

WINTER 2009

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

# UT Journal



REEL TO REAL



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## About the Cover

Senior film students Lamar Edwards and Allison Koslow work in the black box theater in the renovated Cass Building. Photo by Bob Thompson. Concept by Eric Cárdenas and Anne Rowland. Design by Anne Rowland and Ana Montalvo.

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**Season's Greetings from the UT Community**



*The University Of*

T A M P A

SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

## Features

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# Science and Communication Flourish in Renovated Building

The University's newest academic facility, the Cass Building, opened this fall and students and faculty have been raving about the state-of-the-art science labs and cutting-edge film studios.

"The Cass Building is a dream," said Dana Plays, associate professor of communication. "The equipment cage opens up onto the Black box studio, which facilitates teaching and student productions there. The computer labs and lecture/screening rooms are phenomenal."

The building also houses science, communication and art classrooms, offices and a gymnasium. The University took over the 50,000-square-foot building from Tampa Preparatory School in 2002, and has spent more than \$13 million to transform it into what it is now.

Today it will serve as the academic home to more than 1,000 students majoring or minoring in the sciences, communication or art. The science wing, completed in 2007, encompasses 30,000 square feet and houses chemistry, biology, biochemistry, forensic science and environmental and marine sciences.


More than \$1.5 million in scientific equipment and instrumentation has been invested in the 20 scientific laboratories, including a liquid chromatograph tandem mass spectrometer for biochemical and forensics research and a nuclear

magnetic resonance instrument for chemistry research. In a strategic move, the teaching labs were set adjacent to research labs to facilitate faculty-student research opportunities.

"These outstanding spaces and associated instrumentation and equipment provide exceptional laboratory-based learning environments for our students," said Steve Kucera, interim dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences.

Renovation of the approximately 20,000-square-foot communication wing includes two screening rooms, six computer labs (writing, graphic design, advanced edit suite, production, open and media), a film equipment cage, black box theater for film and video productions, a production studio, sound edit suite and TV control room that ties into the production studio. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of new equipment was integrated into the space.

Don Morrill, interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters, said the space and the technology puts UT in a league with other communication departments at larger universities.

"Our communication and arts curricula have always been very strong," Morrill said. "Now that we have the 'wow' technology and facilities, our teaching opportunities are practically limitless." 



Dr. Ellyn Bender, biotechnology coordinator (right), demonstrates a piece of equipment.

**"N**ow that we have the 'wow' technology and facilities, our teaching opportunities are practically limitless."

— Don Morrill, interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters



Students work on a project together in one of the Cass Building's six computer labs.

## ARTS to do @ ut.edu CALENDAR OF EVENTS



### JANUARY

**Mon., Jan. 12-Thurs., Jan. 15**  
ADDYS Tampa Bay Ad Federation annual competition  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Wed., Jan. 14**  
Gallery Night for the ADDYS  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery  
6-9 p.m.

**Tues., Jan. 27-Tues., March 24**  
"ELECTRONICS ALIVE V"  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

### FEBRUARY

**Mon., Feb. 2**  
Tampa Press Poet Jenny Browne  
R.K. Bailey Art Studios  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery  
8 p.m.

**Mon., Feb. 16-Fri., Feb. 27**  
Sam Gilliam at STUDIO-f  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Thurs., Feb. 19-Sat., Feb. 21**  
Spring Dance Concert  
Falk Theatre  
Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.  
Sun., 2 p.m. matinee

**Thurs., Feb 26**  
Writers' Series: Kao Kalia Yang  
Vaughn Center  
Reeves Theater  
8 p.m.

### MARCH

**Sat., March 21**  
Gallery Reception: Self Employment in the Arts Conference  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Fri., March 27**  
Quilt Coffeehouse  
Poetry Reading  
Location TBA  
8 p.m.

**Thurs., March 26-Sun., March 29**  
A New Way to Pay Old Debts  
Falk Theatre

Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.  
Sun., 2 p.m.

**Fri., March 27 and Sat., March 28**  
"101 Pieces of a Dream"  
A juried art exhibition featuring work for sale  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Fri., March 27**  
Patron Preview and Auction  
Admission \$25 per person  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery  
6-9 p.m.

**Sat., March 28**  
Final sale  
Free admission  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### APRIL

**Fri., April 3-Thurs., April 30**  
University of Tampa Annual Juried Student Exhibition  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Fri., April 3**  
Opening Reception, Student Awards, Friends of the Gallery honored  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

7-9 p.m.

**Thurs., April 16**  
Benjamin Grossberg, Tampa Press Poetry Prize Winner  
Vaughn Center, Reeves Theater  
8 p.m.

**Thurs., April 23-Sun., April 26**  
"Pippin"  
Falk Theatre  
Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.  
Sun., 2 p.m.

**Wed., April 29-Sat., May 2**  
Spring Dance Happening  
Edison Building  
214 N. Boulevard  
8 p.m.

### MAY

**Wed., May 6-Fri., May 8**  
"BFA Exit Show"  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery

**Fri., May 8**  
Reception honoring graduates  
Scarfone/Hartley Gallery  
7-9 p.m.

A complete listing of University events can be found at [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu).

## THINGS to do @ ut.edu CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

**Wed., Jan. 21**  
Business Network Symposium  
Vaughn Center, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
7:15 a.m.

### MARCH

**Sat., March 28-Sun., March 29**  
GreenFest  
Plant Park

### APRIL

**Fri., April 3**  
Career EXPO  
Hyatt Regency Tampa, free for students and alumni  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Thurs., April 16**  
Business Network Symposium  
Vaughn Center, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
7:15 a.m.



A complete listing of University events can be found at [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu).

## Groundbreaking Addition

The University held a groundbreaking for the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values on Oct. 23, with Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio in attendance. Lead donors John H. and Susan Sykes were also on hand to dig the first ceremonial shovelfuls of dirt. The interfaith facility, which was announced last May, will include a 300-seat main hall, meeting and meditation rooms, a 3,184-pipe custom-built pipe organ, a plaza and a 75-foot, 60-bell grand musical sculpture/fountain. [UT](#)

(From left) John and Susan Sykes, Board of Trustee Chair Maureen Rorch Dunkel and President Ronald L. Vaughn celebrate the commencement of construction of the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values on Oct. 23.



# Sustainability at UT and Beyond

Last spring UT students decided to take a stand against the ubiquitous plastic water bottle.

The PEACE (People Exploring Active Community Experience) Volunteer Center held a university-wide "bottle exchange," where they gave out reusable water bottles for every 10 empty plastic bottles turned in. It worked. They collected 2,500 plastic bottles for recycling.

The bottle exchange illustrates how, in the last decade, UT has taken a practical and multi-faceted approach to conserving resources, achieving cost savings and lessening environmental impacts.

"We seek a balance in sustainability efforts in a manner that improves the quality of life and academic

shredding and recycling program with collection bins throughout campus.

All new residence halls are equipped with low flow toilets, urinals, showerheads and faucets. And new buildings have computer monitored building management systems, which help avoid energy waste.

The majority of cleaning products meet standards that reduce health and environmental impacts. Plus, dining services uses recycled or "green"/eco-friendly products when possible, such as napkins made of 100 percent recycled materials.

For other examples of UT's sustainability efforts, see [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu).




## Earth Charter

On Oct. 11, UT hosted The Earth Charter Climate Change Community Summit, coordinated by Earth Charter U.S., which highlighted sustainability initiatives in business, education and government from more than 25 worldwide locations.

In 2001, UT helped launch Earth Charter U.S., which was striving to create a national movement focusing on sustainability.

The day before the Earth Charter event, UT hosted a luncheon that recognized 15 Bay area businesses whose efforts embrace social, economic and environmental responsibility.

A team of graduate students from UT, under the guidance of Dr. Daniel Verreault, associate professor of accounting, developed the criteria for the awards and evaluated the nominations for Earth Charter.

"These businesses are doing great things and no one knows," said Rakefet Bachur-Cohen, a UT graduate student. "And they're not doing it to gain a competitive advantage. They just do it because it's the right thing to do." 

"These businesses are doing great things and no one knows...They're not doing it to gain a competitive advantage. They just do it because it's the right thing to do."

— UT graduate student Rakefet Bachur-Cohen



Representatives from the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa receive a Sustainable Business Award from UT graduate student Rakefet Bachur-Cohen (left) at the Earth Charter Global Climate Change Community Summit luncheon at UT on Oct. 10.

experience at the University and yet is responsive to the global nature of environmental issues facing all of society," said President Ronald L. Vaughn.

Most recently, UT launched a paper collection,



## UT Makes its Debut on "Today Show," Gains National Exposure


**UT** came alive on Sept. 23 when the "Today Show" turned the campus into an impromptu studio for its live national broadcast.

Gigantic studio lights illuminated a crowd of more than 1,200 people waiting among TV cameras in front

of UT's Plant Hall. NBC's Matt Lauer took a place in front of the Plant Hall fountain, amid the cheers of hundreds of onlookers, where he announced the live broadcast of the "Today Show." Al Roker delivered the weather report and took a bite of a Cuban sandwich from La Teresita.

The popular morning show came to UT to highlight Florida's impact as a battleground state on the presidential election. Among the several news segments devoted to the election-related coverage was a pre-taped interview with Dr. Scott Paine, associate professor of government and world affairs, and interviews conducted via satellite with presidential hopefuls John McCain and Barack Obama. Florida Gov. Charlie Crist also made an appearance on campus for an interview with Lauer.

Senior film students Kenisha Walsh '09 and Allison Koslow '09, worked on the broadcast assisting the anchors and on-site producers, and escorted the governor to his seat on Plant Hall's east verandah. Having worked on small film productions before, the students said the "Today Show" was the first time they had participated in the making of a live TV production.

"Live TV is very different because time is critical," Walsh said. "Every minute counts." 




NBC personalities Matt Lauer and Al Roker hosted the "Today Show" from UT on Sept. 23 as part of NBC's coverage of the 2008 presidential election. To view a short video of the "Today Show" broadcast, go to [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu) and click the "Images and Videos" button.

## CNN Visits UT for Super Bowl

CNN Sports will broadcast from UT Jan. 26-30 as part of its coverage of the Super Bowl XLIII, which will be played on Feb. 1 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. CNN broadcasters will air updates, interviews and news related to the NFL championship game from Plant Park and other spots on campus. 



**STRAIGHT TALK EXPRESS STOPS AT UT** Sen. John McCain makes his way to Plant Hall, with Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Joe Lieberman in tow, for a national security roundtable days before the Nov. 4 election. 

# Forever Young Women 'Chisel' 50 Years of Support for UT

By Justin Herndon  
Photos Courtesy of the Chiselers

On her way out the door, Martha Ferman grabbed her garden gloves as her husband asked where she was going. The story goes that as she told him she was on her way to clean fireplace tiles at The University of Tampa, he joked, "I can't believe that, Martha. The only thing I've seen you do with your hands is play the piano."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6





Above: The Chiselers gathered in 1977 for a membership photo.

Playing a different tune, a few women in 1959 decided to chisel off the mortar from the fireplace tiles in the University's hallmark building instead of spending the money to get it done commercially.

As it turns out, the group of women who proclaimed they were 'just a bunch of chiselers' started an organization that has revolutionized Henry Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel.

2009 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chiselers organization — a milestone some of the current members find hard to believe.

Betty Wood, a member since 1972, said, "We never thought too big, but today we are thinking bigger and bigger, and that's where the youth comes in."

Wood says the lifeblood of any organization is its new members. Consequently, the first-year members of the Chiselers wear red nametags to represent new blood. In the 50 years since starting the group, membership has grown from 27 to more than 300. Each one is counted as a friend.

"I would not have otherwise met some of these women, and now they are my best friends," said Wood.

That first event of cleaning tiles has given way to renovating

the carpet, repairing cracks in bricks and restoring the original doors at what is today called Plant Hall.

Of course, these days that work is done by professionals, mainly because there's enough money to outsource the chores.

As a reality check, consider the Chiseler's first spring flea market in 1964. That year, the group raised a total of \$2,850.71. By the end of 2008, the organization estimates it will have raised more than \$180,000 just from scheduled events this year. Of course, there are underwriters to each event and private donations made, as well, but the Chiselers have come a long way from their more modest beginning.

When the group of ladies first held meetings, there was a simple 'money tree' in the back of the room where small donations were accepted

**"B**ut at the heart of that University is this one building. It's the heart of this campus."

— Judy Rodriguez



(From left) Mrs. J. C. Toole, Mrs. Bill Bullard and Miss Jacqueline Preis show off the "it" handbag in Tampa in the 1960s.





One of the original invitations for the Chiselers' punch party in 1959. All 27 members were referred to by their status as a wife (Mrs.).

silently because it seemed inappropriate to ask for money. Since then, more than \$3.5 million dollars has been raised, and that's a bit hard to keep quiet.

One of the co-chairs for the Chiselers 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration year, Judy Rodriguez, acknowledged everything they do is hard work but says it all has to be done.

"Why not us? I mean someone has to do it," Rodriguez argued. "You can't always say 'someone else will take care of this or someone else will be the keeper of this building. Someone else will come along and do this.' We have to take responsibility."

Rodriguez says it was more common to demolish buildings in the past than it was to preserve them, so it is encouraging to see so many people so dedicated to saving one building today.

"Our campus is becoming larger and larger. The student body is becoming larger. I would like to see the University thrive," she said. "But at the heart of that University is this one building. It's the heart of this campus."

Indeed, if Plant Hall is the heart of campus, the Chiselers are the blood that keeps it going and, in a way, it helps keep the women going.

"We believe in having fun while we are preserving. That helps preserve us," Wood said with a chuckle.

Chiseler president Glenda Barlow, whose husband is a fifth generation Floridian and Tampa native, said, "The Chiselers are important to the community because all the work that we do is for the preservation and restoration of this building and, in my opinion, this building is a symbol of Tampa. It symbolizes our past and our future."

The past also says a lot about the present when it comes to how the Chiselers operate. An ambitious group of 27 women bucking the trend of homemakers

in the 1950s was about as unlikely then as garnering the right to vote was a few decades before.

"Women, especially in the late '50s and early '60s, were underestimated," Rodriguez says. "They were the wives of attorneys and doctors and other professionals, and they weren't given much credence."

The hotel gave those women an outlet for their strength and unity. Today, many of the members are professionals themselves and find extra time to be a Chiseler.

