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DEDICATED TO DISCOVERY.
At The University of Texas at Arlington, we are committed to discovering solutions to the world's most complex challenges. Our researchers engage in thoughtful exploration and create inventions that boost the economy and foster a healthier, safer, and more productive society. But discovery at UT Arlington extends beyond the walls of our state-of-the-art laboratories. It also encompasses the transformational partnerships that benefit the community, as well as the life-changing moments students encounter both inside and outside the classroom. Whether pushing the boundaries of knowledge, serving those around us, or educating the next generation of leaders, UT Arlington is dedicated to discovery.
Knowledge is a powerful commodity. At The University of Texas at Arlington, it is a natural resource that has been flowing freely for well over a hundred years—and that has accelerated exponentially during the past decade. Witness the thriving research university that UT Arlington has become and the top-tier institution we continue to build.

Regardless of how you define or measure our success, UT Arlington’s star is on the rise. Our optimism runs high and our Maverick spirit is unbridled, even as we confront stark realities on many fronts. UT Arlington continues to be challenged by state revenue reductions and federal budget cuts that show no sign of slowing for the foreseeable future. Our approach has been to face these constantly changing economic conditions head on—and to recognize that they are not likely to subside. Far from a downturn or a correction, this is the new economic reality, or as UT Arlington’s Distinguished Research Scholar Richard Florida calls it, “the great reset.”

With adversity comes opportunity. Despite a volatile external funding environment, the University has fared better than many of its peers. We have been aggressively addressing major challenges for the past several years. We have tackled important issues like affordability, access, efficiency, productivity, and student success. We have kept a laser-sharp focus on our strategic priorities. Our mission to become a nationally recognized research university guides every decision we make, financial or otherwise.
A major source of strength and resilience is that students continue to choose UT Arlington in record numbers. This year was no exception, as the University experienced successive semesters of unprecedented growth. Enrollment reached 33,439 by fall 2011, which is impressive enough, but perhaps even more significant is that the academic quality of our incoming students continues to improve. Almost a third of entering freshmen were in the top 10 percent of their high school class, and more than two-thirds were in the top 25 percent. In a relatively short time, UT Arlington clearly has become a solid first-choice institution for bright, industrious students eager to earn their college degree at a first-rate university.

Two pivotal appointments in senior academic leadership this year will serve UT Arlington well for years to come. Dr. Ronald L. Elsenbaumer, formerly vice president for research and federal relations, was named provost and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Elsenbaumer is an accomplished professor and researcher who has served UT Arlington with distinction for the past two decades. And Dr. Jean-Pierre Bardet, previously chair of the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California, joined us this year as dean of the College of Engineering. Dr. Bardet is an internationally recognized scientist and a proven academic administrator.

An outstanding faculty is at the heart of any great university. Teachers, scholars, scientists, and mentors, UT Arlington faculty members are at the core of all that we are and all that we do. They routinely receive teaching awards and accolades and are extremely competitive in securing external research funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and other public and private sources. Total sponsored research expenditures continue to soar, reaching $66 million this year.

The University marked a major milestone in its commitment to cutting-edge research this year with the opening of the state-of-the-art Engineering Research Building. This remarkable new complex significantly enhances UT Arlington’s research profile and capacity. The labs and classrooms now hum with activity as students and faculty make the most of this extraordinary space, which was designed to provide the next generation of scientists with the environment and tools they need to explore new frontiers in engineering and science.

UT Arlington may well be one of the few institutions in the nation today where progress in facilities and infrastructure is measured not in square footage but in acres. Just a few blocks down the street from the Engineering Research Building, UT Arlington’s next major construction milestone is nearing completion and creating a dramatic new skyline. The College Park District—a marvel of architectural design and engineering, a model of partnership between the University and the City of Arlington, and a stunning example of sustainable urban development—spans more than 20 acres and represents an investment of more than $160 million.
At its hub is College Park Center, the 7,000-seat special events center that will serve as our new home court for basketball and volleyball, as well as a venue for commencements, concerts, and a wide variety of community events. It is hard to imagine just how much this new facility will enhance campus life, but we anticipate the change to be profound. Our athletics program, in particular, will turn the page as our teams enter a bold new era of competition. Intercollegiate athletics will bid farewell to games in the venerable Texas Hall and will soon step onto a new stage that includes entry into the Western Athletic Conference.

The final phase of the College Park District will be completed in summer 2012 and features Vandergriff Hall, the Dan Dipert University Welcome Center, retail shops and restaurants, and a massive 1,800-space parking facility. The Green at College Park—a four-acre sustainable park that opened earlier this year—will take on even greater presence as construction fences come down, buildings open their doors, and this part of campus springs to life welcoming residents, neighbors, and visitors.

College Park Center has been a tremendous catalyst, a rallying point, in helping establish a culture of private giving to the University. New gifts and pledges to UT Arlington reached $15 million for the second year in a row. This is a clear indication that our alumni and friends have confidence in UT Arlington and are willing to invest in the University in new and meaningful ways. Planning for the University’s first major comprehensive fundraising campaign is well under way.

The title of this year’s President’s Report is Discovery, a poignant theme for a university that has been dedicated to a mission of self-discovery and transformation for the past few years.

Each passion pursued, each accomplishment earned, each dream fulfilled demonstrates the enormous impact and the unlimited potential that are embodied at UT Arlington. Whether it’s providing an unparalleled education for our students or addressing complex societal issues like aging, energy, health care, and national security, UT Arlington is in the business of enhancing the quality of life for North Texas and beyond.

There is no calling more noble—and no business we would rather be in.

James D. Spaniolo
President
Before the invention comes the idea, born of a singular discovery moment with life-changing potential. At UT Arlington, our faculty and students receive the resources, support, and encouragement they need to seek such flashes of enlightenment. Researchers from diverse backgrounds bring fresh perspectives and insights. World-class facilities and equipment propel advancements and yield boundary-pushing exploration. Outstanding graduate programs prepare the next wave of innovators, ensuring that progress never stops. By encouraging and nurturing an environment of relentless investigation, UT Arlington is making major breakthroughs in biotechnology, medical diagnostics, and renewable energy, among numerous other fields. These critical developments are transforming lives in myriad, tangible ways.
J.-C. Chiao takes a practical approach to research. When doctors tell him they have a problem, he figures out a solution. This mindset has resulted in several inventions that could aid millions of people suffering from cancer and other diseases. He and his team have developed a sensor implant that helps patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease, a closed-loop implant system that inhibits pain, and a miniature gastrostimulator to treat gastroparesis in people battling diabetes, cancer, and obesity. Add to the list his project to develop a device to predict prostate cancer metastasis, and it's easy to see why the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Electrical Engineering continues to win prestigious awards. Last year Dr. Chiao became UT Arlington's first recipient of the O'Donnell Award in Engineering from The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas. He also was named a 2011 Tech Titan by the Metroplex Technology Business Council. "UT Arlington is not just a top-tier institute for scientific discoveries," he says, "but also a university full of synergy between research and commercialization."
Leading the Climb to Unsurpassed Heights

Highly skilled and dedicated administrators chart the course for UT Arlington’s journey to become a major national research institution. The University continues to attract a forward-thinking leadership team with a singular focus on achieving our mission.

BUILDING A TOP-TIER UNIVERSITY

As UT Arlington’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs, Ronald L. Elsenbaumer looks forward to advancing the University’s Tier One objectives.

Dr. Elsenbaumer began the position in fall 2011 after most recently serving as UT Arlington’s vice president for research and federal relations. In that capacity, he played a significant role in strengthening the University’s research profile, particularly in science, engineering, biotechnology, and nanotechnology.

