

COLLEGE ★ TOWN, UTA

THE MAVERICK NEWSLETTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

SPRING 2024



SOLAR-BRATION AT UTA

CELEBRATE THE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME SOLAR ECLIPSE AT UTA

On April 8, a total solar eclipse will cross North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. The path of “totality” (when the moon completely blocks out the sun) will travel directly across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, making The University of Texas at Arlington an ideal place for the public to witness a phenomenon that only happens about every 400 years.

The partial eclipse will start at 12:23 p.m. and end at 3:02 p.m., with the totality starting at 1:40 p.m. and ending at 1:44 p.m. In the days leading up to the event, UTA and its Planetarium will hold a number of fun and informative events open to the public.

These will culminate on April 8 with UTA’s Solar-bration. The event will take place from 12-3 p.m. at five primary viewing locations on the UTA campus: Brazos Park, the University Center Mall, Planetarium Mall, Spaniolo Drive/College Park Center, and the Library Mall. Each spot will have eclipse glasses available and feature audio from experts about what you are seeing as the eclipse passes over. The Solar-bration is free, though parking for visitors costs \$10. Find more information at uta.edu/planetarium/eclipse.



SOLAR ECLIPSE EVENTS

ONGOING

“THEORIA ECLIPSIMUM: CURIOSITY, CAPTIVATION, CONNECTION” EXHIBITION

Daily, UTA Central Library

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

ECLIPSE CONCERT

6-9 p.m., Brazos Park

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

SPECIAL ECLIPSE-THEMED SHOW

1 p.m., UTA Planetarium

MONDAY, APRIL 8

ECLIPSE HISTORY KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

10:30-11:30 a.m., UTA Central Library

SOLAR-BRATION

12-3 p.m., Various Campus Viewing Locations

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



HI, NEIGHBOR!

As president of The University of Texas at Arlington, I am thrilled to introduce you to our new community newsletter. We hope it will be a valuable resource, connecting you to all the great things happening on the UTA campus, from our latest news to fun community events. There’s just so much to do and to celebrate here, and I’m confident you’ll find something of interest in these pages.

GO MAVS!

