robust leadership programs. Four new leadership programs were launched this year:

1. The Leadership Exchange, an intensive 15-week program that introduced UT students to the principles and challenges of leading change on a shared social issue.

2. Leadership and Cooking, a new excursion program, facilitated in collaboration with Sodexo, that introduces students to the communication strategy outlined in the book Clear Leadership.

3. A Student Development Series, in collaboration with the Community Engagement Team, a leadership and professional development program that focuses on wellness and balance, leadership and personal development, and occupational development.

4. Relevant, a retreat focused on introducing fraternity and sorority members to UT’s leadership philosophy and community values. Eight UT alumni facilitated components of the program.

As found on page 10, the PEACE Alternative Breaks program continues to be popular amongst students, and this year students traveled to Asia for the first time to volunteer at a local orphanage and organic farm in Thailand.

The opening of the Dickey Health and Wellness Center proved very supportive to students. Health care appointments increased 24 percent this academic year, and the Wellness Center provided more than 180 programs and events focusing on all areas of wellness. The McNiff Fitness Center also recorded terrific numbers, averaging 602 visits per day.

The Wellness Center staff also took the lead in facilitating programming for the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values. More than 70 programs and events were sponsored by the Resource Team for Faith, Values and Spirituality, engaging approximately 3,550 participants, a 97 percent increase in participants over last year.

This year we continued programmatic development for the $1.3 million Helios Grant that focuses on minority and/or first generation, Florida residents and

UT joined with the University of Memphis in the Leadership Exchange, in which students studied social justice issues and participated in community service.
operations

While Plant Hall may be the historic heart and soul of the UT campus, the new construction that surrounds it has made the UT campus one of the most appealing and visually interesting in the United States. When UT moved into the Tampa Bay Hotel in 1933, it was UT’s only building. Now, Plant Hall is surrounded by 52 buildings.

Currently, the west side of campus—west of North Boulevard—is being revitalized. We demolished five buildings along Kennedy Boulevard to make way for the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex, which is set for completion in early 2013. The Martinez Athletics Center, which will be re-dedicated on Sept. 27, has undergone a dramatic transformation, making it more appealing for our student athletes. Adjacent to one corner of the center is the Health Sciences and Human Performance building, which was completed last spring. Adjacent to the other corner is the Athletics and ROTC building, which will be dedicated this spring. And, just next to Martinez, we constructed a chiller plant that will reap financial and environmental rewards for years to come.

One detail that only the most discerning alumni might notice is that we removed many of our overhead utilities. This may seem inconsequential, but these subtle details help to enhance our stunningly beautiful campus.

When prospective students cannot visit the UT campus, they rely on the UT website for their virtual tour. The website was totally redesigned last year, and a new 360-degree tour was added just last fall. You should check it out if you haven’t already at www.ut.edu/utvirtualtour.

Technology remains the backbone of campus, as more and more systems—from the UT catalog and reporting of mid-term grades to the residence hall lottery system—go online. For instance, this year we implemented software to allow tracking of students, staff and faculty when they travel on study abroad trips.

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The system provides for unprecedented communication capabilities in the event of an emergency.

We’re currently upgrading all classrooms to include wireless access with enough bandwidth to support classroom capacity. And, four residence halls saw expanded wireless capabilities for improved coverage and reliability, thus enhancing the more than 450 campus wireless sites.

Of course, in order to support these operations, we must have a robust development and fundraising program. One highlight this year was when a donor funded a scanning electron microscope that will greatly enhance our biology, zoology and forensic science programs. The Honor Roll of Donors on page 49 recognizes the many people who support the University financially. The total received for all gifts this year was $13.5 million. This year’s Annual Fund saw more donors than the previous year, and total Annual Fund giving was approximately $2.3 million. If you’re reading this, you likely were called by a student as part of our successful phonathon program. If you supported UT this year, I once again sincerely thank you.

This fall UT set another record enrollment of 6,900, and welcomed more than 2,400 new freshmen, transfer and graduate students. More than 140,000 student inquiries were received this year from prospective students. In fact, on Nov. 11, 2011, we received 957 applications alone—a record.

While UT continues to set enrollment records, we are also making serious inroads in increasing our selectivity. This year, 46 percent of freshmen applicants were admitted, as opposed to 51 percent in 2011 and 59 percent in 2010. This compares to much higher applicant admission percentages, in the 70 and 80 percentiles, many years ago. Today UT’s high quality, much improved educational experience and soaring reputation is a magnet for attracting large numbers of interested students from all over the U.S. and the world.

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### enrollment

The 2011-2012 enrollment year is best characterized by a moderate increase in UT’s volume across the admissions spectrum. This increase cascaded across most aspects of admissions, including events, mailings, visitors, requests for UT admission and waitlist (more than 1,700).

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The volleyball team advanced to the 2011 NCAA national semifinals after winning its third straight NCAA South Regional and seventh consecutive Sunshine State Conference title.

The UT lacrosse team captured the 2012 Deep South Conference title in its first season of play.

athletics

UT athletics continues to be a wildly successful program. Not only are UT’s 550 athletes successful on the field, but they are successful in the classroom and active in the community. With 19 men’s and women’s teams, plus men’s and women’s cheerleading, the Spartans have won 12 NCAA II national championships and have secured 65 Sunshine State Conference (SSC) titles in the past two decades.

This year the Spartans fared well. We brought home eight conference championships, six coaches were recognized as coaches of the year and nine teams played in the postseason. The volleyball team nearly tied its record of consecutive wins when it started its season 24-0.

In its inaugural year, the men’s lacrosse team brought home a conference championship. Women’s lacrosse was also announced last spring, and intercollegiate play will begin in Fall 2013.

The women’s cross country team won the highest academic GPA among Division II cross-country teams with a 3.4 GPA. The cumulative GPA for all athletes was a very respectable 3.10.

The Spartans have become well-known in the community as well. Student athletes set a record for community service hours, logging more than 5,000 for the year. While doing so, the teams raised more than $5,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and for Just Elementary School.

Evolving and Changing

Just as our society is evolving, so is The University of Tampa. Change is not something that we sit and watch, we actively take a role in facilitating constant improvement so that we can continue to provide a top education for today’s—and future—students. As always, we continue, steadily and securely, to build UT’s foundation, and thus, its legacy. As a part of the UT community, you help UT achieve greater successes day-by-day and year-to-year.

While it is easy to count success by new construction and increased enrollment, it really is about each and every person whose life is changed, not only as a student, but as a parent, donor or friend. UT