“We could not ask for a more dedicated, more skillful leader to help guide UT Arlington as it becomes a major national research institution,” President James D. Spaniolo says.

An educator for more than 30 years, Elsenbaumer’s research interests include electrically conductive polymers and environmentally friendly lubricant additives. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications, holds 42 U.S. patents, and has secured millions of dollars in external research funding.

He earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Purdue University and his doctorate in chemistry from Stanford University. He worked in the private sector for Allied-Signal before joining UT Arlington in 1991 as chairman and director of the Materials Science and Engineering Department. He also has served as chair of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, as director of UT Arlington’s Nanotechnology Research and Teaching Facility, and as interim provost in 2007-08.

ENGINEERED FOR SUCCESS

Jean-Pierre Bardet believes now is the time to build a world-class engineering college with vibrant research and educational programs that will invigorate the economy and improve the quality of life in North Texas and beyond.

Dr. Bardet, the new dean of the College of Engineering, most recently was chair of the Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Southern California.

“I am thrilled and honored to be given the opportunity to work with faculty, students, staff, and alumni across the University to achieve great things,” he says.

Bardet studied at Ecole Centrale in France and earned his master’s and doctoral degrees from the California Institute of Technology. A member of the USC faculty since 1983, he chaired the civil and environmental engineering department for five years.

“We know that Dr. Bardet’s professional accomplishments and his enthusiasm for education and innovation will help propel the University’s drive to become a major national research institution,” President James D. Spaniolo says.

Bardet’s professional interests include civil infrastructure systems, earthquake research, geomicrobiology, and synthetic horse racing surfaces. He founded and directed USC’s Center on Megacities, a multidisciplinary research center that promotes innovation to prepare and sustain the world’s largest cities.
TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Kelly Davis is a homegrown administrator. The new vice president for business affairs and controller earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting from the UT Arlington College of Business in 1984.

After stints in a variety of accounting jobs, she decided to come home to UT Arlington in 1997 as assistant director of accounting. She most recently served as assistant vice president for academic financial affairs in the Office of the Provost.

Appointed vice president in July 2011, Davis is responsible for everything related to finance and accounting, including budget development, procurement, payroll, financial reporting, student financial services, and asset management. It’s a challenging job these days as funding for higher education has become more complicated and competitive.

“The tough economy is not sparing higher education,” she says. “State funding is shrinking, and we compete with more and more agencies for those dollars.”

A certified public accountant, Davis believes the Office of Business Affairs and Controller will play a key role in advancing the University’s Tier One mission by facing financial hurdles with strategic-resource management, streamlined processes, and cost-saving measures.

After 14 years and endless changes and challenges, she adds, “I love my job.”

INFORMATION CHIEF

Maurice Leatherbury’s road to becoming vice president for information technology started in the library.

With degrees in library science, he has worked not only among books, but also in software development, combining the two in higher education. As the University’s chief information officer, he manages the Office of Information Technology, which oversees the campus’ centralized computing and telecommunications services, the Arlington Regional Data Center, and the UT System’s shared systems.

Dr. Leatherbury, who became vice president in July 2011, says his background as a librarian and faculty member gives him a deep commitment to customer service.

“I have a very strong appreciation for and understanding of the mission, goals, and mindset of the faculty, who are at the heart of a research university,” he says.

Prior to coming to UT Arlington, Leatherbury worked at the University of North Texas for 15 years, the last five as the institution’s chief information officer. He also spent 13 years as president of the MetaMicro Library Systems Inc. software company, where he developed applications for libraries.

He has served as chair of the board of directors for the Lonestar Education and Research Network and as chair of the North Texas Gigapop Management Council. He earned his doctorate in library and information science at UT Austin.
Developing Resources That Spur Innovation

State-of-the-art facilities equipped with the latest technological advancements provide faculty and students with the infrastructure they need to produce the next generation of inventions.

In realistic hospital units, are helping others explore the field.

The College of Nursing recently partnered with Laerdal Medical, a leader in simulation technology, to provide 100 simulation scenarios that can be purchased through Laerdal’s SimStore.

UT Arlington will use the proceeds from the agreement to continue operating and expanding the Smart Hospital, whose virtual environment helps students think critically and develop confidence and competency in clinical skills.

“More and more, simulation facilities are filling the role of the laboratory situations that all of the nursing programs in the world have to provide,” says Carolyn Cason, the University’s interim vice president for research and director of the Center for Nursing Research. “Our potential market is a global one.”

VirtuALLy eXTRaordinAry

Though long a staple at UT Arlington, simulation in health care education is growing by leaps and bounds. Now, lessons learned at the University’s Smart Hospital, a 13,000-square-foot center filled with computerized patients in realistic hospital units, are helping others explore the field.

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Small Wonders

A tour of all the micromanufacturing research and production facilities in Texas would have only one stop: the Texas Microfactory at UT Arlington’s Automation and Robotics Research Institute.

The microfactory houses a system of nanorobots that can construct novel materials 1,000 times smaller in diameter than a human hair. Using automation technology to program the robots, researchers can tailor-make nanomaterials that one day may revolutionize the defense, energy, and medical industries.

The system could be used to build ultra-sensitive sensors that detect tiny volumes of dangerous chemicals or biological agents and to create products that enable faster medical diagnosis and noninvasive surgical techniques. The nanomaterials also could improve the efficiency of energy storage and conversion. If a company wants to develop 500 units—or 2,000—the Texas Microfactory can devise the process and then produce the devices.

“We differentiate ourselves because we have a chain from innovation to research and development, prototyping, and pilot production,” Texas Microfactory Director Harry Stephanou says.
A SUSTAINABLE CENTER OF DISCOVERY

When UT Arlington’s Engineering Research Building opened in early 2011, the University’s rise to Tier One status gained a very visual face—and an Earth-friendly one, too.

The 234,000-square-foot nexus of exploration houses labs, classrooms, and offices for the College of Engineering and College of Science. It also was certified as a LEED Gold structure by the U.S. Green Building Council. That means from top to bottom, it’s a model for good stewardship of natural and financial resources.

Some of the building’s features include multiple green and light-reflecting roofs, windows designed to make efficient use of available light, rain and condensate water capture and storage systems for landscaping and irrigation, and incorporated recycled materials.

“The Engineering Research Building stands for not only sustainability but also quality of life in the 21st century,” says Jean-Pierre Bardet, who was named dean of the College of Engineering in June. “Its laboratories host multidisciplinary research in which engineers and scientists join forces to address challenges in health informatics, biomaterials, medical imaging, and many other issues that will empower our society and enhance quality of life in North Texas and beyond.”

SEEING THE LIGHT

Optics research keeps illuminating new discoveries in the Optical Medical Imaging Laboratory that UT Arlington bioengineers have occupied on the UT Southwestern Medical Center campus since 2008.

Using the leading-edge facility, bioengineering Assistant Professor George Alexandrakis and David Chen, director of UT Southwestern’s Molecular Radiation Biology Division, are applying new imaging methods to study how cancer cells repair their DNA after radiation or chemotherapy. Their studies will contribute to a more detailed understanding of cancer treatment resistance.

“The eventual goal of the research is to kill cancer cells more efficiently and save the good cells,” Dr. Alexandrakis says. “One of the challenges in treating cancer is that tumors are often embedded in good tissue. They’re kind of mixed together.”

He has received two grants worth $1.13 million for the work, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.
Nurturing Brilliance With a Focus on Service

Working side by side with world-renowned professors, UT Arlington graduate students make critical contributions in the laboratory and the community that create a brighter future for all.

Doug Mayfield wanted to make a career change, and he found exactly what he was looking for in UT Arlington’s sustainability master’s degree program. He was in the first cohort to graduate in August 2011.