"I think they'd be surprised," Rodriguez said of the original members. "I don't know that in their time, they could have ever imagined that we would have raised more than \$3 million."

Barlow contends and, at the same time, hopes the next 50 years will bring a group of Chiselers just as dedicated as they are today to preserving the minaret-crowned building for future generations.

To aide in their celebration of the first 50 years of preserving a national historic landmark, the Chiselers have two co-chairs — Judy Rodriguez and Kim Hanna — planning at least two special events in 2009. In May, they will host a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary membership luncheon and, in November, the Chiselers will hold a Southern-style tea event on the front porch of one of the organization's founding members, Martha Ferman.

Little did she know just what kind of group she was starting when she headed out to clean tile instead of playing the piano.

Now, more than 300 members strong, the women are hard at work 'chiseling' another 50 years of history.

*Editor's Note: The Chiselers lost two of its founding members as the Journal was going to print. Ola Heath, who was 100, died Oct. 27 and Emily "Emmy" Moody, died on Oct. 22 at 91, leaving two original living members.*



Ola Heath



Emily "Emmy" Moody

## CHISELING THROUGH TIME

**JUNE 1959:** Chiseled fireplace tiles at Tampa Bay Hotel

**OCTOBER 1959:** Punch Party (27 original members invited)

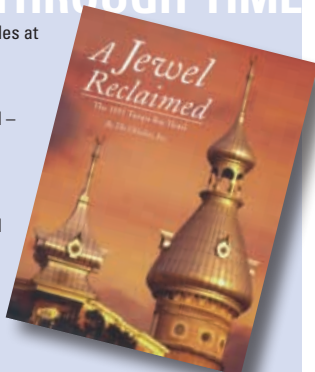
**APRIL 1964:** First fundraiser held — 'Thieves Market'

**1977:** First 'preview party' held, *Victorian Secrets* cookbook published

**2002:** First fall fashion show held

**2005:** Book published, *A Jewel Reclaimed: The 1891 Tampa Bay Hotel*

**2009:** Celebrating 50 years



## By the Numbers:

**1959**

▲ 27 members

**1964**

▲ \$2,850.71 raised at first flea market

**2008**

▲ 300+ members

▲ Two original members still living

▲ More than \$180,000 made at fundraising events

## Fun Facts:

▲ The official sandwich of the Chiselers is a pimento cheese sandwich. It was served at all the social functions when the organization was originally formed.

▲ Daughters of the Chiselers are referred to as 'Chips' because the founding members would chip off mortar from the fireplace tiles they were cleaning. The three men who currently help out the group are called 'Chaps.'

▲ The coat of arms and major symbol of the Chiseler organization includes a gloved hand with a chisel and a hammer sitting above six decorative tiles.



By Robin Roger, Writer & Dan Sullivan, Web Writer



Above: The Buick perched on the UT fountain for a trailer from the student film "The Right Profile."

## STUDENTS EN ROUTE TO THE

# Red Carpet

Last spring, visitors to the campus may have noticed something unusual: a 1952 Buick Special appeared to have crashed into the fountain in front of Plant Hall, its front end smashed in and smoke seeping out from the engine.

If it seemed like a scene out of a movie, that's because it was. UT's film students were shooting a trailer for "The Right Profile," about Hollywood movie star Montgomery Clift, directed by Christian Perkins '08. Perkins' project was shot over four months with students in a course titled "The Creative Triangle," which explores the complex collaboration of bringing a vision to the screen.

Assistant Professor of Communication Tom Garrett helped secure a professional makeup artist, actors and extras, as well as professional film companies, who donated all the lighting, sound and film equipment. The entire production was filmed using a state-of-the-art, Red One camera, provided by world-renowned cinematographer Curtis Graham.



(From left) Allison Koehler '08, George Denison '08, Jacqueline Anderson '07, Christian Perkins '08, Assistant Professor Tom Garrett, and Chad Bell '07 get ready to hit the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival.

May who will all do internships there and receive credit for "Advanced Producing and the International Market."

## Behind the Scenes

The Cannes trip is just one example of the opportunities afforded to UT's film and media arts majors. Students are working on independent movies being filmed locally, bagging internships at large movie houses like Lionsgate Films, and getting to meet top notch producers like Christine Vachon and Boris Malden.

Classes started this fall in the newly renovated Cass Building (*see story page 1*), which has six computer labs stacked with programs like Final Cut Pro, a production studio and editing suites. There are never more than three students to a camera, and students can check out equipment and take it off campus.

Dr. Tim Kennedy, chair of the communication department, stresses that the film program still maintains a healthy balance between theory and application. Courses such as "Information and The New World Order," "Public Opinion, Media and Power," and "Visual Literacy" provide instruction on ethics, aesthetics and theory. "We're not training mere technicians," he said. "We have a liberal arts base — they deal with theories and concepts, and then they learn to construct films using those theories."

Kennedy came to UT in 1987 when the fledgling film program was part of what was called "telecommunications," and it only offered a small smattering of classes. Today, he said, it's evolved into being an actual film program.

The department has recently revamped the curriculum, and this fall it will roll out a slate of new classes in documentary production, experimental filmmaking, narrative production and a capstone senior seminar. By the time they graduate, each student will create a short film that they write, shoot and direct.

"What we offer students today isn't the traditional film program where students only become 'technicians' or 'slaves to the trade,'" Garrett said. "They become well rounded professional filmmakers and artists."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

## Recent Cameos on Campus

▲ **Boris Malden**, executive vice president of production at LIFT Studios, producer of *Factory Girl*, *Premonition*, *Pride* and *Mr. Brooks*.

▲ **Christine Vachon**, co-founder of Killer Films, producer of *Boys Don't Cry*, *One Hour Photo* and the Bob Dylan biopic, *I'm Not There*.

▲ **Robert J. Emery**, CEO of Media Entertainment, director and editor the MSNBC primetime documentary *For God & Country*, about a Marine sniper who had just returned from Iraq.

▲ **Ted Hope**, executive producer of *21 Grams*.

▲ **Martha Coolidge**, director of *Real Genius* with Val Kilmer, and, more recently, *Material Girls*, with Haley and Hillary Duff.

▲ **Mike Ryan**, producer of *Choke*, adapted from a novel by Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club*.

▲ **Chris Mitchum**, son of Robert Mitchum, and star of more than 50 films.



After it was finished, Perkins traveled to the Cannes Film Festival in France on a trip led by Garrett, and took his trailer to the Marché du Film (Film Market) in hopes of obtaining the necessary financing to make a feature length film.

"It was a great experience," Perkins said. "It's almost like the stock market in there — a big marketplace where people sell and buy movies from all over the world."

While Perkins didn't walk away from the festival with a financier, he made lots of contacts and he and seven other alumni got an insider's view of the festival, from attending premieres to an intensive producers' workshop to a cinema master class with Quentin Tarantino. The trip was so successful that it has since become a regular part of the film major curriculum. Garrett is taking another group of 20 students to Cannes this



## Red Carpet

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Garrett helped eight students and one alumnus find work on two independent films last winter. For Kelsey Stroop '10, who served as the intern coordinator on the set of "The Messenger," the experience provided valuable connections that could help her establish a career in the film industry.

"I would suggest something like this to anyone interested in film," Stroop said. "Any opportunity like this that comes up, take it. I have made a lot of connections, and I hope they'll be helpful to me in the future."

## After the Credits Roll

After graduation, Jordan Jack '07 dropped everything and moved to Manhattan to look for work in the film industry. He landed a job as assistant to the producers at HBO films. This fall Jack worked on Chris Rock's new program, and Martin Scorsese's new series "Boardwalk Empire." So far he's worked on shoots for "True Blood," a new vampire series starring Anna Paquin, and done post-production work on "John Adams," and "Entourage."

"I'm constantly learning," he said. "It's a great working environment with very artistic and exceptional people."

Another film program grad, Alyson Stephan '92, is producer and director of her own company ShineOla Films (the name comes from a line in "The Jerk"). Stephan creates award-winning ad campaigns for some of the biggest entertainment companies in the world, including Miramax, Sony, Lionsgate, Universal and Sega.

Perhaps her most visible project, though, was during last year's Academy Awards, when a montage that Stephan produced, "80 Years of Best Pictures," celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Academy Awards, was aired for approximately 32 million viewers.

"I've worked on movies that have made millions and millions of dollars," Stephan said. "But the Oscars were a real honor."

**“I’ve worked on movies that have made millions and millions of dollars. But the Oscars were a real honor.”**

— Alyson Stephan '92

Below: Gregg Perkins, assistant professor of communication, shoots a scene for his film "Cannon Falls," set in Minnesota.

## Meet the Faculty

Part of the reason for the film program's recent success is the addition of several faculty members in the last few years. The department now has an experimental filmmaker, a documentarian, a fine art filmmaker and an independent feature filmmaker.

Dana Plays, associate professor of communication, is now working on "The Sausage King's Daughter," a feature about her great aunt Otilie Moore, who provided a safe haven for Jewish children during World War II in the south of France, and "Sulphur Springs Restoration DVD Project," on the shoreline restoration of the Hillsborough River.


Gregg Perkins, assistant professor of communication, took two students with him to Minnesota last summer, where he shot his film "Cannon Falls," with help from a Delo grant. The short film follows a family as they record a single song in their recording studio in the lush Midwest prairie. In January, Perkins will participate in *Lights on Tampa*, a public art installation that features lighted artworks throughout the city.

Garrett, the assistant professor, has energized the film program through his many industry contacts, including the executive director of the Cannes Film Festival.

"This industry is one of networking and connections," Garrett said. "And as our students continue to get noticed, the dots will connect back to where it began, at UT."

In October he set up a lunch with several female film students and Martha Coolidge, director of Val Kilmer's breakthrough film "Real Genius," and the more recent "Material Girls" with Haylie and Hilary Duff.

Amy Bohrer '10, a film major and an intern with the Tampa Bay Film Commission, said Coolidge provided insight she couldn't get out of reading a book.


"Being a film student here at UT, I have been given more opportunities than expected," she said. "Meeting such a respected director from Hollywood is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and, thanks to Tom Garrett, I was truly inspired by her. I dream of being where she is one day, and all that she said to us gave me an even bigger drive to achieve my goals." 

# COMMUNICATION IS KEY

In addition to film and media arts, the Department of Communication at UT also offers majors in electronic media art and technology (EMAT), advertising and public relations, and communication.

The EMAT major is the newest communication major and includes courses in art, communication, information and technology management, music and writing. The program emphasizes design and production for interactivity and Web-based products for both commercial and artistic endeavors. EMAT majors learn Web design, CD-ROM development, animation, advertising, graphic arts and video production.

Advertising and public relations majors study advertising and marketing, public relations, journalism, culture and society, visual aesthetics, writing, design, production, and strategic problem-solving. Students learn to produce creative solutions to real-world problems working both individually and collaboratively.

Students wanting a broader field of study can major in communication. Communication majors have entered careers in sales and marketing, advertising, public relations, and broadcast journalism, or pursued graduate programs in law, business, media arts, or other fields. 



ON THE  
*Write Path*

A look at the road taken by two writing alumnae and recent work by English faculty.

Connie May Fowler '82 at her home in Alligator Point.  
(Photo by Ray Stanyard)

# A Conversation WITH *Connie May Fowler*


Connie May Fowler '82 has been a bartender, nurse, TV show host and a construction worker, but she is best known for her novel *Before Women Had Wings*, which she adapted for an Emmy-winning TV movie starring Oprah Winfrey, Ellen Barkin and Julia Stiles in 1997.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



By Dr. Don Morrill

## As Seen in The New Yorker

Dr. Martha Serpas, associate professor of English and writing, had a poem published in the April 7 edition of *The New Yorker*. "The Diener" included elements of Serpas's work as a chaplain helping tend to the spiritual needs of trauma victims and their families at Tampa General Hospital. To read the poem, visit <http://tinyurl.com/6zcl5p>. 

## Connie May Fowler

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The author has written five other books, including 2002's *When Katie Wakes*, a memoir about her escape from an abusive relationship. Her most recent novel, *The Problem with Murmur Lee*, features a drowned protagonist and the friends who try to come to terms with her death. Fowler is now working on her seventh book, with the working title *How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly*.

In addition to writing, Fowler travels the country to speak on writing, self employment in the arts, domestic violence and child abuse, and founded Below Sea Level: Full Immersion Workshops for Serious Writers. She recently spent a month teaching creative writing at Wichita State, and in the spring of 2007, she spoke at the Self Employment in the Arts Conference at UT, urging artists and writers to become more business savvy.

Dr. Don Morrill, interim dean of the College of Arts and Letters at UT and an author and poet himself, recently spoke with Fowler about the craft of writing.

**Q: You've written fiction and memoir. Are they different kinds of storytelling?**

**A:** I find that the line separating fiction from memoir is always shifting and often overlaps. For example, the house I live in is Nick Blue's house in my novel *Remembering Blue*. Does that make the novel non-fiction? No, of course not. Likewise, in narrative-based memoirs such as *Angela's Ashes*, certain aspects of the narrative have been exploded to the point that a particular detail or even section of dialogue contains the spirit of truth as the author sees it. Does this mean the memoir is fiction? No, of course not. For the sake of storytelling, the author simply must borrow from the entire arsenal available to fiction and non-fiction writers. In this way, a world replete with truth is rendered on the page. So while my fiction contains autobiographical elements, the story is its own, exclusive universe.

**Q: What role does the imagination play in writing fiction, writing a memoir?**

**A:** I believe that writing is a form of hallucination. Depending on the genre, we hallucinate either fictive worlds or our past experiences. Both instances necessarily involve our forging strings of concrete images out of our abstract mental endeavors. Without our imagination, I'm not sure that our abstract meanderings would ever result in concrete stories. So while the complexity of imagination's role in memoir might be less than in fiction, it is still a vital and necessary component.

**Q: How important is it that a reader identify with the conflicts and dilemmas that your characters face?**

**A:** If you're asking how important is it that a reader has had similar external experiences to the material, I would say it's totally unnecessary. However, it is crucial that we create worlds of complexity and depth, replete with characters who, by turns, fail and succeed within the rubric we call the human condition. Our emotional and psychological realities must be so stuffed with life that the reader goes, "Aha! Yes, I understand." I mean, what is storytelling for — whether it be fiction or memoir — if not to create a looking glass in which our humanity is laid bare?

