

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

# THE BEATING HEART OF CAMPUS

PHOTOGRAPH  
BY ALEX MCKNIGHT

THE BIGGEST AND MOST VISUAL NEWS this year was the opening of the new 40,000-square-foot Fitness and Recreation Center. The long-awaited facility is one of the best in the U.S., and provides unparalleled fitness, recreation and wellness programming for the campus community.

With its glowing, 28-foot tall, 12-foot diameter Spartan-red column at its core, its central location on campus and its mission to make students healthier and happier, the building literally and figuratively is the heart of campus.

But this year, with the lively and divisive political climate and troubling incidents on campuses throughout the U.S., it has become especially clear that what also keeps UT's heart beating so strong is its people — our diverse student body, our expert faculty, our dedicated staff and our University friends, parents, alumni, donors and others who are unwavering in their support. Every day at UT we all strive for excellence, for truth and for mutual understanding.

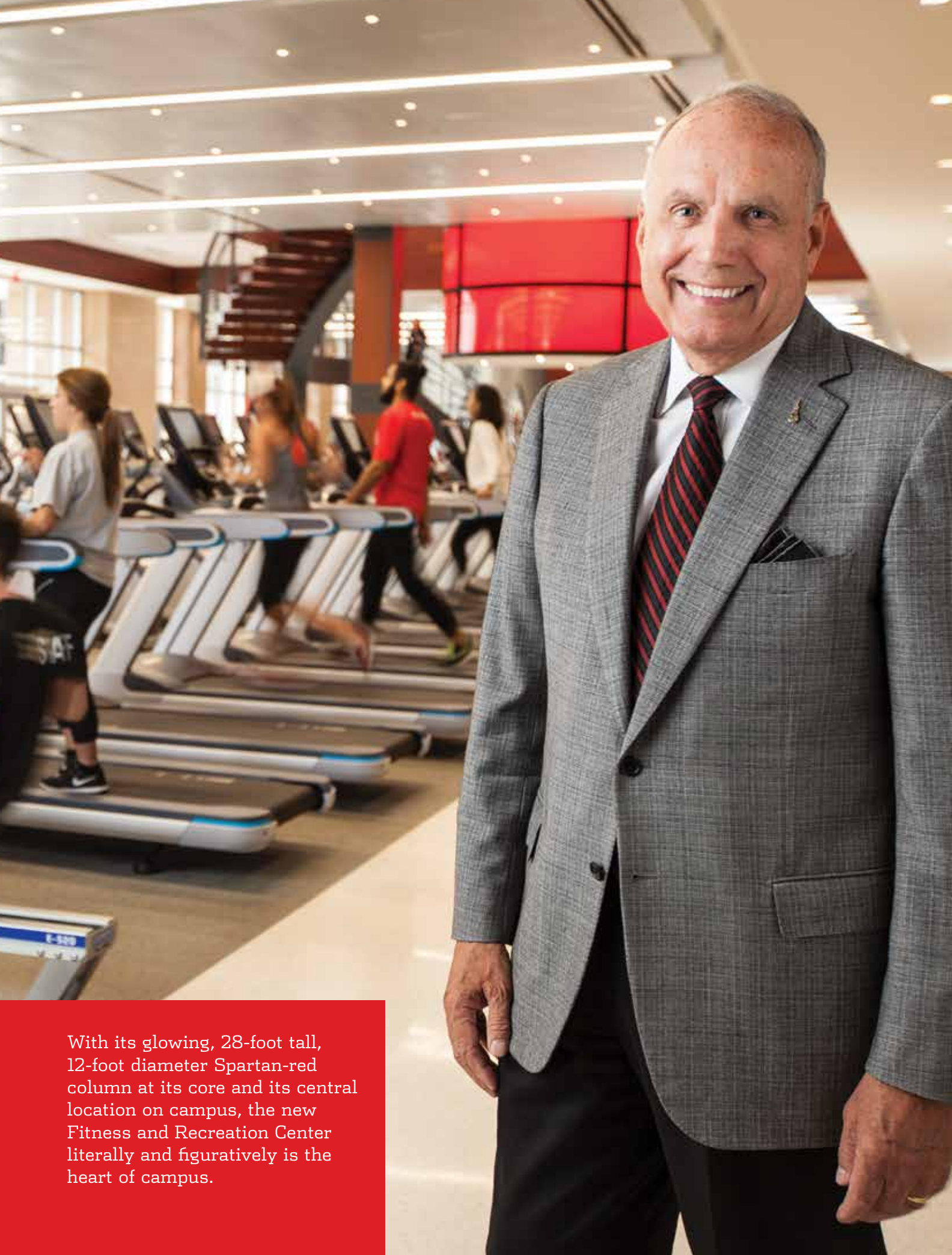
We're all here to help students become successful and thoughtful citizens. This culture has been part of

UT since its founding, and every year we tackle new initiatives, implement new programs and create new curricula to uphold these values and secure UT's future.