“Coming from an architectural background, sustainability manifests itself in all aspects of the business,” Mayfield says. “Through the program, I gained insight into the importance of working with stakeholders to effect change, and I got a better idea of the importance of looking at the life cycle of a project as opposed to the urgency to solve an immediate need.”

Offered through the School of Urban and Public Affairs at the UT Arlington Fort Worth Center and in Dallas, the program teaches students to understand and measure the social, environmental, and financial components related to sustainability. This brings the big picture of sustainability into sharper focus for the program’s graduates.

“The Dallas-Fort Worth area is past the point of needing to make changes so we can sustain ourselves as the population trend continues to increase,” Mayfield says. “It’s important for us to be the best stewards we can of all of our resources.”

Mechanical engineering doctoral student Wei Han’s expertise in industrial design, prototyping, and manufacturing has proved to be a perfect fit for the research of Brian Dennis. The mechanical engineering associate professor sought out Han to help him make a smaller blood oxygenating machine.

The device, currently suitcase-sized, helps keep people with respiratory problems alive. Dr. Dennis wants something affordable and portable.

Han says the research is fascinating, especially since it combines mechanical engineering with nanofabrication.

“We want to make this device much smaller;” she says. “One prototype is about 50 microns, which can’t even be seen by the human eye. We hope it will eventually bypass the human lung.”

The instrument would be connected to a blood vessel, steadily providing a patient’s blood with new oxygen while disposing of carbon dioxide.

“The research is a bit of a change of directions for me,” Han says. “But it’s something I’ve found fascinating. UT Arlington has prepared me for the project.”
DETECTING NUCLEAR THREATS
Sunil Sahi has always been interested in experimental physics, and he strongly believes that science should serve humanity. So he jumped at the chance to take part in the research of physics Associate Professor Wei Chen.

Dr. Chen is the principal investigator on a $1.3 million National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant to develop various nanoparticles for radiation detection. He and his co-principal investigator, physics Professor Andrew Brandt, hope their research will lead to a new type of detector that will reduce the threat of nuclear materials being brought into the country for terrorism.

“What I like about experimental physics is that you can see results quickly,” says Sahi, a doctoral student from Nepal. “Within a week you can make a material, test it, and say, ‘this has good properties or it does not. This will make a better radiation detector or it won’t.’”

He says working in Chen’s lab is truly a collaborative experience. Ideas flow back and forth between the professor, post-doctoral researchers, visiting professors, and students.

BEST ON THE BLOCK
A variety of stimulating elective courses, rigorous academic requirements, sterling faculty, and renowned guest lecturers are among the reasons Kate Yang chose UT Arlington for her master’s degree in architecture. Another is the opportunity to gain practical experience through focused community involvement.

She found this with the Better Block project, a demonstration tool that temporarily revises an urban area to show its potential as a walkable, vibrant neighborhood center. The project acts as a living charrette, where communities actively engage in the complete streets buildout process and develop pop-up businesses.

Assistant Professor Wanda Dye’s award-winning Graduate Design Studio was charged with creating a pocket park on a vacant lot at Ross Avenue and Pavillion Street in Dallas. This included coordinating with food vendors, organizations, and volunteers in creating an urban layout for the lot, as well as designing and building 35 benches and tables and a 50-foot by 60-foot shade structure, all out of reclaimed material.

“For students, it’s great to be able to rethink the environment that we live in and put our ideas into action,” Yang says.
Fostering Biomedical Breakthroughs

By developing the next wave of life-enhancing innovations in the emerging biomedicine field, UT Arlington researchers offer hope to veterans with missing limbs and to others who need a healing touch.

SCANNING FOR SOLUTIONS
With thousands of military veterans attending college on the GI Bill, veteran enrollment at UT Arlington has grown exponentially in recent years. Social Work Assistant Professor Alexa Smith-Osborne surmises that some of these ex-soldiers might be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or other issues that hamper cognition.

She already was using observational and self-report measures in her student-veterans’ research. But she was looking for low-cost ways to add physiological data to provide veterans with more input that would help them select effective learning strategies.

Enter bioengineering Professor Hanli Liu. Their collaboration, which blends psychosocial assessments with physiological testing, has yielded promising results that could lead to a better quality of life for veterans.

The research uses a cutting-edge, optical brain-imaging device to explore applications in cognitive sciences. The emerging technology employs light to scan the brain and lets researchers “see” brain functions without invasive procedures. A veteran’s forehead can be scanned while he or she sits in a chair and takes cognitive tests.

Dr. Liu says the beauty of the machine is its portability, quantification, and ease of use. The work also could extend beyond helping veterans. Dr. Smith-Osborne says the hybrid system could be used for any head trauma victims.

REGENERATING HOPE FOR VETERANS
Imagine soldiers who are missing limbs from injuries sustained in combat receiving not just state-of-the-art artificial prostheses, but real bionic limbs that can move naturally and convey sensation of touch, temperature, and position.

Working with a $2.2 million grant from DARPA, the research and development office for the Department of Defense, bioengineering Associate Professor Mario Romero-Ortega is helping thousands of U.S. soldiers who have been wounded and lost limbs by understanding why current peripheral nerve interfaces fail. He hopes his neural interface will lead to a better prosthetic arm with precise movement, control, and even sensation.

The research also could benefit people injured in car crashes. Growing up in Mexico, Romero-Ortega never imagined that a friend’s auto accident would eventually shape his career. The tragedy led him to study neural engineering.

“I wanted to do something about it,” he says. “This work could lead to solutions for people with nerve injury-related deficits.”

What makes his research different is that it puts neural interfacing in the limb itself. His work moves away from the head and into the appendage, looking for neural reliability and stability. It integrates the nerve into electrodes through nerve regeneration.
BATTING DEADLY INFECTIONS

The last thing health care providers want is for patients to get sicker because they visit a hospital. But infections like Clostridium difficile, or C. difficile, sometimes make that goal impossible to reach.

Biology Assistant Professor Julian Hurdle believes he can help. He recently received a $1.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine to develop treatment for C. difficile using an antimicrobial compound called reutericyclin.

C. difficile is the leading cause of diarrhea in elderly hospital and nursing home patients. It also affects cancer patients and others with compromised immune systems.

“Battling deadly infections is the last thing health care providers want. But infections like C. difficile, or C. difficile, sometimes make that goal impossible to reach.”

Hurdle is collaborating with Richard Lee, a medicinal chemist and faculty member at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. They will use the five-year NIH grant to improve the effectiveness of their reutericyclin compounds and explore how they work to combat C. difficile.

USING THE BODY TO HEAL ITSELF

Two UT Arlington professors’ latest tissue engineering research shows that the laboratory may not be the best breeding ground for needed bone, muscle, and blood vessels to aid healing.

Bioengineering Professor Liping Tang and Associate Professor Jian Yang believe the body is the best laboratory to produce these cellular needs. In their research, small scaffolds designed for specific tissue tell the stem cells what to become, where to go, and how much to grow.

The process is called the orchestrated autologous stem cell regeneration technique. With it, a patient’s own stem cells could be used for his or her new tissue. The technique would allow patients’ bodies to heal with little outside intervention, such as costly and time-consuming tissue engineering in a laboratory. It also would reduce expenses for health care industry stakeholders.

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Accelerating an Energy Revolution

Inventions to reduce our reliance on oil-based fuels are paving the way for additional advancements that promise to transform the transportation industry into a cleaner and more sustainable and efficient enterprise.

“Fuel cells are clean, efficient, green power sources with zero emission,” Dr. Liu says. “They provide a final solution to emerging global warming and energy shortage issues.”