**Q: Do you see a development of concerns in your books, ongoing themes or subjects?**

**A:** I am fascinated with how we retain any notion of the sacred in an increasingly gadget-ized, polarized, digitized world. I have had for some time a preoccupation with how a human recovers and finds any sense of transcendence or self-worth after she has suffered atrocities both unspeakable and mundane. My concerns, however, keep evolving. I don't know, from book to book, what might pop up on the page.


**Q: You have spoken publicly about the healing power of art. How does it take place?**

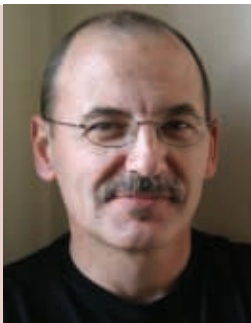
**A:** I think that's one of the great mysteries of the human heart and brain. Once we turn a tragedy or any other deep heart-pain into art, we commit an act of transformation. It's as if we've taken away any power the pain had over us. It doesn't always work. And it doesn't always stick. But I am convinced that if people have the opportunity to pull the negative experience out of the confines of their sorrowful mind and facet it into a work of art that lives fully and independently outside themselves, good comes from that.

**Q: Do you have particular writing practices or processes that seem to work well for you?**

**A:** I am a morning writer. By nightfall, my brain is too tired, too full of exhaust, for it to do me any favors. I work for as long as I can everyday. When I begin again the next morning, I revise the previous day's work. In this way, I am always immersed, both polishing and moving forward.

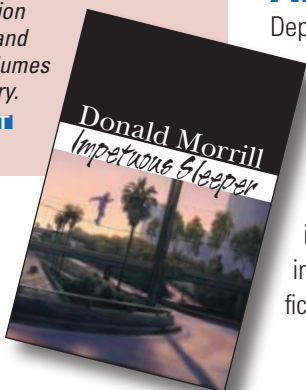
**Q: What are you working on now?**

**A:** A novel called *How Clarissa Burden Learned to Fly*. It's a day-in-the-life novel, tracking a young woman as she experiences an extraordinary and transformative 24-hour period during which it appears inevitable that if she does survive the day's events, she might very well murder her husband. I guess you could call it a tragic comedy. 



Dr. Don Morrill is interim dean for the College of Arts and Letters at UT. His latest book, *Impetuous Sleeper*, will be published in February. A winner of the River Teeth Nonfiction Prize, Morrill has written three nonfiction books and two volumes of poetry.





# Amy Hill Hearth's Second Oral History Touches Her Own Past

**A**my Hill Hearth opens the door of her home holding a dog. Dot, a Boston terrier about the size of a large potato, has bowed legs and genetic deformities, and Hill Hearth drove all the way to Washington, D.C., to rescue her. "I guess you are. Come in!"

Hill Hearth '82, is the name behind a national sensation — "Delany mania," as she calls it. In 1993, she published *Having Our Say*, the oral history of Sarah L. Delany and A. Elizabeth Delany, 100-plus-year-old sisters whose father had been a slave.

Hill Hearth hadn't expected much of the book — certainly not for it to be on the *New York Times* bestseller list for two years, or to become a Peabody Award-winning play, or a television movie in which an equally redheaded Amy Madigan played Hill Hearth.

As we sat in her sunny living room, Hill Hearth talked about her days as editor of the *Minaret*, The University of Tampa's newspaper, other newspaper jobs that bounced her across the country, the article assignment that led her to her husband and, mostly, about her new book, *"Strong Medicine" Speaks: A Native American Elder Has Her Say*.

## A Strong Voice

Like *Having Our Say*, *"Strong Medicine" Speaks* is an oral history, this time about Marion "Strong Medicine" Gould, mother to the chief of the Lenni-Lenape Indians of southern New Jersey.

But Hill Hearth is a bigger part of this story than she was in *Having Our Say*. She writes about discovering her American Indian heritage, and she includes longer passages about how the tribe operates today. It's not just Strong Medicine speaking. It's Hill Hearth listening, too. "I felt I had to put more context

in this book," she says. "Most people know the story of African-Americans in the last 50 years, but not Native Americans."

The seeds for *"Strong Medicine" Speaks* were planted while Hill Hearth was in the middle of Delany mania. While researching the family genealogy, Hill Hearth's father discovered that they were connected to an Indian tribe that had once inhabited New Jersey, Delaware and parts of Pennsylvania and New York, the Lenni-Lenape, a tribe that now lives in Cumberland County, N.J.

## A Hidden History

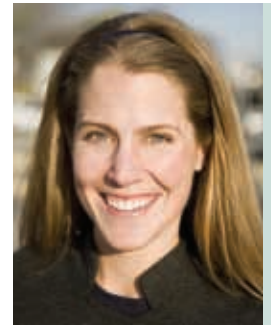
"People used to not say that they had Indian ancestry," says Hill Hearth. In fact, as Gould says in the book, most American Indians would say they were "colored" when asked by census officials, because no one moved African-Americans to reservations.

The idea for this book didn't come until Hill Hearth met Gould. "We just really clicked. She was very forthcoming and wasn't afraid, which is very unusual for a native American elder, especially a woman, to speak to the outside world, because their words have been taken from them."

Hill Hearth earned the tribe's trust by just hanging around. She met with the tribe historian, went to powwows and "hoped that I would grow on them, and I did." She worked closely with the tribe while writing the book, and they reviewed the manuscript before it went to print.

She's not even thinking about her next book yet, or not willing to admit it. "I don't go into these things thinking, 'There's a book here,'" she says. Besides, who knows if she'd be able to keep up if "Strong Medicine mania" strikes?

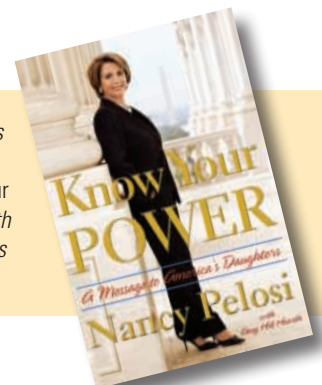
By Jen A. Miller '02



Jen A. Miller '02 is author of *The Jersey Shore: Atlantic City to Cape May, Great Destinations*, and is also a former *Minaret* editor.



Editor's note: Amy Hill Hearth (left) earned a bachelor's degree from UT's writing program, and, in 2001, she spoke at the commencement ceremony. Her latest book, *Know Your Power: A Message to America's Daughters*, was written with Nancy Pelosi, the first female speaker of the house, and was published last summer. UJI



# A Tale of Wrestling Royalty


**B**ack before the Hulkster, before Nature Boy Ric Flair, and even before UT's own Mr. Wonderful, Paul Orndorff '72, there was Gorgeous George.

Gorgeous George wrestled back in the early days of television, and played with femininity at a time when "men were men," and wrestlers were the epitome of manliness. He wore his bleached-blond hair up in a marcel, a popular women's hairstyle from the 1940s, and wore elaborate satin robes. He passed out orchids on his way to the ring, and threw "Georgie pins" — because his were more rarified than bobby pins — to male and female fans alike.

In his book, *Gorgeous George: The Outrageous Bad-Boy Wrestler Who Created American Pop Culture*, John Capouya reveals that George influenced such American idols as Muhammad Ali, James Brown and even Bob Dylan. Capouya, who joined UT this fall as a professor of journalism in the Department of English and Writing, had been a sports writer, including a stint at Sport Magazine, but he knew nothing about wrestling until he started researching Gorgeous George.

In the excerpt below, Capouya writes about George's pompous ritual walk to the ring, and his valet Jeff, or Jeffries, who would prepare his corner for his bout with Bobby Managoff.



Formerly an editor at Newsweek, The New York Times, SmartMoney and New York Newsday, among other publications, **John Capouya's** first book, *Real Men Do Yoga* was published in 2003. Reviews of *Gorgeous George* appeared in The New York Times, Entertainment Weekly, Sport Illustrated and The Wall Street Journal, which published a Q&A with the author. To learn more about *Gorgeous George*, visit [www.gorgeousgeorgebook.com](http://www.gorgeousgeorgebook.com). 


The announcement that George is coming has already boomed out over the PA system more than once. Back in the locker room Jeff gives the Gorgeous robe one last tug, smoothing a pink padded shoulder as they both stand facing the locker-room mirror. The wrestler has a pink satin scarf draped around his neck that matches his gown and falls down over the contrasting yellow lapels. Smiling at his friend in the mirror, Jeff gives him a little pat on his satin-covered back. "Ready George?" he asks. His boss answers with a businesslike nod — that is, as businesslike as you can be if you're a burly man wearing a dress with your dyed blond hair done up in an intricate woman's hairdo. "Let's go to work," Gorgeous George Wagner says, in his surprisingly high, nasal voice. "Time to give the people what they want."

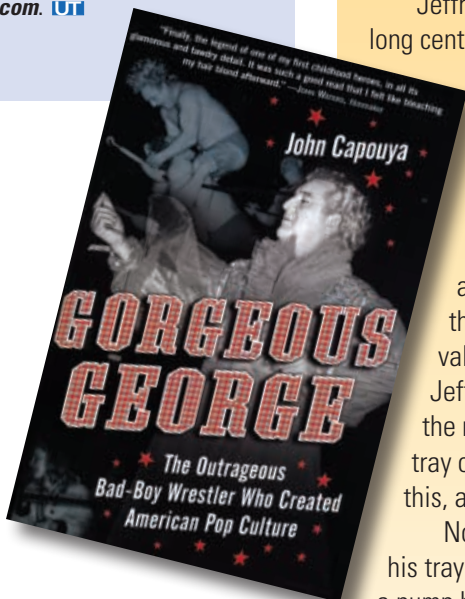
Jeffries walks stiffly erect down the long center aisle toward the ring, a spotlight illuminating his progress. As he proceeds, carrying a big silver tray in both hands in front of his chest, his movements are slow and solemn, deliberate and dignified — "aloof as a cake of Life-buoy," in the words of another witty grappling writer. Not so the crowd, which begins to laugh as the valet descends the aisle. Bending low, Jeffries steps through the ropes and enters the ring, whereupon he deposits the silver tray on the canvas surface. He approaches this, and all his tasks, with reverence.

Now Jefferies stoops and removes from his tray a large chrome-plated spray gun with a pump handle. He brandishes it in the air, and the paying customers hoot and laugh some

more. His instrument looks like a bicycle pump; it's commonly known as a Flit gun for the plant insecticide it often contains. But this gleaming version holds a strong sweet-smelling perfume. George tells the press, and TV announcer Dick Lane gleefully relays tonight, that it's a special mixture, "Chanel Number 10." No. Five's good enough for other people, George says grandly, but "why be half safe?"

With great concentration, Jeffries sprays the entire twenty-by-twenty ring floor — the Gorgeous One's white-shod footsies must not touch anything malodorous or unclean. "Around the ring he dashes," writes the thoroughly entertained reporter from the *Long Beach Democrat*. "Spraying here, and spraying there. Spraying all over and everywhere. Like an insane housewife knocking off flies with a Flit gun in her kitchen." Now the valet makes a move with the spray gun toward Managoff, as if to decontaminate him as well, but the black-haired grappler raises a cocked fist, snarling, and Jeffries hastily retreats. There's more laughter in the stands at this pantomime...

His preparations complete, George's man Friday stands by the rugs and awaits his master's arrival. "By this time the excitement is pretty much tense," reporter Hannibal Coons reports, "with much confused babble and neck-craning." He can appreciate the delay, the tease. In his piece he calls George, "a well-muscled and remarkable man who could have given P.T. Barnum three Tom Thumbs and licked him as a showman in straight falls." Just now the PA system booms again, but with a different message: "Ladies and Gentleman, Gorgeous George is here!" 





Dr. Kevin Sweeney, associate professor of philosophy, at The Wine Exchange in Tampa.

# Grape EXPECTATIONS

**B**uttery. Complex. Oaky. Silky. Ample. Easy-drinking. But beautiful?

Take away the smooth, curvy bottle and classy label and can an Italian Sangiovese wine be considered beautiful? As beautiful as Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa," a Ferrari Testa Rossa or Sofia Loren?

The saying goes 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder,' but a UT researcher says it can be found in the mouth of the beholder as well.

"Traditionally, philosophers thought the concept of beauty could only apply to the senses of sight and sound, but an object of taste could not be beautiful," says Dr. Kevin Sweeney, associate professor of philosophy.

Sweeney pushes aesthetics beyond the boundaries of art and music, and asks whether it is possible for a wine to be considered beautiful. His answer: "Of course it can."

There are two kinds of taste, he says: the taste that happens when you put something in your mouth (the gustatory experience) and critical taste (your taste in art or how you decorate your apartment), which has nothing to do with what you put in your mouth. He argues that, once you get beyond your initial reaction to a wine, you can start to evaluate its beauty based on objective terms of critical taste.

"With the first sip of wine you're just starting to get to know it," he says. "It might take a little while. You have to go back and taste the wine on other occasions to really come to a position about whether you think it's a good wine."

Sweeney got interested in wine when he inherited his father's wine cellar, along with bottles and bottles of wine. He started collecting his own wine, and has become quite the connoisseur. He recently spoke at the Philosophy of Wine Conference in Pollenzo, Italy, on "Wine Evaluation and Expertise."

To evaluate if a young wine will be a good wine, you have to depend on your experience with how the wine has performed in the past. Different wine varieties age in different ways. For instance, a very young Cabernet Sauvignon is often referred to as having a taste of green bell pepper. As a Barolo matures, it will have an aroma of violets and tar. It will develop more depth, qualities and smells.

"The wine develops a structure," he says. "As you drink it, the tastes change, and you start noticing interesting relations to taste. There's quite a lingering finish that would go on quite a bit longer than you'd expect."

Sweeney plans to compile his research efforts into a book on the subject of philosophy and food. ■■■

**S**wweeney pushes aesthetics beyond the boundaries of art and music, and asks whether it is possible for a wine to be considered beautiful.





Assistant Professor James Beckman

## Book Compares Anti-Terrorism Measures in Germany and Israel

**W**ithin hours of declaring independence in 1948, the nation of Israel endured a massive attack from five Arab armies seeking the new country's downfall. The subsequent war established what came to be known as Israel's "military model of anti-terrorism," according to James Beckman, assistant professor of law and justice.

He examines this model in a chapter of a new anthology timed to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Jewish state. Beckman compares Israel's approach to the "criminal justice model," adopted by the country of Germany.