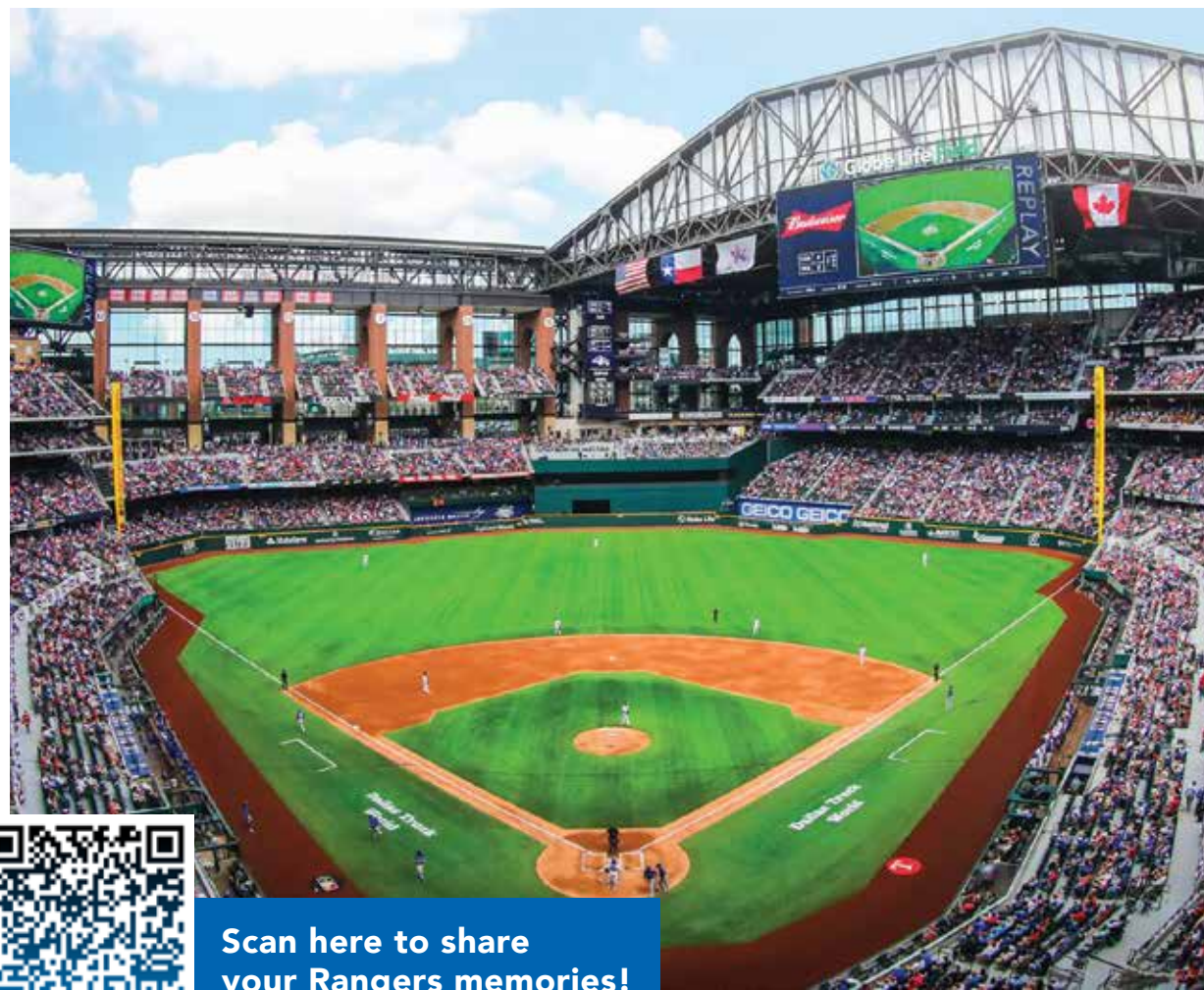
Jennifer Cowley, UTA President

MAKING WORLD SERIES HISTORY

UTA Library Seeking Community's Help

UTA Libraries' Special Collections is inviting community contributions of digital materials capturing the Texas Rangers' 2023 World Series journey and festivities. This call includes digital photos, videos, artwork, and more. The preserved materials will be accessible through the UTA Libraries Digital Archive.

Donations are specifically sought for digital or digitized content centered on the Rangers' playoff run, the World Series, and associated celebrations. Examples of desired donations range from videos of the Arlington victory parade to fan-created digital artwork. UTA aims to incorporate these materials into its permanent archival collections, contributing to the documentation of this historic moment for future generations. Community members eager to contribute can conveniently submit their materials through the provided online form linked in the QR code at right.



Scan here to share your Rangers memories!

RISE A CAPPELLA SOARS

STUDENT SINGING GROUP MAKES AN IMPACT



UTA's RISE A Cappella is currently top-ranked in Texas

UT Arlington's RISE A Cappella, the top collegiate group in Texas, secured third place at the 2023 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Southwest Semifinals in Phoenix. They impressed with diverse performances of songs by Childish Gambino, Mack Lorén, and YONAKA. "We have a passion to create music with just our voices," says Director Sarah Watkins. "It's what drives us to keep rehearsing and keep getting better."

Find upcoming concert info on the group's Instagram, @riseacappella.