Fuel cells convert the chemical energy in fuels—like hydrogen, methanol, and ethanol—into electricity. Traditionally, alkaline fuel cells have employed liquid alkaline electrolytes containing metal hydroxides. But there are practical difficulties involved with using liquids that aren’t present with other materials. To avoid these, Liu and his research group instead are using ion-conducting membranes to create their cells by synthesizing nano-catalysts and novel guanidine polymers.

He believes these fuel cells will be more efficient and cost-effective while also offering better conductivity, durability, and efficiency.

“The steady depletion of the world’s oil and the increase of green house gas emissions raise a lot of concerns about national energy security and global warming,” Liu says. “Solving the energy crisis is an urgent national priority.”

Powering Greener Cars

Fuqiang Liu wants to build a better electric automobile. The materials science and engineering assistant professor believes that current technology, while effective, is not the most efficient or consumer-friendly option. Instead, he proposes a new energy source: alkaline polymer fuel cells.

The City of the Future

The Wall Street Journal estimates that 50 percent of the world’s population now lives in cities, with 70 percent expected to reside in metropolitan areas by 2050. Such growth will bring increased transportation challenges.

UT Arlington’s Center for Metropolitan Density has conducted an online survey about commute times, transportation choices, family life, culture, education, and the future in North Texas.

“Respondents prefer trolleys to trains by more than 85 percent,” says Michael Buckley, who directs the School of Architecture-based center. “Perhaps reflecting nostalgia and a reaction to big people movers, the results show they want personality.”

The survey is a component of the center’s research on the advantages of high-density living. Theory says high-density areas are more energy efficient and environmentally friendly, but more data and citizen input are needed to design tomorrow’s cities.

Buckley and student researchers at the center are devising responses to survey participants’ desires for better schools and open space to enable higher density live-work-play developments.
FUELING A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT
UT Arlington engineering and science researchers have designed a portable conversion unit that transforms natural gas from the field for use as clean-burning, synthetic fuels.

The process is expected to be particularly useful in stranded gas fields, on sites where natural gas must be vented or flared, and when it is not economically viable to move gas to a pipeline due to adverse market conditions.

Provost Ronald L. Elsenbaumer says the breakthrough demonstrates how university research can respond to market demands. “All of us understand the need to lower fuel costs and develop clean energy resources,” he says.

Research team members include chemistry and biochemistry Professor Fred MacDonnell and mechanical engineering Associate Professor Brian Dennis. Dr. MacDonnell says the beauty of the conversion process is that it can be placed anywhere there is a natural gas deposit. “Its portability is one of its strengths,” he says.

The research is done in UT Arlington’s Center for Renewable Energy, Science and Technology (CREST). The center is a collaboration between the College of Science and College of Engineering to coordinate research, development, and technology transfer in the area of renewable energy.

CREST projects include work on solar panels and devices, wind and hydro fuel sources, fuel cells development, magnetic energy storage devices, and hydrogen generation for renewable energy. Additional efforts focus on developing materials for energy conversion and storage and creating energy systems and power grid integration.

ALL CHARGED UP
As anyone with a cellphone knows all too well, batteries lose their ability to store energy over time. Electrical engineering Assistant Professor David Wetz is investigating whether some of the U.S. Navy’s new technology will behave the same way.

Unlike those found in laptops and cellphones, the batteries the Navy intends to use are specially designed to deliver their energy quickly and to high-power loads. But since the technology is still in its early stages, it’s unclear how the batteries will perform when they are discharged and recharged repeatedly over time. Such cycles typically reduce a battery’s ability to store energy and the length of time it can power a device.

“We know how the batteries age when they are used in the traditional manner,” says Dr. Wetz, who received a 2011 Young Investigator Research Award to explore the devices. “Now we just need to tell the Navy if these aging mechanisms are the same or different when the new types of high-power cells are used in these extreme modes of operation.”

The project, supported by a $500,000, three-year grant from the U.S. Office of Naval Research, is critical to the Navy since its ships often require quick, pulsed-driven electrical power.
ENGAGING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES

UT Arlington’s class of 2015 comprises some of the country’s brightest and most ambitious students. About 27 percent of these entering freshmen ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class, and 70 percent were in the top quarter. Over the next few years, these future leaders will receive every tool necessary to discover their passions and fulfill their potential. An outstanding faculty will deliver stimulating learning experiences to help them better understand the world and how to solve its most pressing problems. Engaging student life programs will give them opportunities to become part of a supportive community and make major strides toward career success. Through their continued generosity, our donors will ensure that the classes of 2016, 2017, and beyond experience discovery moments equally as life-changing.

LEARNING WITHOUT LIMITS
Record philanthropic giving totaling about $15 million in each of the past two years gives our growing student population more opportunities to succeed and graduate. As enrollment rises, so do retention rates, with 74 percent of 2010 freshmen returning for their sophomore year—up from 61 percent five years ago.
Teaching Students To Make A Difference

Norman Cobb has made a career of bringing out the best in people. The social work associate professor served seven years as a Methodist minister but changed course when he realized that counseling and teaching—for him, the best parts of the job—are key in the field of social work. While pursuing social work degrees, his love of teaching rose to the forefront, and he eventually found a career at UT Arlington. Twenty-one years into it, Dr. Cobb has amassed numerous awards, including the 2011 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and the UT System Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009. He’s also a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. “I’m not sure a person can have a higher purpose than to be of service to others in need,” he says. “That’s why I have the best job in the world. I get to teach students who will go on to make significant differences in the lives of thousands of people.”
Imparting Knowledge Through Innovative Instruction

Whether in traditional or virtual settings, UT Arlington professors devise imaginative approaches to deliver complex subject matter so students can become thoughtful citizens of the global community.

GLOBAL IMPACT
There are more than 1,800 reasons to call UT Arlington’s Asia Executive MBA program a success. That’s the impressive number of graduates the popular offering has produced to date.

The brainchild of College of Business Dean Daniel Himarios, the Asia EMBA is now in its 10th year and offers degrees to students in Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Taiwan. Although other American universities have begun similar programs in China, none have grown as rapidly as UT Arlington’s, and interest continues to rise.

“UTA has a good brand reputation,” says Asia EMBA alumnus Jiang Pan, senior director of operations for Walmart China. “I believe learning with UTA helps me better understand American culture and people.”

David Mack, assistant dean in the College of Business, believes the program’s worldwide impact is invaluable.

“It gives us a global reach that no other university in the United States has,” Dr. Mack says. “The program also helps to foster good relations and a mutual understanding of our common interests and the value of working together in the global workplace.”

DEGREES OF DISTANCE
Accessible from anywhere in the world, UT Arlington’s award-winning online learning programs are attracting record numbers of students—from as far away as Africa and as nearby as campus residence halls.

Karen Elliott ’11 took advantage of the University’s virtual classrooms to complete a master’s degree while directing Africa operations for the Florida-based Rafiki Foundation, a nonprofit ministry with orphanages and vocational training centers in Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, and other countries.

“I travel three times a year to Africa for two to three weeks at a time, so I needed a program that would let me work on the degree from a distance,” says Elliott, who earned a Master of Education degree in curriculum and literacy studies.

About 300 UT Arlington instructors teach 700 different classes—from core courses to degree and certification programs—to students through the Center for Distance Education. In fall 2011 nearly 14,000 students enrolled in at least one online class, and about 9,300 had fully online schedules.

Instructors can choose formats that meet their class needs, such as the Blackboard learning management system, blogs, discussion boards, Skype sessions, and Second Life. Online students also receive services from the library, advisers, the Career Center, and more via phone and the Internet.
HEADS OF THE CLASS

Even teachers can earn gold stars for their work. In summer 2011 four English faculty members—Professors Ken Roemer and Stacy Alaimo and Senior Lecturers Laura Kopchick and Peggy Kulesz—received the UT System Board of Regents Outstanding Teaching Award.