The anthology, titled "German-Israeli Security Relations — Past, Present and Future," and published by the German Academic Association for Security Studies, is the first scholarly work to offer an in-depth comparison of the security policies of the two countries.

Beckman was the sole American contributor to the book, and his work appears alongside that of a former Israeli ambassador to Germany, a member of the German parliament, two brigadier generals of the Israeli armed forces, and other prominent figures.

"One of the many things that is neat and cutting edge about this project is that much of the details regarding the German-Israeli security relationship over


the last 30 years has been kept secret, and there is very little scholarship on this field generally," Beckman said.

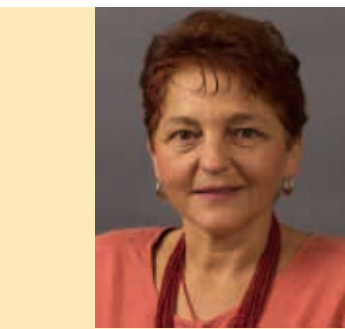
Beckman explains that since its founding, Israel has been the target of nearly constant hostilities that have led it to take a military approach in responding to perceived threats against the state.

Germany, in contrast, takes the approach of what is known as the "criminal justice model," prosecuting acts of terrorism as individual crimes such as homicide, arson, battery, etc. Beckman examines the nature of both of these approaches and the effect that their use has on the overall relationship between the two nations.

"What is especially fascinating in all of this, is that the genesis of a very positive German-Israeli relationship comes as a result of the horrific barbarities of the Holocaust," Beckman said.

He further explained that German officials publically announced in 2008 the existence of a secret security relationship between the two countries, which was created out of a sense of responsibility toward Israel in light of Germany's prior conduct.

"One hopes that the book has some impact," Beckman said. "There is just so little out there in terms of a comparative approach and a global approach to the study of anti-terrorism." 



Dr. Aida Kadic-Galeb

## Math in the Minarets

**W**hen the University celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Dr. Aida Kadic-Galeb asked herself, "What could a math professor contribute to the celebration?"


The answer?

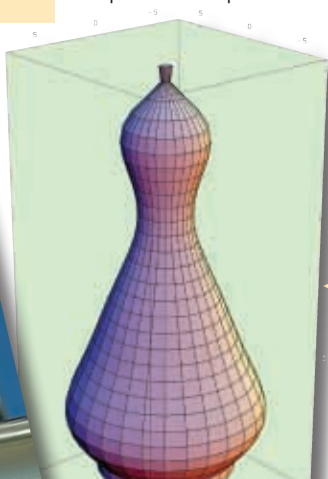
The associate professor of mathematics came up with an equation that would reliably reproduce the curve and the shape of Plant Hall's minarets. She started out by photographing the minarets, and then tracing their

lines. Any spikes or protruding shapes were left off, as they would not fit into the curve.

Kadic-Galeb spent hours plotting multiple points along the axes of three different minarets (58, 48 and 38 points respectively), and then she entered these plot points into a program called Mathematica to produce a polynomial to describe the curves. The equations are too long to reprint here, but one is an 18<sup>th</sup> degree polynomial, and when Mathematica is used to rotate it, it creates a shape that looks nearly identical to the minaret it's modeled after.

"To do the math by hand would be impossible," she says. "It still took a long time, since it was the first time I did it, but it was fun."

The professor, who paints and does photography in her spare time, said she'd like to get her students involved, looking for interesting shapes across campus to recreate using the magic of math. 



A photo of a minaret, taken by Dr. Aida Kadic-Galeb, and the shape that resulted from her polynomial.

# Building Our Environment

**T**his fall UT appeared in a *Chronicle of Higher Education* blog about university facilities that mentioned how three institutions — Flagler College, Roosevelt University and UT — occupy notable former hotels.

The blog entry briefly weighed the pros and cons of colleges and universities that preserve unused buildings and repurpose them for academic uses. Costs, functionality and sustainability were brought up as food for thought for trustees, administrators and faculty planning their campus' master plan.

Certainly Plant Hall — formerly the Tampa Bay Hotel — is a prime example (perhaps the best I've seen) of a successful transformation of a historic building to a fully functioning academic space.

Back in 1933, when the city offered the Tampa Bay Hotel to the fledgling University of Tampa, the hotel was in disuse and disrepair. Soon it became UT's one building, housing the entire campus.

Today, Plant Hall is still UT's landmark building — albeit, now surrounded by 47 other university buildings

— and it still buzzes with students, faculty, staff and visitors headed to classes, offices, concerts and laboratories and to the Henry B. Plant Museum.


This transformation has been made possible by support from the Chiselers, the museum and the City of Tampa, all which help fund maintenance of the historic and symbolic building.

As the Chiselers celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (see story, page 5), it gives us pause to think about our role and philosophy as caretakers of Plant Hall, our entire campus and the environment.

Certainly our campus master plan has been influenced by Plant Hall — not only physically and architecturally, but philosophically. We strive to construct buildings that will last, are fiscally prudent and will function for the dynamic nature of a college campus — for the academic pursuits, as well as for extracurricular events and for use by the community.

And we reuse what we can. We have demolished old buildings that were unsalvageable, but at the same time, we have renovated and reused other buildings. The Sykes College of Business (formerly the McKay Auditorium), Falk Theatre and the newly renovated Cass Building are examples. These buildings link us to our rich past, are functional, speak to sustainability and make fiscal sense.

This philosophy has guided us as we designed — and are now constructing — the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values. We demolished old fairgrounds buildings that had outlived their usefulness, and are now constructing a facility that will be used in a multitude of ways to help strengthen students' academic, extracurricular and spiritual experiences. Plus, the building takes advantage of natural light and will, like our other new buildings, have a computer monitored building management system to avoid energy waste.

If you haven't visited campus in a while, you should make it a point to visit. Today, with your help, students are receiving a top-notch academic experience in an environment that is thoughtful, comfortable and inspiring. It is a philosophy that has guided us since the city handed over the keys to the Tampa Bay Hotel 75 years ago, and should guide us for future generations. 



By Dr. Ronald L. Vaughn  
President

**T**hese buildings link us to our rich past, are functional, speak to sustainability and make fiscal sense.





## Coaching on the Crest of the Wave

### Excellence, Commitment Puts Spartan Swim Coach into Hall of Fame

By Justin Herndon  
Photos by  
Jessica Leigh

The sign in the window to his office has a simple phrase written in red:  
**ONE PERFORMS AS ONE PRACTICES.**

Spartan swimming coach Ed Brennan says he didn't put the sign there, but he keeps it up because the message is true. He should know.

**B**rennan has coached 26 individual NCAA Division II National Champions and has been named National Coach of the Year. The Brooklyn native is responsible for 88 individuals who have earned more than 130 All-America awards — more than twice the next most successful Spartan

team. Some of his most memorable wins have come against national swimming powerhouses like Ohio State, Clemson, Florida State and LSU.

In October, he added another prestigious honor to his list of accomplishments when he was inducted into The University of Tampa Athletic Department's Hall of Fame.

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"It is wonderful to be recognized as a member of the UT Hall of Fame, and I'm very, very proud of that, but I think it has a lot to do with longevity," Brennan says with humility.

After all, swimming is an endurance sport, and he has coached for more than 40 years — 29 leading the men's and women's teams at UT.

Beyond his accomplishments in the pool, though, Brennan has left a legacy around the country. Former Spartan swimmer Seth Huston '88 is now head coach at Rice University in Houston.

"He definitely gave me an incredible opportunity to coach," Huston says. "I wouldn't be where I am today without Coach Brennan. He always let you know if he thought you were doing something right or wrong, and I've learned a lot from him."

The no-nonsense discipline is part of Brennan's style, and while he claims to be a bit milder these days, he is still very strict. He implements a 90 percent attendance rule, which means a competitive swimmer must attend 10 of 11 practices each week.

"I always say, 'Be where you're supposed to be, when you're supposed to be there. Then, do what you're supposed to do when you get there and you'll be successful,'" Brennan says.

Off campus, the coach is well known for his ability and desire to teach kids how to swim.


"One of the greatest joys he gets is teaching little



Brennan talks with Alex Hetland '09, currently ranked no. 1 in Division II for the 100 yard breaststroke.

people to swim because they love it," says Monnie Wertz, UT's associate dean of students and mother of two daughters who Brennan taught how to swim. "I think the city of Tampa in general is better since Ed has been here. When I think of all the tiny people he has taught to swim and swim safely, I'm just blessed and thankful for Ed."

The same will probably be true for the athletes yet to meet Brennan, who says he has at least another five years in him.

"When you're done doing what you're supposed to do...you have to ask 'what's next?'" he says. "I have great confidence in what I do, and I think when I don't have that anymore, it will be time to go." 



## Fast Lane to Love


UT swimming coach Ed Brennan has been successful as a mentor, as a coach and, in a strange way, as cupid.

He recalls at least 10 married couples who met on the swim team at UT.

"They're spending 20 hours a week swimming," Brennan explains. "They don't go to school that long and, in this case, they have the same classmates. On the weekends, they go to competition with the same people, ride on the same bus and stay in the same hotel."

Jeff Tynes '84 and Cindy Jones '87 were two of those who spent nearly every moment together.

"You find out who you really are and who that other person really is," Cindy Tynes says. "Ed built a sense of camaraderie on the team that helped because you got to know each other as friends, and I think in any relationship that's important to know someone as a friend before you become boyfriend or girlfriend."

After 21 years of marriage, the Valrico couple remains happily married with two kids. Coach Brennan and his wife are the godparents to the Tynes' 9-year old son, Tyler. 

# Hall of Fame Inducts 10 Individuals

The UT Athletic Hall of Fame inducted eight alumni, one current and one former coach at a ceremony on Oct. 16. A longtime Spartan supporter and a Bowl-winning team were also honored.

The alumni inductees included:

### SHANNON ABARBANEL '93

(softball 1992-1993). Abarbanel was a two-time first-team all-SSC selection and the 1993 SSC Player of the Year.

**CRYSTAL ASHLEY '98** (women's basketball, 1992-1995). Ashley was the 1994 SSC Player of the Year and is one of four Spartans to be in the 1,000 point and 1,000 rebound club. She was also inducted into the Sunshine State Conference Hall of Fame in 2008.

**GARY GRAHAM '94** (baseball 1991-1994), was a 1991 second-team All-American, a 1993 NCAA World Series all-tournament team selection, and the 1994 South Region Player of the Year. He was also the winning pitcher of the 1993 national championship game.

**PIA HENRIKSSON '84** (swimming 1981-1983). Henriksson was Tampa's first individual national champion and All-American in swimming, winning the 500 Free in 1981 and the 400 IM in 1983.

**ULF LILIUS '95** (men's soccer 1992-1994). A native of Sweden, Lilius led the Spartans to the 1994 NCAA Division II national championship, where he was named MVP. Lilius was also a member of the Swedish FIFA Under-20 1991 World Cup and 1987 Scandinavian Cup teams.

**STEVE MAULDIN '90** (baseball 1987-1990). Mauldin was a member of the baseball team from 1987-90 and remains the only student-athlete in UT history to be a three-time Academic All-American (1988-90).

**JEFF SIDOR '89** (swimming 1984-1988). Sidor was the 1986 national champion in the 1,650 Free. He was also a four-year All-American in three events.

**BRYAN WILLIAMS '91** (men's basketball 1987-1991). Williams was a first-team USA


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**GET WITH THE PROGRAM.** A Ferman Chevrolet advertisement in an early 1970s football program shows a packed Tampa Stadium for a Spartan ballgame. The 1972 football team, and its coach Earle Bruce, were inducted this year in The University of Tampa Hall of Fame.

## Sam Bailey Authors Book

Former UT athletic director and football coach Sam Bailey has announced the release of a book, *A Sanibel Son Looks Back*. In the book, the UT Athletic Hall of Famer and namesake of the Sam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award writes about his childhood on Sanibel Island, where his family's history dates to the late 1800s.

Bailey also recounts his experiences playing professional football in the 1940s, and as a coach for UT stars John Matuszak '73, Freddie Solomon '75 and Lou Piniella '69. 



## Hall of Fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17


Today/Basketball Gazette All-American in 1990. He brought UT national prominence when he set an NCAA record (all divisions) for making at least one 3-pointer in 74 consecutive games.

The contributor inductees included:

Swimming coach **ED BRENNAN** (*see story, page 18*). Brennan, the men's and women's swimming coach since 1980, has consistently led both teams to NCAA National Top 20 finishes. He has produced 88 individuals who have earned more than 131 All-American awards. With Brennan at the helm, Spartan swimmers have claimed 26 individual NCAA II National Championships. In 1986, he was named the women's National Coach of the Year, when his team entered the NAAs ranked 10<sup>th</sup> and placed second overall.

Former football coach **EARLE BRUCE**. Bruce was the head football coach at Tampa in 1972. While at UT for just one year, he guided his squad to a 10-2 record, including a 21-18 Tangerine Bowl victory over Kent State and a string of victories over Bowling Green, Vanderbilt and Eastern Michigan. In 2002, he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

**THE 1972 FOOTBALL TEAM**, which was coached by Bruce, was also honored in the Special Athletic Category.

The Sam Bailey Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **TOM MCEWEN**. The former *Tampa Tribune* sports editor is credited with extensively covering and supporting the mission of University of Tampa athletics. He was inducted into the UT Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985. 

## SPORTS to do @ ut.edu CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The following schedules are for home games only. For more information, call the Athletic Office at (813) 253-6240. UT faculty, staff and students free with ID. Admission to tennis is free. General public admission: \$5/adults; \$3/senior citizens, college-age students and children. \*Indicates Sunshine State Conference event.

### BASKETBALL

Men's (M) and women's (W) games are played at the Bob Martinez Sports Center.

#### Sat., Jan. 3

Nova Southeastern (W)  
2 p.m.\*  
Nova Southeastern (M)  
4 p.m.\*

#### Wed., Jan. 14

Saint Leo (W)  
5:30 p.m.\*  
Saint Leo (M)  
7:30 p.m.\*

#### Sat., Jan. 17

Barry (W)  
2 p.m.\*  
Barry (M)  
4 p.m.\*

#### Wed., Jan. 28

Lynn (W)  
5:30 p.m.\*  
Lynn (M)  
7:30 p.m.\*

#### Sat., Jan. 31

Palm Beach Atlantic (M)  
4 p.m.