For instance, while we set another record in enrollment this past year with 8,310 students, we strived to continue our student retention rates with new advising and major exploration programs. Retention is important, as we want students — no matter their circumstance — who come to UT to stay and graduate. It's a slow, arduous climb, and I'm proud to say our retention rate increased 2 percent last year. This increase is small but meaningful — it can be the difference of whether or not a student receives a college education — but until we can boast a 100 percent retention and graduation rate, we won't be satisfied.

The following pages describe some of the efforts and the results of those efforts to make UT a top-notch, model institution. If you haven't been to UT in a while, you will find it a pulsing, energetic, fulfilling place to be. We appreciate your helping to keep the heart beating.





With its glowing, 28-foot tall, 12-foot diameter Spartan-red column at its core and its central location on campus, the new Fitness and Recreation Center literally and figuratively is the heart of campus.

# academics

FACULTY MEMBERS ARE THE CORE OF OUR UNIVERSITY, and this year we made the largest addition of new full-time faculty positions (28) in UT's history. This, in my opinion, illustrates our commitment toward hiring and retaining the best faculty and maintaining a low faculty-student ratio.

We again this year focused on the Academic Success Center with initiatives to support student success and graduation. We implemented a new freshman advising initiative and expanded the Major Exploration Program, which assists students who are uncertain about their program of study and likely to drop out or transfer.

While UT heavily recruits international students, we also worked to provide domestic students with more study abroad opportunities. We launched a new First Year Study Abroad program for select outstanding freshmen to study in either Seville, Spain, or Dublin, Ireland.

We also offered a summer Marine Science/

Conservation and Public Policy program in Costa Rica for incoming freshmen. UT is one of only a few universities that offer such programs.

We established the Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry to continue coordination of UT's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which focuses on expanding high-impact undergraduate/faculty research and internship opportunities. As part of this effort and with help from Career Services, the number of internships provided to our students increased by about 250 to almost 1,000. Undergraduate research projects done in conjunction with faculty also dramatically increased.

As always, UT contributed to the campus learning environment and Tampa's cultural life by offering hundreds of cultural arts programs, including the Sykes Chapel Concert Artist Series and the Lectores visiting authors series.

# 25%

Internships increased by 250 to almost 1,000.

Students represented UT well at various competitions and exams over the year, showcasing what they have learned in the classroom.

- An entrepreneurship student was accepted as one of 17 students nationwide to participate in the 2017 Future Founders Fellowship, a selective year-long cohort that accelerates development of the top student entrepreneurs in the nation.
- A student team took second place nationally in the annual Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Best Practices competition.
- Nursing students were once again perfect in passing the nursing licensing exam.
- A UT team won the Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF) Exploratory Labs boot camp.



New degree programs include:

- M.S. in Entrepreneurship
- M.S. in Educational Leadership
- M.S. in Physician Assistant Medicine

- M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice
- M.S. in Cybersecurity
- M.S. in Global Business (joint degree between Abu Dhabi University and UT)

## NEW ACCREDITATIONS AND REACCREDITATIONS

- ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) reaccreditation for our MIS program;
- NASM (National Association of Schools of Music) reaccreditation for our music and musical theatre programs;
- COSMA (Commission on Sport Management Accreditation) new accreditation for sport management;
- ACJS (Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences) new criminology and judicial studies program accreditation; and,
- CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) new accreditation for teacher education.

The University enrolled  
8,310 students for Fall 2016.



## enrollment

LAST YEAR WAS CHALLENGING FOR STUDENT RECRUITMENT for many reasons, including declining numbers of college-bound students, a wearisome and divisive presidential campaign, substantial barriers to international student travel that deterred many from attending U.S. universities, intense university competition, free college tuition proposals, burdensome and costly new regulations, and federal government changes to financial aid.

Despite the challenges, UT still received almost 23,000 applications for Fall 2016 and enrolled 2,468 full-time first-year and transfer students.