The honor goes to faculty members at UT system academic institutions who demonstrate extraordinary classroom performance and innovation at the undergraduate level. Five other UT Arlington professors also received the award. “These professors represent the heart of our institution,” President James D. Spaniolo says. “They are respected for their academic expertise and their commitment to engaging students in a way that helps them reach their full potential.”

Dr. Roemer is a Piper Professor (2011) and member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers (1998) and Academy of Distinguished Scholars (2004). His research interests include utopian literature and American Indian literature.

Dr. Alaimo has taught courses on topics such as the history of American literature, feminist theory, cultural studies, and environmentalism. She was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2010.

Kopchick teaches creative writing classes that provide opportunities for students to stretch their critical faculties and discover their strengths. She founded the UTA Undergraduate Creative Awards.

Dr. Kulesz is currently studying 19th century hymns and gospel songs to analyze how they reflect and influence notions of American identity. She received the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2007.

AWAKENING SLEEPING LANGUAGES

Sometimes language has a religious aspect.

“For many Native American communities, language is from the creator,” says Colleen Fitzgerald, professor and chair of the Department of Linguistics and TESOL. “It is sacred.”

She and her students work with Native American tribes in Oklahoma—home to 39 indigenous Native American languages—to document and revitalize the languages for the next generation. She teaches her students that ethics and respect are essential when communicating with tribal elders.

“We work with tribal members to breathe new life into the languages,” Dr. Fitzgerald says. “The languages aren’t dead; they are sleeping.”

Service learning is an integral component of her classes. Students may record conversations with the 80 fluent Chickasaw speakers for an online dictionary, develop teaching materials for youth programs, or assist a language committee in creating new words for modern terms.

A National Science Foundation grant and iEngage grant from the Office of Graduate Studies support the projects.
Embracing the Traditional College Experience

Teeming with energy and excitement, UT Arlington offers a robust campus life that provides abundant opportunities for our well-rounded students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to grow as scholars and develop as next-generation leaders.

LIVING WHERE THE ACTION IS
Ask Maricela Pillaca to name the biggest benefit of living on campus and she finds it hard to pinpoint just one thing.

Pillaca, who plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in education in 2014, says easy access to campus resources has helped her unlock everything university life has to offer.

“I’ve met new people and made close friends from different backgrounds,” the Arlington Hall resident assistant says. “Not to mention, living on campus helps me excel academically because I can ask other residents for help and can find any resource on campus in a matter of minutes.”

She's also active in several student organizations, including UTA Volunteers, the International Student Organization, and MAVS for U.N.I.C.E.F.

“It’s so important to be involved, and if I didn’t live on campus, I don’t know how much I’d be able to make time for,” she says. “It’s really given me the chance to start my own life.”

A SCHOLAR AND AN ATHLETE
Not many NCAA Division I basketball players enter their final season with a college diploma already in hand. But LaMarcus Reed III did just that when he took the court in fall 2011 after completing a bachelor’s degree in finance in less than four years.

That Reed, a guard/forward and the Mavericks’ leading scorer last season, finished early can be traced to his grandfather.

“My grandpa stressed education and discipline and respect,” he says. “Those were the three rules in our family. He kind of scared those rules into me since I was 5 years old.”

Reed has made a name for himself as a hard worker who gets vocal if necessary but prefers to lead by example. Part of that includes excelling in the classroom. He's working on a second bachelor's degree, in economics.

On the basketball court, he's equally skilled. He averaged a team-high 12.4 points last season and led the Mavericks in three-point shooting percentage and three-pointers made.
NEVER A DULL MOMENT
A few weeks into her freshman year, Julia Landro was homesick and planning to move back home.

Then she joined EXCEL Campus Activities, an organization focused on event planning to enhance students’ experiences at UT Arlington. Two years later, Landro became EXCEL’s president. Besides that, she’s also a member of Kappa Delta Chi sorority, Golden Key and Omicron Delta Kappa honors societies, and UTA-HOSTS!, where she serves as peer mentor.

Landro, an education major, says that if she hadn’t joined some of UT Arlington’s 300-plus student organizations, she would almost certainly have left school. And so, she has some advice for her fellow Mavericks.

“Definitely get involved. It makes it worthwhile. Inside the classroom, you learn a lot, but outside the classroom, you get to use it. If students see these great organizations and people having fun, they’re more likely to stay. It gives you another reason to love your school.”

A COMMITMENT TO SERVICE
Some people never discover their life’s passion, so imagine finding it at the tender age of 8. That’s when Kwinetta Simien decided she would devote herself to assisting those in need.

Since then, the senior social work major has contributed countless hours to numerous service projects. “I honestly have no idea how many service hours I’ve logged,” she says. “I’ve pretty much dedicated my life to helping others.”

At UT Arlington, she kindles her civic spirit through her work with the Alternative Spring Break program, where she most recently was a site leader for a Gulf Coast restoration project in Florida. As a participant in MavsAct, she spent two semesters raising awareness for child abuse.

Simien’s giving extends to other causes. She has hosted forums on the myths and stereotypes of physical punishment, started an anti-bullying campaign with a local Boys and Girls Club, and raised money for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund to benefit victims of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.
Boosting Student Success

Providing students with the tools they need to reach their full potential is one of UT Arlington’s top priorities. The University has created better access to vital resources and instituted new programs to help them excel academically. It’s all part of a concentrated effort to recruit top scholars, improve retention, and help more students graduate in a timely manner.

EASING THE COLLEGE TRANSITION

Making the move to college less complicated is the focus of Success U, a new program geared toward first-year students.

Faculty, staff, and experienced students present seminars on topics such as time management, how to prepare for exams, note-taking, and reading skills—all before classes begin.

“If students know what is expected of them, it’s easier for them to produce the work with less stress and anxiety, which aids their success,” says Dawn Remmers, executive director of University College, which oversees Success U.

“While we hope the program will ease the transition of our new college students, they learn skills that can be used for the rest of their lives.”

More than 1,000 students took part in the inaugural Success U over two days in August. The program is part of UT Arlington’s larger goal to recruit top scholars, improve retention, and boost graduation rates.
ACADEMICALLY GIFTED
Senior Rokhaya Diop traveled halfway around the world to get a college education, and she’s making the most of it.

The Senegal, West Africa, native was supposed to study in Paris, France, but her brother encouraged her to consider Texas universities. She ultimately selected UT Arlington because of its solid reputation, welcoming student life, and urban location. Four years later, the international business/French major boasts a 3.9 GPA and expects to graduate in May 2012.

Diop is a student in the academically rigorous Honors College, which offers diverse instructional media, a study-abroad program that promotes global perspectives, and small classes taught by research-active faculty. She’s also a scholar in the Goolsby Leadership Academy, an intensive two-year leadership development program for select junior and senior business majors.

STAYING POWER
Not only are more students than ever enrolling at UT Arlington, more are also choosing to stay. Retention rates continue to rise, a testament to the University’s focus on creating a supportive environment where students can flourish.

GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION
Pure excitement. That sums up Anthony Coca’s first impression of New Maverick Orientation when he arrived at UT Arlington in fall 2011 to register for his first college term.

Recently revamped and expanded, New Maverick Orientation provides an opportunity for newly admitted freshmen to meet with an adviser, register for classes, explore the campus, and meet faculty, staff, and fellow Mavericks—all with a goal of helping new students begin a lifetime connection with the University.

“I think I will be a more successful student because of the program,” Coca says. “New Maverick Orientation not only assisted me in the registration process but exposed me to all the great student organizations that UT Arlington has to offer.”