#### Sat., Feb. 7

Rollins (W)  
2 p.m.\*  
Rollins (M)  
4 p.m.\*

#### Wed., Feb. 11

Eckerd (W)  
5:30 p.m.\*  
Eckerd (M)  
7:30 p.m.\*

#### Sat., Feb. 21

Florida Tech (W)  
2 p.m.\*  
Florida Tech (M)  
4 p.m.\*

### SWIMMING

#### Sat., Jan. 3

Tampa Relays  
11 a.m.

#### Sun., Jan. 11

Emory  
noon

#### Sat., Jan. 17

Saint Leo/Rollins  
11 a.m.



# MUEZZIN



mu•ez•zin/myōō-ézin, mōō-/n. crier who calls the people to contemplation from a minaret.

## Alumni from the '50s Endure

In my four years at UT, this was by far the most entertaining homecoming and reunions I've experienced. There is always room for improvement, but overall the attendance and enthusiasm was amazing. New events included a Salsa and Sangria Social and a Decade of the '60s Open House. One of the most popular events, though, was an oldie but a goodie: the Decade of the '50s Open House.

The gathering turned 15 this year, and attendees were treated to entertainment by Jack Jenkins '61. Joyce Wamble Glauser '54, one of the original planners for the event, reminisced about how it started:

*"The Decade of the '50s Open House has become one of the most successful events on UT's homecoming schedule since the fall of 1993, when several local alumni initiated a gathering with friends and classmates from our UT years.*

*Considering UT's small enrollments of our day, we had never confined ourselves to class years for socializing and forming lasting friendships. Besides, in our humble opinion, the '50s represented the best years of our lives in many respects — music, movies and fashion made those halcyon days as glowing to remember as they had been exciting to live.*

*At that first Decade of the '50s Open House, on Oct. 15, 1994, the minarets gleamed in welcome as we met in the Music Room for socializing before adjourning to the Grand Salon for lunch. Back in our*

*day, we knew those rooms as the Dome Theater and the Ballroom. Our committee assisted alumni as they sought to match names on tags with faces still vaguely familiar, yet changed with the passage of years. Soon, shrieks of laughter signaled moments of joyful recognition; hugs and back-slapping followed. The hum of conversation rose in volume as more and more alumni gathered — between 220 and 250 by our imprecise count. The lunch buffet delighted our palates with a menu of Tampa favorites. "My first Cuban sandwich since graduation," someone commented.*

*Amid leave-takings in mid-afternoon, a spontaneous phenomenon occurred. There came a chorus of farewells: "See you next year!" We had planned a one-time event, yet those who attended decreed otherwise. And so we continue, literally, by popular demand.*

*Inevitably, attrition has reduced our numbers, and we sorely miss departed friends. Now we have broadened the scope of our fellowship. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Decade of the '50s Open House was held this year on Oct. 18, with a new feature. At their request, a group from the decade of the '60s joined us for lunch in Fletcher Lounge, after enjoying social sessions in separate rooms. We welcome these "youngsters" to our self-perpetuating miracle.*

*There is something magical in this contact with others who shared our youth, whose values and dreams and achievements have been influenced by so many of the same factors. Nostalgia becomes*

*not a futile longing to turn back the clock, but a deeper appreciation for all who contributed to what we have now become. It is an experience at once empowering and humbling. Apparently, it is still addictive. Yes, we're going to do it again and again and . . ."*

Friends who graduated during the 1950s (from left to right) Lucille (Caruso) Schoonmaker '52, Mary (Cacciatore) Spoto '51, Gloria (Gonzalez) Polo '53 and Pauline Zambito '52 gather at the Decade of the '50s Open House in 2004.



JAY HARDWICK  
Alumni Director  
E-mail: alumni@ut.edu

## Just for '50s Gals

Gals from the '50s, get ready for your annual luncheon at UT. The Ladies of the '50s luncheon will be held on Thursday, March 12, from noon to 2 p.m. Make plans now to join your friends for fun and games and enjoy the revamped menu. Invitations will be mailed in early February, but help us by spreading the word to your friends now.

We hope to build on the momentum of this year's homecoming to make next year even better. **IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 1984, 1989, 1999, OR 2004** and would like to help plan your upcoming reunion, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu). We will also be conducting a survey and would like to hear from all alumni to assist us in our planning. Please go to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) before Jan. 23 to have your voice heard.



## '61

**Hernie Vann** is a local artist who has been painting seriously since the 1960s. His work was recently exhibited at the New Tampa Regional Library.

**E-mail:** hvann@vannart.com

## '65

**Wilanne Starling Stowe** organized an Alpha Chi Omega Sorority reunion in Belmar, NJ, in June. Sorority sisters in attendance included **Pam Seifert Ahlen '64, Carol Long Gruetzner '62, Carol Wilson Domenico '65, Barbara Ubell Beaubien '64, Chrissy Hyland Druehl '65, Ginger Sutton '63, Jane Humphreys Stowers '65,** and **Peggyann Ferugia Tuma '65.**



The sisters of Alpha Chi Omega reminisce about good times.

## '71

**John Yarbrough** has decided to retire after working 29 years with Lee County Parks and Recreation in Southwest Florida. John served as head of the department for nearly 20 years.

## '78

**Artists Carl Cowden '78, Alexandra Fernandez '86** and **Michael Massaro '99** showed their most recent work in a gallery exhibition at the Scarfone/Hartley

Gallery Nov. 3-Dec. 4. Carl showed mixed media, which he defines as "pop-surrealist." Alexandra's paintings include a cast of fantastic characters in numerous small works and Michael used diverse materials to create sculptures of new, found, natural and manufactured woods, metals, bronze, stone and fiber.

## '81

**Robert G. Brown MBA** recently earned a Ph.D. in engineering management from Walden University. He is the principal and senior vice president of the TBE Group.

**Micheline Pagnotti Kennedy**, president and director of Pagnotti Enterprises, is the first woman board chairperson of Old Forge Bank in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and

serves as a board member of the Howard Gardner School, Friendship House and the Lackawanna River Corridor Association.

## '83

**Jeff Murawski's** company, Diji integrated press, was a finalist in the 2008 Small Business of the Year Competition sponsored by the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. He owns the 24-year-old digital services print and mailing company with his wife, Kathy.

## '84

**Mexi Ann Grant** retired from her position as learning community leader for the Sister Islands in the Cayman Islands this summer. Both her daughters **Tanya Nelson '89** and **Tricia Badden '94** attended UT.

**Greg Nichols MBA** has rejoined Fisher & Phillips LLP as counsel in its Tampa Office. Nichols first joined Fisher & Phillips' Ft. Lauderdale office in May 1989.

**Peter Waldron** has joined Koch Membrane Systems in Wilmington, MA, as business manager for reverse osmosis and nanofiltration products.

## '86

**Bonnie and Tom '87 McDonald** are proud to announce that their daughter Chelsea began her first semester as a freshman at UT this fall. **E-mail:** mctom65@earthlink.net  
**bmcDonald8722@yahoo.com**

## '87

After serving 21 years active duty in the Army, **Christopher Davis** retired and went to work as a Department of the Army civilian. He is working as an inspector general at Rock Island Arsenal, IL. **E-mail:** davisfamily13@hotmail.com

## '88

**Beverly Eby Wood** became instructor of business statistics at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. **E-mail:** beverly@thewoodhome.net

## '94

**Meredith Higgins Scribner** graduated in July 2008 with a master's degree in educational leadership from Argosy University in Tampa. **E-mail:** scribbler1997@verizon.net

## '95

**Betha Christian** was appointed as Crown Counsel with the Legal Department in the Cayman Islands.

**Christopher W. Marek** is senior vice president with the financial firm Eaton Vance in Atlanta. **E-mail:** cmarek@eatonvance.com

**Bradley H. Redmond** was married to Kristen in October 2007. The couple had a baby boy, Connor Hight Redmond, on Sept. 16. They reside in Round Rock, TX. **E-mail:** bradleyhredmond@gmail.com

## '97

**James R. Eisenhauer MBA** works at Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield as a software process and quality analyst. He resides in Oregon.

**Heather Alter Litvak** and her husband Andrew had their third child, daughter Jolie Landyn, on Feb. 29 — "Leap Day." Jolie joins big brother Josh and big sister Alexandra. The family lives in Atlanta. **E-mail:** heather.litvak@gmail.com

**Robert "Vince" Peeler** just received orders to report to CENTCOM and, after two years in Iraq and Bahrain, is moving back to Tampa with his family. He was also promoted to lieutenant commander. **E-mail:** rvpeeler@msn.com

## '99

**Laura Duda MBA '99** has taken a job as vice president of corporate communications for Exelon Corporation, based in Chicago. Exelon is one of the nation's largest electric utilities and distributes electricity to approximately 5.4 million customers in northern Illinois and Pennsylvania and natural



Bradley '96 and Connor Redmond

gas to 480,000 customers in the Philadelphia area.

## '00

**Travis Milks** was named vice president at Stonehenge Growth Capital, the venture capital and private equity, financing group of Stonehenge Capital Company LLC. Travis works out of Stonehenge's Tampa office.

## '01

**Parker Gavigan** married Doreen Scanlon on June 28 in Brewster, MA. Both are employed by ABC6 News in Providence, RI.

**Josh Podolsky** married Katie A. Howland on April 26. He started work at the Tampa office of Phelps Dunbar, LLP in March as a real estate attorney and was recently recognized as a 2008 "Up and Comer" by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. **E-mail:** josh.podolsky@phelps.com

## '02

**Scott Chiappetta** has been teaching in New Canaan, CT, since 2005. He is now the teacher of the gifted and talented program and U.S. history in Easton, CT. This spring he will coach the first-year baseball team. **E-mail:** chiapet689@aol.com



'03

**Bonnie Schweitzer Bottner** and her husband Mike welcomed a baby girl, Caroline Kathleen, on Sept. 11. The couple resides in Crofton, MD.

**Nathan Dutcher** has been working in the construction field since graduation. He started his own contracting company called Point Residential LLC in 2006 after receiving his Florida State general contractor's license. **E-mail: nathan@pointcontractor.com**

**Racquida Augustus Williams** and her husband Earnest welcomed a daughter, Samaya Brooklyn Williams, on May 26. The family lives in Port St. Lucie, FL. **E-mail: rakiki99@hotmail.com**

**Vianca Burger Williams** is currently a student programs coordinator in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life at the University of South Florida. She lives with her

husband Rorik in Wesley Chapel, FL. **E-mail: viancca@hotmail.com**

'04

**Joshua Adams** married Michelle Lacroix on Aug. 30. Jason Bartello '02 served as the best man in the wedding. Joshua is an estimator and account manager for R.C. Brayshaw and Co. in Warner, NH.

**Melissa Hurley** joined Fry Hammond Barr in Tampa

as an account executive and will be responsible for developing and implementing strategic public relations plans as well as engaging media relations activities for agency clients. **Email: mhurley@fhnnet.com**

**April Gillespie** married **Adam Jones '04** on June 21 in Brandon, FL. The couple now resides in Brandon. **E-mail: figment321@aol.com**



Melissa Hurley '04

**Michelle "Miki" Stark**, who has been working for Hillsborough County Fire & Rescue, was a finalist for Ms. Fitness 2008 on 10connects, formerly Tampa Bay's 10.

**Kella M. Swift** recently purchased her first home and was accepted to graduate school to work towards earning an MBA in finance. **E-mail: kelladawson@hotmail.com**

'05

**Melissa R. Lemmons** joined the Peace Corps and will be stationed in Belize working on youth development programs. A teacher in Tampa, Melissa plans to go back to teaching when she returns after two years abroad.

**Anthony Ritch** will take over as country manager for Cable & Wireless (C&W) in the Cayman Islands. A 24-year veteran of Cayman's original and largest telecommunications company, Ritch has served as C&W vice president of broadband and voice services since 2006.

**Larry Wade** was chosen for the cast of "50 Cent: The Money and the Power," an MTV reality TV series in which contestants compete in business and sales competitions for the grand prize of \$100,000, courtesy of the show's host, rapper 50 Cent. The show premiered Nov. 6 and pitted the contestants against

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

# SPOTLIGHT

# PARTAN

## A Lesson for Life

On a recent day at the crime lab, **JULIE WOOD '78** started analyzing more than 200 pills as part of a police investigation.

It's a job that can take weeks to finish, but she says it's nothing new for her lab, which handles a few thousand items a year. Wood is senior criminalist at the Maui Police Department's crime lab, which she has led for 12 years.

Wood regularly weighs and tests drug evidence, like the 200 pills, to ensure that what suspects were charged with possessing is the real deal.

She credits Dr. Charles Walker and Dr. Richard Narski (check), her professors at UT, for pushing her to be the best she could be.

"Both professors were so good at stimulating the students to think critically and manage their own solutions, rather than being spoon fed the material, and being expected to regurgitate it," she said. "That's the thing I learned most from them, how to take charge of my own learning experience, and it's carried me a long, long way in life."

That same lesson may be what's keeping her alive. Wood was diagnosed in February 2006 with an aggressive and rare form of appendix cancer.

"When the doctors told me 'There's nothing we can do for you,' I said 'We'll see about that,'" she recalls. "I didn't just accept being spoon fed an answer. I went out and did my own research. I thought about it critically; I went past that diagnosis and looked for a solution."

She found someone who could perform groundbreaking surgery, but it was only offered in Baltimore, and not covered by her insurance. She took out a second mortgage on her home to pay for it. Months later she appealed, and her insurance company reimbursed her for the cost of the surgery.

With the help of chemotherapy, Wood's disease had stabilized as of October, but she is still hoping to get an expensive immune therapy treatment in Sweden which would use her own immune cells to kill the cancer cells.

Wood and her friends have held a number of fund raising events and created a Web site, Julie's Hope, all to raise money for the treatment. In October she was halfway to her goal of \$200,000. **UT**



Julie Wood '78

each other in situations where they must rely on business sense and street smarts.

'06

**Patrick Dronek** became the area coordinator for

Brinser, the Vera Hackman Apartments and the Schreiber Quadrangle at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania.

**2nd Lt. Daniel Gusich**

was presented with the Purple Heart at a welcome home ceremony in Septem-

ber for the Army's 841st Engineer Battalion in Orlando. He suffered a concussion from an IED explosion, one of several he survived during a span of mere weeks.

