TEDxUTA speakers inspire innovation

The 13 speakers who gave TED talks at TEDxUTA on Saturday provided insight into multiple topics and fields.

The first speaker of the night was Dr. Michael S. Brown, the Paul J. Thomas professor of molecular genetics and director of the Jonsson Center for Molecular Genetics at UT Southwestern. Brown talked about his work, research and his nine steps to earn a Nobel Prize.

Esther Sternberg, professor of medicine and research director at the Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona, spoke about how stress can affect health and the body, using her own experience with arthritis as an example.

Bart Shaw, a professional architect with his own practice in Fort Worth, Bart Shaw Architect, talked about creative expression in design. He mentioned projects he has worked on such as park tables modeled after the front steps of houses that used to be in their place. Shaw served as president of the Fort Worth chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2012.

Haily Summerford, the current center director for the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center at Cedar Hill, talked about the cooperation of formal and informal
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TEDxUTA had a 20-minute intermission after the first set of speakers. Groups and organizations had set up booths, such as the Formula SAE team and UTA glass program.

Dallas Makerspace had several different technologies for students to look at, including drones and 3-D printers. The Dallas Personal Robotics Group had robots traveling the room for people to see.

The speakers resumed with Dr. Yolanda Brooks, who spoke about what happens to the identities of professional athletes during and after their careers have ended.

Bart Weiss, associate professor of film and video, gave a talk about the power video has as a medium, using various kinds of clips to show both the history and diversity.

Management professor Myrtle P. Bell discussed diversity and the effects it has on workforce and individuals. She talked about people being fired or simply not being chosen for a job based on race or gender.

Jarryd Willis, experimental psychology doctoral student, talked about the relation between physical and emotional pain and the reasons behind self-harm.

Kel Walters, political science and psychology sophomore, was the second student speaker. Walters discussed the topic of polyamorous relationships, or having more than one mutual and consensual romantic relationship. Walters said romantic love can be unmeasurable, using the example that platonic and familial relationships are not limited by number.

The second intermission was 30 minutes and dinner was provided by Smiling Goose Deli.

The third and final section of TEDxUTA started with physics professor Kaushik De speaking about the Higgs boson particle, the history of the search behind it and its importance to the standard model of particle physics.

Bob Woods, director of the university Formula SAE program, spoke about the Formula SAE program and how the cars are built. Woods talked about the technology used to build the UTA team car and how the experience of building the car helped students become successful.

UTA research associate Smitha Rao talked about cancer cell metastasis and how microfluid systems could help in early detection and diagnosis in the spread of cancer cells in the body and allow people to receive treatment earlier.

The final speaker was Romeo España, co-founder and organizer at the North Texas Drone User Group. España spoke about how the technology of drones is similar to the technology in a current smartphone. España also talked about the beneficial uses for drones, including firefighting, search and rescue and re-enabling older or handicapped people.

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TEDxUTA speakers inspire innovation
The 2nd Annual TEDxUTA Conference was held on Saturday in the Rosebud Theatre. TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share an experience similar to TED Talks. It hosts live speakers to spark deep discussion and connection with the audience. TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to sharing ideas in technology, entertainment and design.

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