But, we do not take our success for granted and foresee more challenges in recruiting students in the future. As such, we continued to focus on our sound overall strategy as we strengthen UT's market position with:

- New and improved academic programs;
- Additional full-time faculty and student advisors and strengthening of other areas of student support;
- Pursuit of academic program quality, along with associated recognitions and accreditations;
- Expanded co-curricular learning opportunities;
- An enhanced campus atmosphere (particularly with our new Fitness and

Recreation Center);

- Many improvements to various services; and,
- Various improvements made in marketing, admissions and financial aid.

UT has for many years maintained a Telecounseling Center to deal with the many calls we receive from and to prospective students and their parents. This year, we had 71,743 such calls. And, in order to reduce barriers for international students, we offer multi-lingual operators in Polish, Spanish, French, Russian, Hindi and Portuguese. UT's enrollment last year saw students coming from 140 of the world's 195 countries — in addition to all 50 U.S. states.

Despite the challenges noted previously, we expect to achieve a record enrollment of approximately 8,700 students this fall.

## athletics and campus recreation

UT'S 600 STUDENT-ATHLETES HAD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL year, winning several conference championship titles or conference tournaments. Women's volleyball, men's baseball and lacrosse all won conference titles.

We announced beach volleyball as UT's next NCAA sport, hired a coach and are now planning for play to begin this fall and spring. The team's "home field" will be the new Beach Volleyball Complex that is under construction across from the Martinez Athletics Center.

Conference coaches of the year included Joe Urso (baseball), Leslie Kanter (softball) and Rory Whipple (lacrosse). We were also pleased to cheer on swimmer Jordan Augier '16, who swam for his home country of St. Lucia in the Rio 2016 Olympics, and is only the second Spartan in University history to compete in the Olympics.

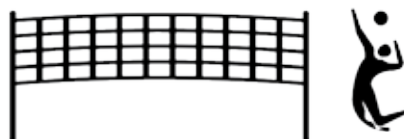
As usual, our student-athletes represented UT well in the classroom. Three scholar-athletes were named Academic All-Americans this year — putting the number at 52 in the history of UT athletics. Plus, 128 student-athletes were placed on the

Sunshine State Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll for the spring, and 52 for the fall.

And, as usual, the athletics department participated in community service projects with organizations including the Humane Society, Metropolitan Ministries and the Great American Teach In.

Outside of athletics, five of UT's 13 sport clubs participated at the national collegiate level (ice hockey, roller hockey, tennis, paintball and equestrian). The ACHA ice hockey team won its first Southern Collegiate Hockey Conference championship and qualified for national championships for the second season in a row.

UT's off-campus recreation trips continue to be popular with students, including sea kayaking, paintball, day hikes, stand up paddle boarding and moonlight paddling.



**UT announced beach volleyball as its next NCAA sport, with plans to begin competing this spring.**

## co-curricular learning

MUCH IN RESPONSE TO THIS YEAR'S POLITICAL CLIMATE, we launched a Diversity Advisory Group to embrace UT's campus diversity and broaden student inclusion. This group engaged in important diversity conversations, assisted support groups and hosted a variety of programs including a Black History Luncheon and Diversity Week. Diversity Week featured programs focused on Building Bridges Instead of Walls, Decoding Media's Confusing Coverage of Race and Culture, a Women to Women Panel and the Wall of Oppression.

Student Affairs adopted 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. Speaking of careers, it should be noted that a total of 850 area companies participated in seven job and internship fairs (a 73 percent increase), and the number of internships posted also rose 36 percent.

UT's campus once again was rich with diverse

engagement opportunities. This year a total of 255 student organizations, clubs and teams were available along with the formation of more than two dozen new organizations including these: University of Tampa Recovery Community, Presbyterians on Campus, Technology Club, American Medical Students, Cybersecurity Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Outdoor Venture Crew, Professional Sales Club, Spartan League of Speakers, Kuwaiti



Student Organization, Investment Banking Society, Spartans Seeking Justice, UT Bible Fellowship and more.