**Christina Kmet and Joe Sansonetti '02** became engaged on June 7 on



Christina Kmet '06 and Joe Sansonetti '02

# SPOTLIGHT

# PARTNERS

## Serving Up Business Solutions

When **DEAN KOUTROUMANIS '89 MBA '91** started teaching full time at UT this fall, he brought 17 years of on-the-job experience, and the collective knowledge of five partners, all UT alumni.

Koutroumanis, his brother John Koutroumanis '93, his cousin Dean James Koutroumanis '91, Jim Montevago '89 MBA '91, and Dr. Allan Shoopak '79, have worked on several projects together, the latest of which is an entertainment and dining venue appropriately named The Venue.

The 24,000-square-foot facility features a tapas restaurant and a sushi restaurant. Thursday through Sunday, the complex turns into a Vegas-style nightclub with VIP rooms and champagne lounge.

"There's nothing like it in Tampa," Dean Koutroumanis said.

He and his partners also own Antonio's Pasta Grille, with locations in Clearwater and Tampa, and they have an investment interest in Courtside Grille.


He learned early on that owning your own business means working more than a 40-hour work week.

He and Montevago left their cushy corporate jobs at a restaurant chain in Ohio and, at age 27, opened their own restaurant. They worked seven days a week, 15 hours a day for zero pay.

"That's what I tell my classes," Koutroumanis said. "You have to have a deep passion for what you do, because if you don't, it will be difficult to succeed because there are going to be very rocky times when you first start out."

Businesses fail, Koutroumanis said, because of the lack of working capital and the lack of planning. That's what he emphasizes in his entrepreneurship class. He also teaches a capstone strategic management class, where students come up with business plans for local businesses.

Though Shoopak and Montevago are the only two non-related members of The Venue team, Montevago said he still feels like a family member. He has known Koutroumanis since their freshman year of college in 1985.

"We're like a big adopted family," he said. "And we all share the same philosophy. There's definitely a little Spartan blood in there." 



(Clockwise from left) James Montevago '89 MBA '91, John Koutroumanis '93, Dr. Alan Shoopak '79, Dean Anthony Koutroumanis '89 MBA '91 and Dean James Koutroumanis '91.

Harbor Island. They will get married on Sept. 26, 2009, at the Don Cesar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach. Christina is an elementary school teacher and Joe works in information technology. The couple resides in Tampa.

**E-mail: ckmet@mail.usf.edu**

**Ian Peacock** is the choir director at First Presbyterian Church of Plant City, FL.

'07

**Barbara G. Bertels**, an advanced registered nurse practitioner, has joined the Watson Clinic in Lakeland, FL. She will assist Dr. Richard J. Cardoso in treating women with gynecologic cancer and other complex conditions.

**Erin Heeder** was hired as assistant women's cross country coach at the University of West Alabama.

**Darryl W. Horton** is working at Tampa General Hospital and in November 2008 will start traveling nursing. He is looking forward to traveling the world while practicing his profession.


**E-mail: darryll72002@aol.com**

**John Hughes** plays the alto saxophone and has been striking out in the community with his solo business playing gigs at venues throughout Carrollwood and the Tampa Bay area.

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## Are You Getting Duped?


Please, help us cut down on mailing costs. If your household is receiving more than one copy of the *Journal*, send us the inkjetted address area from the back cover. We will review our records and correct any duplication.

Send your back cover to The University of Tampa, Office of Alumni Relations, Box H, 401 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606-1490. You also may let us know you are receiving duplicate copies via e-mail at [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu). 



**STAYING CONNECTED ACROSS CONTINENTS** Charlene Tobie, graduate programs marketing director, met with a group of alumni from UT's MBA program on a recent trip to Turkey. In attendance were (clockwise from left) Ozgu Ilgaz MBA '04, Esra Dalgic MBA '04, Gokce Gulbay (who spent a semester at UT), Caglar Kanzik MBA '03, Tobie, Esra Dogruyol MBA '04, and Tina Florea (Ozgu's fiancé). 

## Stay in Touch

We want to know what you've been doing since graduation, and so do your classmates and friends. Stay in touch by sending us your Class Acts so we can include you in the next issue of the *UT Journal*. You can send in the form below, e-mail [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu) or update your page on the alumni site. 



# What's Happenin'?

The University of Tampa is interested in the progress of its alumni. Use this form to let us know your news. Be sure to provide all information, so that your news can be included in the Class Acts section of the next issue of the *UT Journal*. Alumni also can update their contact information and share news via the Internet. Log on to [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) and type away.

Please mail this form to  
Office of Alumni Relations • Box H  
Attention: Class Acts  
The University of Tampa • 401 W. Kennedy Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33606-1490

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number (for records verification only) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Partner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ UT Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required by federal law) \_\_\_\_\_

# News for ClassActs

Please check all appropriate boxes, and provide details to the right of each item:



- new job \_\_\_\_\_
- job promotion \_\_\_\_\_
- additional degree earned \_\_\_\_\_
- marriage \_\_\_\_\_
- addition to family \_\_\_\_\_
- relocation to a new city \_\_\_\_\_
- honor or award received \_\_\_\_\_
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographs:** Color or black-and-white photographs of newborns, weddings, etc., may be submitted along with items for Class Acts. Photos will be published on a space-available basis only. Photographs should be sharp and properly exposed. Identify those pictured, and include a contact phone number. Photos will not be returned. Photos also may be provided electronically. JPEG and TIFF file formats are acceptable. Please make sure resolution is a minimum of 300 pixels per inch, and the shorter image dimension is at least 3". Please compress files, and send as attachments to an e-mail that includes identification of all those pictured.



CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 24

**Janelle L. Middents** is working on her Masters of Political Policy and Analysis degree at the University of Central Florida. Her research in Iranian military and government has been presented by UCF faculty in Germany and Chile.  
**E-mail: jmiddents@hotmail.com**

**Josh Tebbe** was named boys basketball coach at the Canterbury School in St. Petersburg, FL.

## '08

**Elena Ivanova MBA** accepted a position as a performance analyst at CAPTRUST Financial Advisors. She lives in Tampa.  
**E-mail: elintseto@yahoo.com**

**Byron Lee** has started a year of service as a member of AmeriCorps. Byron will be working with at-risk students at Boynton Beach School in Palm Beach County.

**Joshua A. Murphy** has joined AmeriCorps and will be working in the City Year program in Washington,

DC, combating poverty, illiteracy and educating youth on the dangers of HIV.  
**E-mail: jmurphy.08@live.com**

**Whitney Noble** has been named assistant sports information director at Tusculum College.

# In Memoriam

## ALUMNI

Orris C. Beynon '39  
Allen Benz '42  
Carmen Rose Nicholson '48  
Jose Nededog Unsiog '51  
Hazel Agnes Vega '51  
Jerome "Jerry" Henry Maier '53  
Edmund A. Peck '55  
Manuel Pirez Jr. '57  
Jim Greenwald III '58  
James "Jim" Gallagher Sr. '59  
Robert Edward Sanchez '59  
Edward Ronald Young '60  
Linda Lyle Boyette '63  
Frank Foster '63  
Josephine Ferlita Meuse '63  
Linda B. Simmons '63  
Elsa Garcia Terri '65  
Darlene Johnson '68  
Elizabeth White Danner '74  
Andreas Mogilewsky '74  
Rev. Dr. Jim Reeher '75  
Marjorie Williams Prince Anderson '78  
Yvonne F. Gray '90  
Meredith Rossmondo Mason '91

# SPOTLIGHT

# PARTAN

## A Silver Lining

A financial representative of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, **DAVID SILVER '05** was recently named Teague Financial Group's 2007 New Associate of the Year.

He was also named one of the *Tampa Bay Business Journal's* 2008 "30 Under 30." "It's nice to be recognized," he said. "And even nicer when your peers recognize you."

Silver works primarily on risk management and wealth accumulation for self-employed professionals and small business owners. In his spare time, Silver works with disadvantaged youth in Florida and Mexico.

For the past four years Silver has participated in the Regata del Sol al Sol, a yacht race from St. Petersburg to Isla Mujeres, Mexico, near Cancun. A majority of the entry fees — which have totaled more than \$50,000 — are donated to the island, and have been used to purchase an ambulance and an MRI machine.

But for Silver the most exciting part of the trip is when he and his shipmates host 30 local 8- to 10-year old schoolchildren on the yacht for a trip on the Gulf of Mexico. The children learn to grind winches, navigate, hoist halyards and douse spinnakers. They call it the Regata Amigos.

"Most of the children have never seen anything like these boats," Silver said.

Back in Florida, Silver is on the board for The Children's Charity, which provides school supplies for children of Mexican migrants. Last year the group raised \$25,000 to purchase supplies and Christmas gifts for nearly 200 children in Wimauma, FL.

This year Silver also helped organize the DeSoto Lodge Golf Charity event. The proceeds support the DeSoto Scholarship Fund, which annually provides two local students with a \$4,000 college scholarship.

"I want to be involved in the community, and I like to have an impact on the younger generation," Silver said.



David Silver '05

## University Bookstore is Online

Visit the University Bookstore at [utampa.bncollege.com](http://utampa.bncollege.com) for all of your Spartan gear. Plus, since the Campus Store is a part of the Barnes & Noble family, you get tremendous deals on software, books and magazines. Contact Mike Comiskey, Campus Store manager, at (813) 253-6230 for more information.



# There's No Plate Like Home for the Holidays



**T**his holiday season give yourself the gift of school spirit. The next time you register your car, you can celebrate UT by purchasing a custom license plate. You don't even need to leave home. You can do it by phone directly through the Alumni Office.

And when you purchase a custom license plate from UT, you're not only sharing your Spartan pride with everyone on the road, you're donating to the University. For each \$27 spent on the license plate (in addition to the regular tag fee) \$25 goes toward funding scholarships and University improvements. So far, more than 1,200 plates have been sold, raising nearly \$120,000 for the University.

To learn more about the UT license plate, call the Alumni Office at (813) 253-6209, or e-mail [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu). (Florida residents only)



Rita Peters '93 represents the state of Florida prosecuting sex criminals.

## Turning Victims into *Survivors*

By Robin Roger  
Writer

Photos by  
Jessica Leigh

As chief of the sex crimes division at the Hillsborough County State Attorney's office in Tampa, Rita Pavan Peters '93 does the one thing she was told not to. She gets close to her victims and their families.

**"M**y supervisor told me you can't do that or you'll burn out, but I find I have to do that in order to get the energy to prosecute the case," she said.

Peters once worked on a case with a 6-year-old boy who had been assaulted by his Boy Scout leader. About a year into prosecuting the case, she noticed a change in the boy. His mother called and said he had told her a secret.

He said no one would want to marry him if they found out what happened to him.

The day the scout leader pled guilty – and received 45 years in prison – Peters took the child outside, got down on one knee, and proposed to him.

"I said, 'When you get older I'll marry you,'" she says. "And he blushed and gave me a big hug. I'll never forget that little boy."

Since then, Peters has worked with elderly rape victims, victims of incest and the deaths of infants. While most of her clients want to leave that painful time behind them, many keep in touch with Peters long after the case is closed. She even sends holiday cards and her children, 4-year-old Luke and nearly 2-year-old Mia, have played with some of her younger clients.

Peters tries to keep her work and family time separate, but there is inevitably some overlap. When she's home, she says it's strictly family time, and there's no shop talk, but sometimes she gets calls from law enforcement to come to a crime scene, or gets woken up at 3 a.m. with a request for a warrant.

"That doesn't bother me," she says. "The way I see it, we're on the same team."

Her husband is a corporal with the sheriff's office, so she says she can see things from the law enforcement perspective, and wants to be as accessible as possible in an investigation. She has an open door policy, and she means it literally. She complained when someone came by to install a doorknob on her new office.

## Restoring Confidence

**I**n the courtroom Peters relates to the jury by sharing her passion for the case and gives them a glimpse into the victim's perspective. She lets children hold her prosecutor's badge as they testify.

One adult victim was scared she wouldn't be able to recognize her attacker in court, so they came up with a signal, taken from her favorite show, the Carol Burnett Show. When she saw the person, she was supposed to tug on her ear.

"The minute she walked in she was tugging so hard I thought the ear was going to fall off," she said.

"Her biggest fear in testifying was that she wouldn't be able to do a good job, and when she tugged on her ear it gave her the confidence to tell her side of the story."

A big part of Peters' job is restoring her clients' confidence, and making them feel less like victims and more like survivors.

"I like to know that in some way I've restored just a little chip in their old life," she says.

## A Good Argument


**W**hen she came to UT, Peters wanted to be a translator for the UN. She majored in French and international studies, and served on a committee to create the major. She spoke English, French and Italian, but when Peters visited the employment office at the UN in New York City, she found out the average interpreter speaks 16 languages.

She was taking a constitutional law class with Dr. Jan Dargel, who encouraged her to go to law school. Her family was floored.

"I'm non-confrontational by nature," she said. "But the minute I walked into moot court, just as Dr. Dargel had predicted, I found my wings, and I realized I loved arguing. And when I argued the best was when I was arguing on behalf of the government, so it seemed like a natural fit."

She won awards at law school at Loyola University in New Orleans for her prowess in the courtroom and was named best oral advocate by the Louisiana Supreme Court after her team won a statewide competition. After a brief stint working for Anchor Glass Container Corp. as in-house legal council, she came to work for the State Attorney's Office in Hillsborough County.

Now Peters has five attorneys working for her, including Billy Faedo, who has worked for the state attorney's office for 37 years.

"It can be pretty grim," he says. "Rita gets involved with a lot of high-profile cases. But she's the rudder of this ship." 



Peters has worked in the State Attorney's Office since 1999.