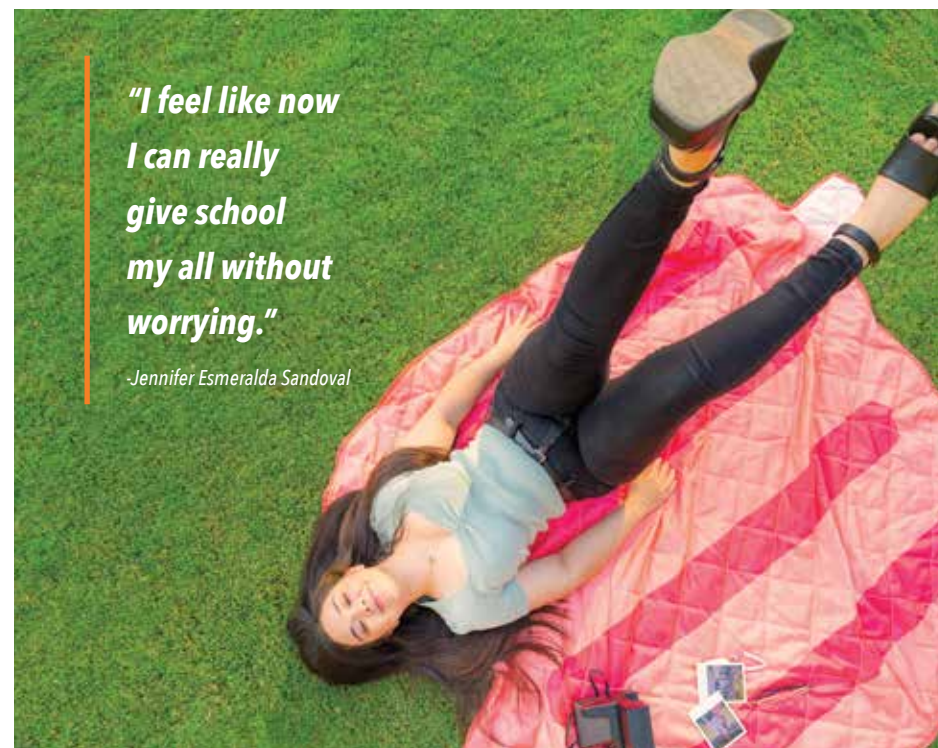


BLAZE FORWARD CHANGES LIVES

UTA Program Provides Free Tuition for Thousands of Students

The cost of attending college has increased dramatically over the last several decades. Between 1980 and 2020, the average price of tuition, fees, and room and board for an undergraduate degree increased 169%, according to a recent report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.

To help lessen the burden for students and their families, UTA launched Blaze Forward, an initiative that provides free tuition to students who come from households with an adjusted gross income of up to \$85,000. "UTA really does the most to provide for their students," says Jennifer Esmeralda Sandoval, a business management major. "It's such a great opportunity to help so many students further their education."



"I feel like now I can really give school my all without worrying."

-Jennifer Esmeralda Sandoval



The Wynn Terrace project groundbreaking

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR SENIORS

Students Helping Build New Units in Wynn Terrace Community

A design/build class in the UTA College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs is collaborating with the Housing Channel of Fort Worth, the city of Arlington, and MKG Homes to build four houses in east Arlington that will be available for lease to seniors. They will be part of a master plan that includes a dozen homes in the Wynn Terrace Senior Cottage Community.

Older residents are particularly affected by the growing affordable housing crisis. According to the Texas Affiliation of Affordable Housing Providers, the median income for Texas seniors on a fixed income is \$25,601. A renter must earn \$46,889 annually

to afford the current fair market rent of \$1,172 for a two-bedroom apartment.

"With a majority of their fixed income spent on increasing rent prices, seniors are now 'aging into poverty,' living one crisis away from eviction and homelessness due to lack of affordable housing options," notes Donna VanNess, president of the Housing Channel.

The new "micro-community" will have a dozen one-bedroom homes under 600 square feet, with half reserved at below-market rental prices for seniors who meet lower-income guidelines. The new homes are expected to be available for rent by summer.

LOCAL OUTREACH

High School Students Learn About Nursing Careers

Last November, students from Brewer High School, Martin High School, North Dallas High School, Keller Collegiate Academy, and Birdville Center of Technology and Advanced Learning took part in the first ever Maverick Allied Health Experience (MAH-X), hosted by the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI).

The event was designed to provide high-schoolers with information about career paths in nursing, physical therapy, sports medicine, and public health. Attendees spent the day hearing from Texas Health physicians, UTA faculty, and current nursing students and received a firsthand look at some of the cutting-edge technology they would interact with as students at UTA's Smart Hospital.



"It's our hope that MAH-X participants gained a better understanding of available health care career opportunities and the motivation to begin their academic journeys in nursing and allied health with excitement and enthusiasm," says Candice Calhoun-Butts, CONHI assistant dean.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS



UTA GARDEN OPEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The UTA organic Community Garden, a collaborative effort with the city of Arlington, provides a public green space for families, community members, and garden enthusiasts. Up to 78 plots are available for adoption in the half-acre space. Community members must commit to donating at least half of their produce to Mission Arlington, the garden's designated food bank program, as part of the \$35 annual plot use agreement. Located at 406 Summit Ave., the garden serves as a sustainable community hub. For more on UTA's sustainability efforts, visit uta.edu/sustainability. For plot requests, contact Wendy.Pappas@arlingtontx.gov.



CAREER PREP

PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS AN EDGE

UT Arlington recently renewed its College Work Experience Program (CWEP) partnership with Lockheed Martin, allocating \$5.2 million for eligible students to gain real-world employment skills at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control in Grand Prairie. This unique program is only the second of its kind nationally between Lockheed Martin and a university.

Dylan Bryce, a UT Arlington graduate in software engineering, says CWEP allowed him to gain valuable experience in his career field while earning his degree.

"CWEP is a fast track to an amazing career at one of the best companies to work for in the world," he says. "The leadership at Lockheed Martin is great at working with CWEP students."





A STAR COMES HOME

Alumnus Lou Diamond Phillips Returns to UTA

Before he played Ritchie Valens in *La Bamba* and was the King of Siam in the Broadway revival of *The King and I*, Lou Diamond Phillips ('85 BFA) was a Maverick. This past fall, he returned to his roots for a weeklong residency in UTA's College of Liberal Arts.