Key to creating an educational, enjoyable, and inspiring indoctrination are the students who lead orientation. “They were helpful in giving this newcomer a well-rounded and pleasant experience,” Coca says.

She hopes to become a chief executive officer or chief financial officer at an international company with interests in African and European countries.

“I have always dreamed of being successful to be able to give back to my family and community,” Diop says.

Of last year’s freshman class, 74 percent returned for their sophomore year, up from about 61 percent five years ago.

“All our indicators, from applications and admissions to the numbers of students continuing to pursue their degrees, are climbing,” President James D. Spaniolo says. “It’s clear that The University of Texas at Arlington increasingly is seen as an attractive place to be.”

The gains in retention can be attributed, in large part, to the opening of University College in fall 2010. Centrally located in Ransom Hall, University College brings together a wide range of services—including academic advising, tutoring, and counseling—that are essential to student success.
Investing in Education to Make a Lasting Impact

Strategic gifts from generous donors advance UT Arlington to new levels of excellence by providing better educational opportunities for students, enhancing research and teaching initiatives for faculty, and creating facilities that transform the campus.

LEAVING A LEGACY

Mike Greene always dreamed of becoming an engineer. So after graduating from Saginaw’s Boswell High School, he enrolled in UT Arlington’s fledgling engineering program.

“It turned out to be a great experience,” he says.

Now, Greene and his wife, Janet, are doing their part to help the next generation of engineers by donating $500,000 to create a College of Engineering endowment. That sum will increase to $1 million thanks to the Maverick Match program, which leverages the University’s natural gas royalties with new endowment commitments for maximum impact.

Greene, who earned his mechanical engineering degree in 1969, eventually became vice chairman of Energy Future Holdings, formerly TXU. He held various leadership positions with the company, including CEO of Luminant and president of Oncor.

“I was fortunate to attend a great engineering school and get an education that helped me throughout my career,” says Greene, who retired in June 2010 and currently serves on UT Arlington’s Development Board. “Now, Janet and I want to give back to the University that helped me.”

To honor the Greenes’ contribution, UT Arlington has named the new vista bordered by the Engineering Research Building, Civil Engineering Lab Building, and Nedderman Hall the Janet and Mike Greene Research Quadrangle.

PREPARING FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS

Investing in tomorrow’s leaders can yield immediate payback.

That’s a benefit Fort Worth-based BNSF Railway realized through its support of UT Arlington’s Goolsby Leadership Academy, a rigorous two-year program for about 60 junior and senior business majors. Academy scholars enhance their business education by taking specialized courses and participating in activities that enhance leadership skills.

BNSF Railway has been a longtime supporter of the academy and regularly recruits its students for internships and entry-level positions. The company’s most recent gift to the academy will create an early development program to include freshmen and sophomores. With matches from the Maverick Match program and the College of Business, the $300,000 gift eventually will become a $900,000 endowment.

“Supporting an institution dedicated to preparing future business leaders in North Texas is a natural for BNSF Railway,” BNSF Foundation President John Ambler says. “We have a number of Goolsby Leadership Academy alumni working at BNSF who demonstrate refined leadership skills and admirable character. We can say firsthand that the Goolsby Leadership Academy is an outstanding institution that we are proud to support.”
College Park Center, the 7,000-seat events venue that opens on campus this spring, received a big boost last year when the families of two distinguished business leaders committed $1.75 million to support the facility.

Alan Petsche ’80 and his wife, Bonnie Smith Petsche ’86, have committed $1 million to College Park Center, and the University has named the basketball court Petsche Court in their honor. Graduates of the College of Business, the Petsches met at UT Arlington and cherish the friendships they formed during their college years.

“Everything I’ve done in life somehow relates back to UT Arlington,” says Alan, who serves on the University’s Development Board. “I love the idea of the entire College Park District and that this new center is at my alma mater. This moves the University up to the next level.”

Petsche credits his UT Arlington education for helping shape his entrepreneurial spirit and preparing him to direct operations for the A.E. Petsche Co., an aerospace distribution firm that his father founded in Arlington in 1966. The family sold the company to Arrow Electronics in 2009.

Joining the Petsches is the Moritz family, namesakes of Moritz Dealerships, who have committed $750,000 to establish Moritz Plaza at the northwest corner of South Pecan and East Second streets. The plaza serves as the main entrance to College Park Center and connects the venue to the College Park mixed-use retail and residential development spanning three blocks to the north.

John David Moritz, president of Moritz Dealerships, says his family was motivated to support the University as he has watched the emerging College Park District help transform central Arlington and the downtown area.

A new distinguished professorship will help UT Arlington recruit a world-class faculty member to lead cutting-edge optics research in the College of Science.

A $500,000 endowment established through a gift from Nelson Claytor will fund the professorship, which honors Richard Claytor, Nelson’s father, for his role in shaping Fresnel Technologies. Richard Claytor founded Fresnel Technologies, a leading manufacturer of molded plastic lenses and related optical components based in Fort Worth.

Our hope is that this commitment leads to more and more visible support for optics in this region,” says Nelson Claytor, Fresnel Technologies president and a longtime member of the College of Science Advisory Council.

Nelson Claytor and Fresnel Technologies committed $250,000 to create the distinguished professorship in the Physics Department. The sum will double through the Maverick Match program, which leverages UT Arlington’s natural gas royalties to bolster the University’s endowment.
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Lewis and Clark. Watson and Crick. Gates and Allen. Often, before we can discover new solutions, technologies, or even worlds, we must first find a partner in our exploration. For great universities, such collaborations are vital not only in the academic realm, but also in the surrounding community. At UT Arlington, partnerships between researchers from multiple disciplines are yielding innovations to make life easier for the elderly population. Meanwhile, ambitious construction projects are energizing the campus and downtown Arlington and providing spaces where the community can gather. And in local school districts, students and faculty are participating in a variety of outreach programs designed to help young learners reach their potential. By forging such diverse and multifaceted alliances, UT Arlington is discovering new ways to change the trajectory of thousands of lives each year.

ENGINE OF PROGRESS
A record 7,647 UT Arlington students earned degrees in 2010-11, infusing the North Texas economy with a highly educated workforce. Almost 106,000 of the University’s 154,000 alumni live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and help create an annual economic impact of more than $1 billion in the rapidly growing region.
Discovering Her Inner Superhero

When nursing student Ayoade “Joy” Ademuyewo works with patients in area hospitals, she’s not only applying what she learned in the classroom to a clinical setting, she’s also connecting with her community. “I love taking care of people,” she says, “and I think nurses are as close to being superheroes as a person can get.” As president of the Nursing Constituency Council, Ademuyewo has led the group on several service projects, including work for the American Cancer Society, Walk to End Alzheimer’s, and March of Dimes. It’s all part of the preparation to become a nurse for this superhero-in-training, who says it’s an honor to assist in any way she can. “I think being able to say you helped people get through some of their most vulnerable times is a fulfillment of the duty that humans have to one another,” Ademuyewo says. “It’s the lighter side of the human heart.”
Getting Better With Age

More than 40 million people in the United States are 65 or older, a number expected to reach 55 million by 2020. Keeping this growing elderly population safe, healthy, and thriving is becoming increasingly important as baby boomers age. UT Arlington’s interdisciplinary research endeavors exploring exercise, memory, high-tech homes, and mental health in minority groups aim to help aging Americans live longer and more independently.

HOME, SAFE HOME

Home isn’t just where the heart is—it’s also where potential hazards lie. That’s especially true for the 31 percent of America’s elderly population who are choosing to live alone.

To help keep these seniors safe in their homes, the Heracleia Human-Centered Computing Laboratory explores ways to unobtrusively monitor their daily activities to detect situations when they might need assistance.