**"I** like to know that in some way I've restored just a little chip in their old life."

— Rita Peters '93

## ALUMNI and FAMILY to do @ ut.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

### JANUARY

**Fri., Jan. 9**  
Philadelphia Alumni Event  
Details at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu)

**Sat., Jan. 10**  
Washington, D.C. Alumni Event  
Details at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu)

**Thurs., Jan. 15**  
Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter Meeting  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting  
Riverside Center  
Alumni Conference Room

### FEBRUARY

**Fri., Feb. 6**  
NAA Board of Directors Meeting  
3 p.m.  
Vaughn Center Ninth Floor

**A complete listing of  
University events can be  
found at [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu).**

**Fri., Feb. 6**  
Gasparilla Kick-Off Social  
Tampa  
Details at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu)

**Sat., Feb. 7**  
Tampa Alpha Chapter  
Gasparilla Pre-parade Brunch  
10 a.m.  
Plant Hall, West Verandah  
\$40 per person

**Tues., Feb. 10**  
Atlanta Alumni Event  
Details at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu)

**Thurs., Feb. 19**  
Golden Spartan Induction Lunch  
11:30 a.m.  
Vaughn Center Crescent Club

**Thurs., Feb. 19**  
Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter Meeting  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting  
Riverside Center  
Alumni Conference Room

### MARCH

**Fri., March 6**  
Alumni Night at Tampa Bay  
Lightning Game  
Details at [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu)

**Thurs., March 12**  
Ladies of the '50s Luncheon  
Noon  
Vaughn Center Board Room  
\$15 per person

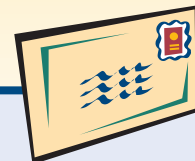
**Thurs., March 19**  
Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter Meeting  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting  
Riverside Center  
Alumni Conference Room

### APRIL

**Thurs., April 16**  
Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter Meeting  
6 p.m. social, 6:30 p.m. meeting  
Riverside Center  
Alumni Conference Room

## UT on Broadway

Not quite, but close. A group of 50 UT alumni and friends met for Cirque Du Soleil's "Wintuk" at Madison Square Garden for early holiday fun on Nov. 22. The group met at Mustang Sally's for a pre-show social and headed to the show as a group.



## JOIN US Complete and Return Your Interest Form Today!

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- Atlanta Chapter
- Chicago Chapter
- Honors Alumni Association
- MBA Association
- MS-TIM Chapter
- New England Alumni
- New York Chapter
- Orlando Chapter
- Philadelphia Chapter
- South Florida Chapter
- Tampa Alpha Chapter
- Washington, D.C. Chapter

### WHO ARE YOU?

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fax (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (required by federal law) \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

Job Title \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

- I want to help recruit students to UT.
- I want to help with career development.
- I want to help plan Homecoming for alumni.
- I want to be a sports booster.
- I want to serve as a class agent for fund-raising.
- I want to \_\_\_\_\_




## NEWS FROM THE UT FAMILY ASSOCIATION

### Parent Get Together

The UT Family Association held its annual panel discussion on Oct. 3, during Family Weekend. Family Association co-chairs John and Mary-Phyllis Harvey served as hosts of this annual event that was attended by more than 40 parents from all over the country. At the meeting, leaders of the UT community hosted a panel discussion, provided information and answered questions on many campus issues.

### Family Association Announces new Board

The UT Family Association is pleased to announce the revitalization of its board of directors. The group met for the first time on Oct. 4. The board will be assisting the University in the areas of admissions, career services and fundraising. If you are a parent of a current UT student and are interested in joining, please contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at [parent@ut.edu](mailto:parent@ut.edu). 



Alumni gear up to spot some whales on a Boston Harbour cruise ship.

### Whale of a Time

UT alumni, friends and family grabbed their cameras and headed out of Boston for an October afternoon of whale watching. The group shared UT stories, held elections for new board members, and saw nine humpback whales. Though they are no longer in school, the group enjoyed learning about these amazing mammals.

## HOMECOMING AND REUNIONS 2008



Cecil Henriquez '40 takes a peek at an old yearbook at the Golden Spartan Luncheon on Oct. 16.




Susan Schmanski '05, Paul Irvin '06, Darren Rubin '00, Jamie Pino '03, Nora Ganderson '98 and Amy Christensen '98, at the Tampa Alpha annual kick-off on Sept. 18.

### Tampa Alpha Kick-off

Tampa Alpha, the local Tampa chapter of the NAA, held its annual kick-off on Sept. 18. It was a special event because the group held the social in UT's own Rathskellar. More than 35 alumni turned out to support the chapter and reconnect with other alumni. If interested in joining Tampa Alpha, please contact Jessica Burns in Development and University Relations for application information at [jburns@ut.edu](mailto:jburns@ut.edu).

### My Fair Lady

Nearly 25 UT alumni and friends met in Chicago in September for breakfast before heading out as a group on the Chicago Architecture Foundation's *Fair Lady* for a 90-minute river cruise. The narrated tour highlighted 50 of the city's most significant architectural sites, including the Trump Tower and the Sears Tower. 

## Mexican Politician, Alumnus Dies

**J**uan Camilo Mouriño '93, who rose through Mexico's political arena to become one of the country's most prominent leaders, was killed Nov. 4 in a plane crash in Mexico City.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón appointed Mouriño in January 2008 as secretary of governance, a cabinet position that put Mouriño in charge of intelligence gathering, immigration and relations between Mexico's political parties and government leaders.

In a televised address to the Mexican people, Calderón praised Mouriño as a man who was committed to bettering his country.


"With his death, Mexico has lost a great Mexican, intelligent, loyal and committed to his ideals and his country, honest and hard-working," Calderón said.

In an interview in the Spring 2008 edition of the *UT Journal*, Mouriño said he looked forward to

helping Calderón "find solutions to Mexico's biggest problems."

Prior to his appointment as secretary of governance, Mouriño served as the chief of Calderón's office. He also helped secure the president's victory in the 2006 election, during which he was the campaign's head coordinator. He had been suggested as a possible successor to Calderón.

Mouriño was born in 1971 in Madrid, Spain. He graduated from UT in 1993 with a degree in economics. His brother, Carlos Mouriño, graduated from UT the same year.

He later obtained an M.A. in accounting with a specialization in finance from Mexico's University of Campeche and subsequently worked for his family's business before entering politics as a member of his state legislature. 



Juan Camilo Mouriño '93

## UT Comes to YOU!

Finishing touches are in the works for regional alumni and parent events for the spring. Check your mailbox, the UT Web site, and then mark your calendars. Keep reading for a sneak peak on events to come.

### CALLING ALL BASKETBALL FANS

Join Philadelphia area-alumni and parents as the group watches the 76ers take on the Charlotte Bobcats at home on Jan. 9. And, again on Jan. 10 as The University of Tampa heads to Washington, D.C., to watch the Washington Wizards take on the Charlotte Bobcats. It will be a busy weekend for the Bobcats, as well as UT. Pre-event details are still in the works, but check [alumni.ut.edu](http://alumni.ut.edu) for more details as they are finalized.


### TO TWIST OR NOT TO TWIST

UT will host a regional event in Atlanta in mid-February. Previously, the Atlanta Alumni Chapter has held this event at Twist restaurant, but is considering twisting at a different venue. Send your suggestions to [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu).

### GASPARILLA KICK-OFF SOCIAL

Join alumni and friends for a riverfront networking social at Malio's in downtown Tampa on Friday, Feb. 6. Prepare for Gasparilla and support UT scholarships by purchasing commemorative UT beads at the door. If interested, e-mail [alumni@ut.edu](mailto:alumni@ut.edu) for information.

### GASPARILLA BRUNCH

The Tampa Alpha Alumni Chapter will hold its annual Gasparilla Pre-parade Brunch on Saturday, Feb. 7. In the past, nearly 300 alumni and friends have attended brunch on the verandah before heading down to watch the Gasparilla parade. This is one of the best alumni events of the year and one you won't want to miss. 


## It's Who You Know

The Board of Counselors, which is led this year by Joe Wessel '95 and includes many UT alumni, held a speed networking event on Nov. 11 to help soon-to-be-UT graduates and young alumni find a job in the tight economy.

Held in conjunction with the Office of Career Services, UT students learned how to work a room and network with professionals from a variety of industries in a low-pressure situation.

"Students have the opportunity to learn networking techniques and receive feedback in a safe and fun environment, said Natalie Sidor '00, chair of the BOC's career services committee and organizer of the event. "And, alumni get the opportunity to learn the strengths and interests of the current student body."

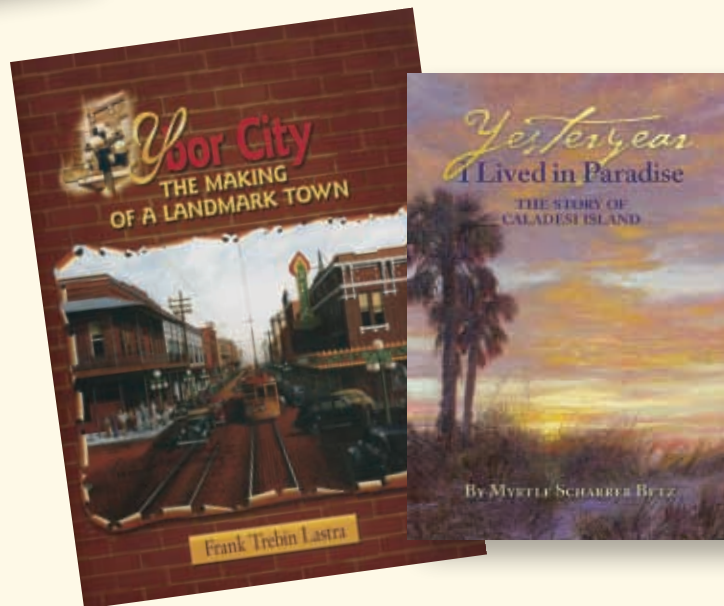
The event, modeled after speed dating, was held in a casual setting, and students mingled with the professionals, rotating every four minutes. Unlike a mock interview, there were no set questions. About 26 counselors, fellows and other industry representatives attended, including professionals from the banking, science, law and pharmaceutical industries.

The event fulfills part of the Counselors mission, which is to help students transition from school to the workplace, and it helps local business people stay connected to the University. 

# Gifts of the past for the Present



Memories enrich your holidays. From Tampa & Ybor City to Caladesi Island & Zephyrhills, you will find dozens of ways to make the past a part of your present with a UT Press book.



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**BRIAN OVERCAST**  
Planned Giving Officer  
E-mail: [bovercast@ut.edu](mailto:bovercast@ut.edu)



Judge Robert E. Beach '55  
at the North Shore pool in  
St. Petersburg

# DIVING INTO RETIREMENT

UT gave Judge Robert E. Beach '55 a chance to succeed, so he's giving to UT through his will.

**J**udge Robert Beach '55 likes to say that he is busier in retirement than he was in his working years. On an average day he will get up at 5 a.m. to swim two-and-a-half miles, and then drive to Tampa to hear a court case before heading home to plan his next trip to Eastern Europe. At 79-years-old, he may be busier now than he was at the height of his career.

Beach started his career as a successful trial attorney, though it was his work as a circuit court judge in Pinellas County for which he is best known. Although he is now retired after 25 years of serving on the bench, Beach is still sought after as a senior judge, filling in as a substitute on court cases all over Florida.

In addition to his work as a judge, Beach loves to swim, and rarely misses his workout every morning at the North Shore pool. As a prominent member of U.S. Masters Swimming, Beach competes at swim meets around the world, and even holds a world record in his age group.

Beach's passion for the sport reached a fever-pitch in 1974 when he successfully swam through the treacherous waters between Alcatraz and San Francisco.

Despite all of his achievements, Judge Beach is the first to admit the level of success he attained still surprises him to this day.

"If someone had told me back in high school that I would end up a judge later down the line, I never would have believed it," Beach said.

As a teenager growing up with the "Hollywood crowd" in California, Beach struggled for direction and soon gained a reputation as being a bit of a scofflaw. Wanting to separate from his destructive path, Beach left California in 1951 and settled in Tampa where he found work in a downtown gentlemen's club. It was his bartending job at the Chesterfield Show Bar that would provide a meager beginning to his education at UT, though the job came with its consequences. Due to the unsavory nature of his working environment, most young women wouldn't associate with him, save one.

## A Fresh Start

At first, Beach struggled under the strain of balancing a full-time job and an equally full load of classes. Ellwood Nance, then president of UT, heard about Beach's plight to work his way through school and decided to grant him a partial scholarship so that

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**E**llwood Nance, then president of UT, heard about Beach's plight to work his way through school and decided to grant him a partial scholarship.

## Beach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36

Beach could reduce his working hours and turn his focus back to furthering his education.

President Nance was not the only staff member to lend assistance to Beach. Another significant individual who looked after Beach was Dean M.C. Rhodes. Rhodes brokered a deal which allowed Beach to live in one of the minarets rent free for a year with the caveat that Beach would fix the windows and clean out the decades of bird droppings that had accumulated there.


"When I look back at the people who had an influence on my life, I always think of those two men. They helped make me the man I am today," he said.

## Renewed Connections

In gratitude for the role that The University of Tampa played in his success, Beach gives annually to his alma mater. Most recently, Beach made a provision for UT in his estate plan. Through a bequest in his will,

Judge Beach has made a connection — with a future Spartan — which will ensure that his education will one day benefit another student.

Through his long-term relationship with the University, Beach has recently made another connection, this time with that old friend who refused to judge him by his choice of employment at the show bar — Liz Schwartz D'Ambrosio '54.

The foundation that Beach and Schwartz created at UT in the 1950s has withstood the changes of time and has now provided the opportunity for two old sweethearts to reconnect after spending a lifetime apart. 

## For Further Information

**Thomas R. Giddens**  
Director of Planned Giving


**Brian Overcast**  
Planned Giving Officer

The University of Tampa • Office of Planned Giving—Box H  
401 W. Kennedy Blvd. • Tampa, FL 33606-1490  
Telephone: (813) 253-6220 • Fax: (813) 258-7798  
E-mail: [plannedgiving@ut.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@ut.edu)  
Web site: [www.ut.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.ut.edu/plannedgiving)



Thomas R. Giddens, Ph.D.  
Director of Planned Giving

Thomas R. Giddens, Ph.D., is UT's planned giving director, a post he has held since July 1996. He also has been a regular contributor to "Leaving a Legacy," a practical guide to financial planning and planned giving at UT.

Giddens also directs UT's Institute for Estate and Financial Planning, which assists alumni and friends of the University with estate and financial planning needs. This includes lectures, seminars, in-home study courses and other educational programs that focus on wills, trusts and life estate contracts, taxes, investments, life insurance, long-term health care and retirement planning. 

## Now Make Tax-Free Gifts From Your IRA

If you find yourself paying a lot of income tax because you are required to take a minimum IRA distribution that you don't really need, it might be time to consider what the recently extended charitable IRA legislation can do for you.


The charitable IRA legislation continues to allow individuals 70<sup>1/2</sup> or older to make outright gifts through direct transfers from their IRAs to charitable organizations without paying income tax on the distribution. You can make gifts of up to \$100,000 in 2009. If you are able to take advantage of this opportunity, you



## Free Delivery!

Would you like our Planned Giving newsletter to be delivered monthly directly to your inbox?