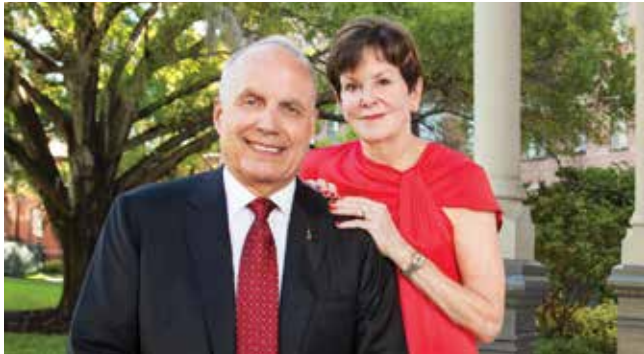
Our fraternity and sorority community now boasts 27 Greek organizations, of which 21 percent of the student body is a member. In a survey of UT fraternity and sorority members, 85 percent cited their involvement as a valuable part of their overall collegiate experience.

UT's leadership pro-

grams provide a rich set of leadership development experiences. In one example, the President's Leadership Fellows were involved in four cohort projects focused on Special Olympics, Bridging Freedom, human trafficking and child welfare. In another, UT students participated in the Walt Disney World Leadership Program and volunteered at Give Kids the World Village.

## INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

- UT was again ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* in the Top Tier of Best Regional Universities (South). Noteworthy this year was that UT was also named in three web-exclusive lists, including 1) Academic Programs to Look For: Internships/Co-ops; 2) Schools with the Most International Students; and 3) Best Colleges for Veterans.
- UT's Sykes College of Business was named one of the best (No. 78) Graduate Business Schools by *Bloomberg Businessweek* and named one of the World's Top Business Schools by the Princeton Review for the 11th year in a row.
- UT was again named a Military Friendly University by Victory Media and Military Advanced Education, putting us in the top 15 percent of all universities.
- College Values Online ranked UT's Marine Science-Biology program as the No. 9 best value, and Bioexplorer ranked our marine science program No. 10 nationally.
- UT was named to the Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Student Honor Roll as one of the top 60 universities in the nation for transfer students.
- *CEO* magazine ranked UT's Sykes College of Business MBA as a Top Tier program in North America and named UT's Executive MBA as the No. 32 ranked Global Executive MBA program.



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

AS I'VE MENTIONED THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT, what makes UT great is its people. I am always saddened when we lose leaders who have made this University great. This year we lost three such people: John Lowth '82, who was a Board of Trustees member, UT parent and namesake of the John P. Lowth Entrepreneurship Center; Joe House, who served for nearly a decade on the Board of Trustees, including as chair; and Professor Emerita of History Connie Rynder, who served UT for nearly 40 years.

But, I look forward to continued successes with our current leadership as well as students and friends who will become UT's leaders. 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, as well as our faculty and staff for their help in building our great University. Thank you for your interest and support!

## health, wellness and counseling

UT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT HEALTHY STUDENTS MAKE better, happier and more productive students. As such, we focused on a smooth transition of clinical providers in the Dickey Health and Wellness Center. This year, Tampa General Hospital (TGH) began providing these services and delivered support to 4,190 students.

Services were also improved through mobile immunization clinics and mobile flu shot clinics. These outreach efforts provided students, faculty and staff greater access to immunizations and helped to provide a healthier campus.

Responding to national trends of college students actively seeking counseling services, UT — with the help of TGH — implemented its first clinical internship program with a graduate student mental health intern and also hired a clinical psychology professor. In its second year, our Counseling Triage Service grew by over 700 calls whereby students could

speak with a clinician about their personal counseling needs and goals before making an initial appointment.

Lastly, UT officially went “smoke-free” last year by banning all smoking and tobacco use on campus. Smoking had long been prohibited in UT's buildings, and the new policy was jointly crafted by administration along with the student organization Breathe Easy UT.



**UT officially went "smoke-free" last year.**

## operations

UT OPENED SEVERAL NEW FACILITIES IN ORDER TO SUPPORT UT STUDENTS AND STRENGTHEN both the academic and co-curricular experience. Certainly the Fitness and Recreation Center was a highlight. But, we also celebrated the following:

- The fully renovated Kennedy/Boulevard Building was opened last fall with classrooms and faculty offices.
- Phase II of Palm Apartments opened in January, which allowed 125 students to move from the Barrymore Hotel to campus.
- A gated parking lot was created west of North Boulevard.
- Finally, in March we broke ground on the 90,000-square-foot Gradu-

ate and Health Studies Building, which we hope to complete for Fall 2018.

While we have visibly improved our infrastructure, our Information Technology infrastructure has also been

strengthened considerably. Similar to other large institutions, UT is bombarded daily by thousands of attempts to violate our information system's security. In this extraordinarily dangerous world, we work to constantly train employees, tighten systems and add the latest cybersecurity technology.