Led by Fillia Makedon, chair of the Computer Science and Engineering Department, the researchers have set up a mock apartment outfitted with sensors that transmit radio frequencies. These sensors—which are placed on beds, thresholds, the refrigerator, a “smart drawer” where medication is stored, and other places—are monitored and then matched to a pattern of expected daily activities. If something unusual is detected, an alert is sent.

“If, for example, a fire alarm sounds, then a central location that is in charge of wirelessly collecting signals from different elderly apartments would be alerted,” explains Dr. Makedon, the Jenkins Garrett Professor of Computer Science and Engineering. “The unexpected event could also be an absence of something, such as a person not going into the kitchen at all, which would indicate that he or she has not eaten.”

Apartments can be equipped with different types of sensors, including those that capture movement, temperature, sound, and other elements.

“Our ultimate goal is to facilitate ‘aging in place,’ where people can decide the level of monitoring support they wish to have to feel better about staying at home alone, even if it’s for just a few hours at a time,” Makedon says.
AIDING ELDERLY LATINOS

Psychology Assistant Professor Pablo Mora believes that to improve elderly Latinos’ experience with mental health, he must ask a lot of questions. He recently began surveying the experiences of 140 Latinos age 55 and older. That group has poorer physical and mental health outcomes than non-minority individuals, and cultural differences could play a role.

“We’re anxious to learn whether there are differences in the way people experience depressive symptoms and also how they think about them,” Dr. Mora says. “We want to know how their beliefs influence decisions to seek care.”

He also will interview up to 100 senior citizens of other races to make comparisons. Mora conducted his first interviews at Mission Arlington, a nonprofit that provides some health care. His work is funded by The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health.

LIVING SMARTER

Researchers from the College of Engineering and College of Nursing hope that by making homes smarter, they can help seniors, injured veterans, and people with disabilities live safer and happier lives.

In late 2010 the University created the Smart Care center, a discovery and demonstration venue for technologies designed to assist those populations. There, researchers evaluate the usefulness of existing medical monitoring devices and integrate advanced sensors, wireless communication, and other technologies into a simulated home environment.

The research team includes Interim Vice President for Research Carolyn Cason, and Associate Professors Manfred Huber and Gergely Zaruba and Senior Lecturer David Levine from the Computer Science and Engineering Department. Nursing Assistant Professor Kathryn Daniel is the program manager.

Technologies slated for evaluation include a bathroom with a health-monitoring toilet, an electronic medication delivery and reminder system, and a sleep center equipped with sensors to monitor sleep disturbances.

EXERCISING THE BODY AND MIND

What if memory loss due to old age wasn’t inevitable? Research that combines exercise and cognitive tests may someday give seniors a greater ability to remember.

Crystal Cooper, a graduate student in health psychology and neuroscience, has worked with a group of seniors 60 to 80 years old for almost a year. First, she and her colleagues established a baseline for their cardiovascular, physical, and cognitive functions. Then, the group was tested again as they participated in a six-month exercise program that included treadmill sessions three times a week. The same steps will be repeated with more seniors as the study progresses.

“We look at a variety of factors. But the thing we’re most concerned with is memory,” says Cooper, who is conducting the research under the direction of psychology Associate Professor Timothy Odegard. “Most of the previous research hasn’t dealt with the loss of episodic memory, which is a chief complaint of older adults.”
Forging Collaborations, Generating Excitement

UT Arlington is creating a college town environment that blurs the boundaries between the campus and downtown Arlington. Our transformative College Park District is establishing a hub of activity that stimulates and complements private development.

THE MAIN ATTRACTION

Two years ago, an empty parking lot sat on the campus’ eastern border along Center Street. Today, it’s the site of a long-awaited new facility that will transform the University—and the City of Arlington. College Park Center opens for events this spring, including the first basketball games there, a men’s and women’s doubleheader against UT San Antonio.

Constructed to meet the LEED Gold standards of the United States Green Building Council, College Park Center is a $78 million, 218,000-square-foot facility that seats 7,000. It’s the new home of Mavericks basketball and volleyball. Combined with the University’s move to the Western Athletic Conference for the 2012-13 season, the arena gives coaches a distinct advantage in recruiting.

A true special events center, College Park Center also will give Arlington a signature venue for concerts, speakers, commencements, and other high-profile events. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush will speak there March 23 as part of the prestigious Maverick Speakers Series, and UT Arlington will hold its first commencement there in May.

“A Tier One university needs a Tier One facility like this,” President James D. Spaniolo says.

So does its community. The City of Arlington has long been without a venue of this kind, and local school districts have traveled to Grand Prairie, Fort Worth, and elsewhere to hold their commencements. No more: Arlington and Grapevine-Colleyville are among the area school districts that will hold graduation exercises there this spring.

URBAN OASIS

On a campus as large and vibrant as UT Arlington’s, leisure time is a precious commodity. Luckily, it’s now easier to find.

Early last year the University opened The Green at College Park, a 4.62-acre green space north of Mitchell Street on Center Street. Part of the College Park District currently under development, The Green provides an inviting oasis for students, neighbors, and friends to gather and relax.

The unique site has a large lawn, curved stone wall that offers seating, pedestrian promenade, butterfly and hummingbird garden, native grasses, adaptive plants, and dry creek bed that helps manage rainwater and storm water runoff.

As a testament to its environmentally friendly features, The Green was among only 150 sites worldwide selected by the Sustainable Sites Initiative to test the first-ever rating system for sustainable land design, construction, and maintenance practices.
PROLIFIC PARTNERSHIP

University and civic leaders are working together to make Arlington a college town as never before. Mayor Robert Cluck has become a fixture at campus events, and he and UT Arlington President James D. Spaniolo meet jointly with lawmakers in Austin and Washington, D.C.

With their leadership and collaboration setting the example, the geographic boundaries between the campus and the city are becoming indistinct, too.

The College Park mixed-use development that will be completed this summer on the eastern edge of campus is the first of its kind in downtown Arlington and includes an $18 million commitment from the city. Additionally, First Baptist Church-Arlington donated 1.5 acres of land for the project. The $80 million development is expected to spur additional growth in an already flourishing downtown corridor.

“This is a model for town-gown partnerships,” Spaniolo says.

A WINNING MIX

The eastern quadrant of UT Arlington’s campus—between Pecan and Center streets—has been a teeming construction site for the past two years. In a few months, it will be a teeming home for campus life.

The College Park District has opened in phases over the last year, beginning with The Green at College Park last April and a parking structure in August. The landmark College Park Center begins hosting basketball games and other events this spring.

The rest of the 20-acre College Park District will open this summer and will include restaurants and retail space, student housing, a second parking structure, and the new Dan Dipert University Welcome Center.

Other highlights of the College Park District include the campus’ first new residence hall since 2004, which will be called Vandergriff Hall in honor of the late Tom Vandergriff, a former Arlington mayor who helped elevate UT Arlington to four-year status in 1959. The UT System Board of Regents approved the naming of Vandergriff Hall at its August 2011 meeting.

 Officials from UT Arlington, the City of Arlington, and First Baptist Church-Arlington—each a partner in the project—broke ground in October 2010.
Cultivating Civic Engagement

Tutoring at-risk schoolchildren, improving living conditions for those in need, and strengthening local economies are among the many initiatives that demonstrate UT Arlington’s commitment to enhancing our quality of life.

AN HONOR TO SERVE
For honors student Ali Alam, a well-rounded education means getting out of the classroom and into the real world every now and then.

As president of the Honors College Council, the biology/pre-med major instituted a theme of community service and volunteerism for the academic year.

“Honors College students are among the best and brightest students academically,” he says. “I felt that we should be shining in the community as well.”