Each month, the Planned Giving Office at The University of Tampa sends out an e-newsletter to more than 400 alumni and friends. In every issue of *Enduring Ideas*, you will find three articles pertinent to the giving and tax climate, as well as a profile of a new Legacy Society member.


Join the hundreds of other alumni who have signed up for this service. To request that your name be added to our distribution list, send your e-mail address to [plannedgiving@ut.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@ut.edu). 

can improve your overall tax situation while helping The University of Tampa to meet our goals and achieve our vision for the future.

You can make a direct transfer if:

- You are age 70<sup>1/2</sup> or older on the day of the gift.
- You make the gift on or before Dec. 31, 2009.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA.
- You transfer the gift outright to one or more qualified charities.
- You give \$100,000 or less per year in 2009.

## Another Option

If you believe that making an outright gift from your IRA isn't right for you or if you don't qualify under the rules, consider making UT beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement assets. In most cases, the government defers tax on the income used to fund your IRA. After your lifetime, the funds in your IRA are subject to income and estate taxes — and sometimes state taxes. When you put income and estate taxes together, 65 percent of the value of your IRA may be spent on taxes. The good news is that by naming UT as beneficiary of these funds, the University, as a charitable organization, is exempt from taxes and will receive the entire amount you designate. Also as a result of the gift, your heirs may inherit more assets and pay less in taxes. 

## Planned Giving on the Web

Do you have questions about estate planning? Planned giving? Your will? Trusts?

Each month, we feature new articles and interactive features that cover such topics at our Planned Giving Web site.

Go to [www.ut.edu/plannedgiving](http://www.ut.edu/plannedgiving) to learn more. 



# WHY GIVE



## NAME

Susan Leisner

## CURRENT PROFESSION

Retired financial analyst, now volunteering with the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women, and the Home Association, a nonprofit skilled nursing facility. Susan has volunteered with and provided support to a number of local Tampa Bay area charities, including UT.

Her service with UT began in 1987 as a member of the Board of Fellows, a volunteer organization which elected her as the first female chair in UT's history. Susan just completed two terms on the Board of Trustees.

## HOW DID YOU FIRST CONNECT WITH UT?

A friend of mine got me involved with the Board of Fellows (BOF). I really liked the BOF because it was made up of all the young business people in town and the organization gave us a way to come together and do something meaningful for the University.

## WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE THE BOF FACED AT THE TIME?

Plant Hall was falling apart when I first got involved. The bones of the building were good, but it needed a lot of work. UT just needed someone to get out there and raise the money for it, which Ron Vaughn did. It was nice at the time to be involved in something that was evolving and getting better and better. Some 20 years later, I still feel like I am a part of something important, and I have enjoyed seeing the results of our efforts unfold.

## WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON CURRENTLY AT UT?


I've enjoyed being chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee. In the last two years we have completely redesigned the endowment investments and restructured them for diversification. The endowment is professionally managed, and the

investment policy and investment allocation has been updated. Our supporters should know that their gifts to the endowment will be well taken care of.

## YOU'RE A STRONG PROPONENT OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION. WHY?

The years I spent in college and graduate school were extremely enjoyable and fulfilling. I believe that everyone who is academically ready should have access to the best campus experience that is available to them. The University of Tampa, with its outstanding campus atmosphere and its proximity to downtown Tampa is a great example of the ideal college environment.

## WHY DO YOU GIVE TO UT?

It goes back to my mother, who was a widowed school teacher. Despite our limited means, I still saw her writing out checks to charities; it might have been only five dollars, but her generosity for others instilled a sense of giving at a very young age. I think if your parents give, you get into that habit of giving. I wanted to be involved with UT because the University is a part of the community I live in, and I believe that no one gets where they are by themselves, so it is important to give back to all those who have helped us out along the way. 

# Longtime UT Supporter Dies

**A**n international businessman and longtime University of Tampa supporter who helped realize UT's modern campus recently passed away. John Beveridge Caswell, who served on the Board of Trustees from 1990-2001, died on Oct. 10.

As a trustee, Caswell served as a chair of the Facilities Committee, Administrative Affairs Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board.

Caswell was supportive of what ended up being the \$80 million capital campaign "Take UT To The Top" in 1999, and helped implement construction of the Sykes College of Business, Thomas Parking Garage, Vaughn Center, Brevard and Austin residence halls and the renovation and landscaping of other buildings. The committees he served on also helped realize the renovation of the Cass Building (*see page 1*).

His wife, Heather Livingstone Caswell, said that he valued education, and that UT was very important to him. She recalled his being particularly proud of the work on the Facilities Committee at a time when some campus buildings were being "patched up with chewing gum and string."

"He was very involved when the University was constructing lots of new buildings, and he was proud of everyone's work on that committee," she said.

Caswell was also a longtime donor to the University, and worked closely with UT presidents

Bruce Samson and Ronald Vaughn. Along with Presidents Samson and Vaughn, Caswell was also an active member of the Society of International Business Fellows and was supportive of UT's efforts to further internationalize.

"I particularly enjoyed John's intellect and humor. His friendship, leadership, and loyal University support were appreciated and will be greatly missed," Vaughn said.

In 1985 Caswell founded and became CEO of The Omnia Group, a management and personnel consulting firm based in Tampa.

As recently as last August, Caswell was commenting on the impacts of the economic downturn on personnel. "The majority of employees, when actively partnered with a company, will respond to tough times with resolve and determination," Caswell said in an interview with *Certification Magazine*.

Prior to founding Omnia, Caswell led international operations for Stanhome, which marketed a wide range of consumer products, including giftware, collectibles, cosmetics, and home care and personal care products. He founded Stanhome Spain, England, France and Australia, later becoming president of Stanhome International, and subsequently president and COO of the corporation.

Born in Hartford, CT, Caswell held a bachelor's degree from Brown University and an MBA from Columbia University. 



John Beveridge Caswell

**"**He was very involved when the University was constructing lots of new buildings.**"**

— Heather Livingstone Caswell

# Local Foundation Honored

**T**he Saunders Foundation, which has supported educational initiatives at UT for nearly 40 years, was recognized as a 2008 Champion of Higher Independent Education in Florida (C.H.I.E.F.) Award winner at winter commencement on Dec. 13.


The C.H.I.E.F. Award is the highest honor presented by the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida Council of Presidents.

The Saunders Foundation has supported UT annual and endowment funds and has helped fund building and classroom renovations, including the Virginia Room in Plant Hall and the Martinez Sports Center. In the mid-1990s, The Saunders Foundation spearheaded the Saunders Challenge Grant, which increased giving to the University's annual fund.

Today the Saunders Writing Center at UT is named in honor of the foundation, as is the lobby of the Austin Residence Hall. Most recently, the foundation helped establish the James Kelly Memorial Scholarship at UT for deserving students.

The Saunders Foundation was established in 1956 by the late William Newbill Saunders and Ruby Lee Saunders, his wife.

In addition, The Saunders Foundation has supported educational programming at such organizations as the Florida Aquarium, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Florida Orchestra, Tampa Bay History Center and Metropolitan Ministries.

Previous C.H.I.E.F. Award winners with ties to UT include the late Ross Parker, Gov. Bob Martinez, Alfred S. Austin, John H. and Susan Sykes, and Catherine and Hon. David A. Straz Jr. 

# Nursing Program Receives \$55,000 for Simulators

The Walter Foundation donated \$55,000 to UT's nursing program to purchase simulation equipment and training modules to simulate actual health care scenarios. The foundation previously gave \$300,000 to help fund construction of the nursing skills lab.


A recent gift from The Walter Foundation has allowed UT's nursing program to obtain state-of-the-art simulation equipment.




The \$55,000 donation funded such items as a two-day onsite workshop on the basic use of the SimMan and SimBaby simulators and a MobilSim digital audio-recording system. MobilSim is a digital recording, data collection and assessment solution which allows the flexibility of digitally capturing a simulation session anywhere; managing participants; debriefing; evaluating; and exporting raw data from a portable stand-alone unit.

The gift will also allow for nursing scenarios for the SimMan Patient Simulator. The scenarios range from obtaining vital signs to recognizing and managing life threatening complications. It will also fund the purchase of a refurbished maternal birthing bed and infant warmer and a RhythmSim Arrhythmia Simulator for use with the ECG machine.

Maria Warda, professor of nursing and director of the nursing program, said that simulation is a huge expense for nursing schools, so this donation is especially critical.

"All of the equipment the donation funded is state of the art," Warda said. "And it is very much needed to provide students with the absolute best nursing education." 



**IN GOOD COMPANY** Nearly 260 people attended the The Minaret Society Gala, which was held this year on Nov. 7 in the Vaughn Center on campus. The black-tie affair recognizes lead UT donors. 

## GIFTS IN HONOR AND IN MEMORIAM

Gifts made from June 12-Nov. 11, 2008.

### IN MEMORIAM

**ALLEN BENZ**

Virginia and Charles Mullen

**PATRICIA (PATSY) BENZ**

Virginia and Charles Mullen

**ROBERT (BOB) BOWEN**

Virginia and Charles Mullen

**JOHN CASWELL**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

**GEORGE CHAVEZ**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

Joe Benito

Noni Brill

**MARILYN DEFOSSET**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

**CAMILLA D'INGLANNI OMS**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

**MARY ELLEN GERMANY**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

Dr. and Mrs. Michael

Mendelsohn

**DON V. GIUNTA**

Beatrice T. Giunta

Victoria J. Giunta

**OLA HEATH**

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Austin

**JANE HUGHEY HEWIT**

David and Linda Ward

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# Giving a Little Can Mean a Lot

**O**n a recent trip to Jacksonville, I had the pleasure of meeting Arthur Pepper '74, a former adjunct professor in the accounting department at UT, and a regular Annual Fund donor.

Pepper served in Vietnam before being stationed at MacDill Air Force Base in 1971, where he learned about The University of Tampa through its on-base center. He took an ecology course and a course on English literature. Pepper liked the location, and UT's football team, so he started on UT's main campus as a junior in 1972. He enjoyed his time at UT and made lifelong friends in the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity.

"UT was a 'soft landing' as I transitioned from the Air Force to civilian life," he said. "The University prepared me for the next stage of my life. My dad suggested I become an accountant and UT paved the way for that to happen."

Pepper doesn't necessarily feel like he owes The University of Tampa anything. He paid his tuition. But the University led him down a path that would prepare him for success in his career.

"UT sold me the idea of an education from a private liberal arts institution and it has paid off," he said. "People who value private institutions have to support them because they do not get funding like public institutions."

Pepper's annual gifts of \$10 to \$50 per year to the University are now approaching \$1,000 in total giving.

"I send in a gift as opportunity and finances permit," Pepper said. "It is a way for me to continue to stay connected with the University."

Pepper has given to UT nearly every year since graduating. When asked about his consistent giving, Pepper said, "If every grad gave just \$10, \$20, or even \$50 per year, UT would be in really good shape."

As the director of UT's Annual Fund, I talk to alumni, parents, and friends of UT all the time who ask, "I can only contribute \$50 this year. Will that really make a difference?"

Simply put, UT would not be what it is today without the people like Pepper who give as much as they can every year, no matter how large or small the gift.

UT was built on a gift from the city to rent Plant Hall for \$1 a year. And in the beginning, UT was lucky if it could collect half the tuition due from its students, so teachers worked without pay so that the University could survive the Great Depression.

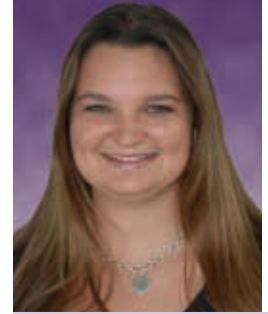
So many times you hear about a single large donation that makes a big impact at UT. The generosity of the Sykes family led to the building of the Vaughn Center, the John H. Sykes College of Business and the Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values. Frank P. Urso donated \$3 million and Frank P. Urso M.D. Hall was renamed for him.

But for every large donation, there are thousands of donors who regularly give smaller gifts to the Annual Fund.

Whether you are a UT alumnus, a student, a parent, or a friend, you have a stake in the future of the University. That future is determined by loyal supporters who, year after year, provide the financial means for a quality education by contributing to the Annual Fund.

If every alumnus and current parent donated \$50 — less than the cost of a dinner and a movie — that would give UT an additional \$1.2 million this year. So, the next time you consider making a gift to the University, remember, every donation can make a difference. 🍷🍷

Arthur Pepper '74 outside Gene's Seafood Restaurant in Jacksonville, FL.



**TAYLOR ALBERTSON PINKE**  
Director of the Annual Fund  
E-mail: [annualefund@ut.edu](mailto:annualefund@ut.edu)

## Accounting for Change

It sounds so clichéd to say every penny can help here at UT, but it is true. I am constantly searching for ways to help demonstrate how donations of all sizes are helping at UT.

▲ \$25 could send recruitment packets to nine potential students.

▲ \$50 could pay the licensing fee for software used by hundreds of students.

▲ \$75 could provide eight hours of peer tutoring to a student.

▲ \$100 could provide two cases of test tubes for science class.

▲ \$250 could pay for a year of applied lesson fees for a music major.

▲ \$500 could help a student attend a conference with a faculty mentor.

▲ \$1,000 could provide an art studio class with supplies for a semester.

▲ \$1,500 could give a deserving student a scholarship in your name. 🍷🍷





## A Page From the Past

**M**arjorie Kinnan Rawlings Baskin (far right) at the dedication for the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Literary Room with (from left) Dr. James Elliott Mooney, president of UT; J.A. Griffin from the Board of Trustees; Kenneth McKay, president of the Board of Trustees; and Norman Borchardt, the UT art instructor who painted the mural behind them. The author, who wrote the Pulitzer-prize winning novel *The Yearling*, was unable to attend the June 1942 commencement where she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature degree, but she came in February 1943 for the official dedication of the room. President Mooney wrote a dedication, which is a part of the mural behind the group. The room has since been turned into an admissions office and the mural was painted over or removed, most likely in the 1960s during a period of renovation. Photo by Robertson and Fresh. [UT](#)

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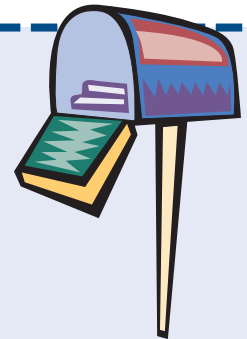
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