While Alam has started a number of service-learning projects, perhaps the most successful has been a tutoring initiative at a local Boys and Girls Club.

“We were a little apprehensive at first, not knowing how the kids would respond to us,” he says.

There was no need to worry; the group’s services were in high demand.

“We really got to see what an impact that one-on-one interaction can have and how much that can mean for those kids,” he says. “Beyond that, it’s just a good feeling to help.”

INSPIRING A COMMUNITY
It started with a vision for a better community and evolved into a thriving partnership between UT Arlington and its neighbors with the potential to benefit thousands of families in Tarrant County and beyond.

A School of Social Work initiative, the Innovative Community Academic Partnership (iCAP) program promotes research aimed at improving the living conditions and increasing the effectiveness of the county’s social service agencies. A grant from the Amon G. Carter Foundation funded five iCAP projects in 2010, its first year of operation. They included Common Threads, which focuses on refugee reintegration through the knitting of scarves, as well as LOSS Team, a pilot suicide prevention program in Arlington.

“We’re helping local community projects become sustainable. We bring in new ideas while strengthening and developing what’s out there,” says iCAP Director Stefan Ateek, who has fielded questions from universities nationwide interested in establishing similar programs. “iCAP is the opportunity of a lifetime because it raises the standard of living for families and children throughout the Metroplex and beyond.”
Ciro Candelario loves his mentoring role at Juan Seguin High School in Arlington. For three years, the UT Arlington political science major has served on the G-Force at the school’s GO Center.

GO Centers are physical spaces in eight local high schools that offer advice about admissions, financial aid, and other college-readiness challenges for prospective first-generation university students.

Candelario, one of about 55 UT Arlington students who staff the GO Centers and serve as mentors, says being part of the team is like being a big brother. It’s help he would have appreciated when he was struggling to get into college.

“We help students on the borderline of dropping out,” he says. “I had no one to help me through the transition to college. Being able to help someone now is an honor.”

The G-Force program received a boost in 2011 with a $300,000 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that will fund the initiative for two more years. Luis Rosado, director of UT Arlington’s Center for Bilingual Education, and Carla Amaro-Jiménez, assistant professor of bilingual/ESL education in the College of Education and Health Professions, worked to obtain the grant.

“Our goals are twofold,” says Dr. Amaro-Jiménez, who directs the G-Force program. “We aim to reduce the dropout rate and develop a college-going culture by working closely with the students and their parents.”

MEETING URBAN CHALLENGES

Wander far and wide in Texas and you’ll find hundreds of cities benefiting from the Institute of Urban Studies’ expertise. With more and more municipalities struggling, expect that number to rise.

“This kind of service has been going on for 40 years, although it has recently picked up new energy and vigor with so many more communities looking for a way to plan and spend smart in a down economy,” School of Urban and Public Affairs Dean Barbara Becker says.

As SUPA’s applied research arm, the Institute of Urban Studies completes dozens of projects each year—from the state’s Panhandle northlands, south to the Gulf Coast, east to the Piney Woods, and west to Big Bend. Many are in urban and rural North Texas.

Led by graduate students, the projects include strengthening local economies through feasibility and corridor studies, economic development ideas, updates of parks and land-use plans, citizen/business surveys, and more.

“It’s about doing something for Texas and its communities,” Dr. Becker says.
Stimulating Progress Through Intellectual Adventure

The value of UT Arlington extends far beyond producing graduates who can drive economic growth. The University also broadens horizons and enlightens minds through an expansive range of cultural, outreach, and educational programs.

FUELING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The North Texas economy is driven by industries focused on national defense, information technologies, energy, bioengineering, and health care, and by the numerous companies that support those interests.

With highly skilled graduates and a burgeoning research enterprise, UT Arlington is strategically positioned to supply both the human capital and the innovation to keep these key sectors competitive and thriving.

Of the University’s more than 154,000 alumni, about 106,000 live in North Texas and contribute to UT Arlington’s annual economic impact of more than $1 billion in the region. Total research expenditures of about $66 million annually produce ideas and products that spur new business ventures.

Additionally, more than $300 million in campus construction projects in the past two years has created significant employment opportunities and sparked spinoff residential and commercial development in downtown Arlington. The 4,400 students who live on campus are driving demand for these new businesses and services.

SUPPLYING AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE

Some of the world’s largest corporations call North Texas home. ExxonMobil, AT&T, AMR, Texas Instruments, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and Energy Future Holdings are among the two dozen Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area.

Ask executives at any of these firms and they’ll tell you that hiring talented, dedicated employees is the key to success. Dig deeper and you’ll discover UT Arlington’s stellar reputation for preparing its graduates to help the business giants thrive.

UT Arlington alumni hold leadership positions at all 24 of the area’s Fortune 500 companies. One of those is David Campbell, vice president for safety, security, and environmental at American Airlines. A 2007 MBA graduate, Campbell oversees regulatory relationships with the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, and other agencies and manages the company’s broad-based sustainability initiatives.

“UTA provides real-world applications of business processes, which is one of the most powerful tools the University has in its belt,” he says. “This allows a job candidate or leader in the workplace to be successful.”

UT Arlington awarded a record 7,647 degrees in the 2010-11 academic year, creating a greater pool of alumni from which Texas businesses, both large and small, can hire the educated employees they demand.
Learning something new can enhance your job clout and boost your résumé, especially in trying economic times. Last year more than 21,000 people turned to UT Arlington’s Division for Enterprise Development for a new skill, a new career, or help climbing the company ladder.

“People come to our courses for a variety of reasons,” says Teresea Madden-Thompson, assistant vice president for the Division for Enterprise Development. “For example, our Health Careers Institute often serves people who are unemployed or underemployed and are seeking skills to enter a new field.”

The Division for Enterprise Development has added more than 10 professional certification programs, including social media marketing and facility management, and boasts the leading Occupational Safety and Health Administration training center in the country with more than 6,500 students.

In 2010-11 the Center for Transportation Training and Services trained almost 11,000 people who design, build, and maintain public roadways.

WHERE ENRICHMENT MEETS ENTERTAINMENT
Learning transcends into a lifelong passion when you enchant and engage the masses.

At UT Arlington, learning starts in the classroom and flourishes through our commitment to providing a diverse array of cultural and educational offerings that enrich, inform, and entertain.

Campus art galleries host thought-provoking regional and national exhibits, and the Music and Theatre Departments present a robust slate of plays and concerts. UT Arlington also draws nationally known musicians, performers, comedians, and speakers.

The Maverick Speakers Series, the University’s marquee lecture series, brings high-profile figures from a variety of disciplines to examine the people, ideas, actions, and solutions that impact the world around us.

Headlined by some of the leading voices of our time, the popular series features more than just speeches on current events or timely issues. It offers thought-provoking conversations led by renowned innovators who make change happen.

Now in its fourth season, the Maverick Speakers Series has included such luminaries as Bill Nye, Sally Ride, Emmitt Smith, Ken Burns, Cal Ripken Jr., Lisa Ling, Rick Bayless, David Gergen, Thomas Friedman, and Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield.

LIFETIME OF LEARNING
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Reaching New Milestones

The past year has been one of remarkable progress for UT Arlington. Pioneering professors have vaulted research activities to unprecedented levels. And record highs in enrollment and degrees conferred have furthered our reputation as an educational powerhouse and a major provider of human capital that accelerates economic development.

![Graph of Enrollment Growth](image)

![Graph of Degrees Awarded](image)

![Graph of Endowment Growth](image)

![Graph of Research Expenditures](image)

![Pie Chart of Budget Spent](image)

![Pie Chart of Budget Funded](image)

* dollar amounts shown in millions
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