"As an actor, writer, and director, it's in me to pass the torch to the next generation and ignite their passion for their craft," said Phillips during his visit. "I'm thrilled—very thrilled. UTA has made amazing advancements over the years, not only in academics, but for me more importantly in diversity. UTA has grown in size and grown in accessibility and opportunity for a lot of young students. Being a part of this and a product of that work means a lot."

During the residency, Phillips led classes in acting fundamentals, acting for the camera, directing, and more. He also engaged students from across the college in an all-day film shoot.

For Phillips, returning to UTA was a full-circle moment.

"Anytime I teach, it reinvigorates my passion for what I do, and that passion is what I want to convey to the students," he says.

"Anytime I teach, it reinvigorates my passion for what I do."

TOP IN DFW

WALL STREET JOURNAL RANKS UTA NO. 1

Not only is UTA ranked the top public university in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, it's also the No. 3 public university in Texas, according to the 2024 "Best Colleges in the U.S." list produced by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The newspaper also named UTA as the top-ranked university in DFW for social mobility.



UTA IN PRIME TIME

University Featured on *The College Tour Series*

High school valedictorian Leah Angelica De Leon, now a senior nursing student at UTA, wants to make the world a better place through providing compassionate care to people in need. You can hear her story—and many more—in UTA's episode of *The College Tour*, now streaming on a screen near you!

Over the summer, a *College Tour* crew took

over the UTA campus to film a number of bright, dynamic Mavericks who talked about different aspects of the UTA experience. *The College Tour*, a series showcasing college campuses, streams on Amazon Prime Video. UTA's episode debuted in February.

Watch on Prime or at uta.edu/thecollegetour.

THE SCIENCE OF BEER

Brewing and Fermentation Science Certificate Program Launches



When Dylan Parks, head of UTA's new Brewing and Fermentation Science Certificate program, tells people he used to be a beer scientist, they usually get the wrong idea.

"They're usually like, 'Oh, that's cool. You get to drink beer every day,'" says Dr. Parks. "Well, sure, but you have to drink it throughout the process, even before it's fermented. Then, it's just sugar water that doesn't taste very good."

Now, you can learn about the process up close in a new certificate program offered



at UTA—and you don't even have to be enrolled as a student. Upon completion of four required courses, participants will have gained foundational knowledge about the science of fermentation and brewing and accrued practical experience in a brew lab. In addition to course work, the certificate requires a 16-hour internship at a local fermentation or brewing facility.

Parks is excited about the possibilities for

UTA students and the University as a whole.

"UTA is a hub for Dallas-Fort Worth, and this whole area is growing with microbreweries and craft breweries. They're popping up everywhere," he says. "If we can produce students who are well-qualified for this kind of exacting science, not only will we be putting our graduates in the workforce, but building up our reputation as well."

PARDON OUR PROGRESS

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDERWAY ON CAMPUS

COOPER STREET BRIDGES

The Cooper Street Bridge renovation project is updating and improving the safety and longevity of the north and south pedestrian bridges that span Cooper Street. The South Bridge will remain closed through early May. During this time, Cooper St. will have nightly vehicle lane closures from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

GREEK LIFE CENTER

Fraternity and Sorority Life has begun construction and expansion of the new Greek Life Center, located at the corner of Davis Dr. and Greek Row. The facility will be a social community center for Greek Life to engage with each other, alumni, and the community. It is forecast to open in August of this year.

LIFE SCIENCE BUILDING

The University recently began work on a multi-year remodel of the Life Science building to provide space for research labs, teaching labs, classrooms, and student engagement. The refurbishment will also address deferred maintenance and upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and life safety systems. It should be complete by fall 2027.

MAVERICK HALL

Construction for Maverick Hall, a new residence for students, began this spring on the west side of campus. It is scheduled to open in summer 2025.

Learn more about campus construction project at uta.edu/campus-ops/progress.



A rendering of the renovated Cooper Street Bridges

SUMMER@UTA



SPORTS

UTA SOFTBALL @ ALLAN SAXE FIELD

- April 9** vs Stephen F. Austin
- April 12-13** vs Utah Valley
- May 1** vs Oklahoma State
- May 3-4** vs Seattle U

UTA BASEBALL @ CLAY GOULD BALLPARK

- April 4** vs TCU
- April 16** vs Baylor
- May 3-5** vs Sacramento State
- May 16-18** vs Tarleton

VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT @ COLLEGE PARK CENTER

- May 28-June 2**
Pool Four competition between Poland, Serbia, Canada, USA, Korea, Bulgaria, Germany, and Turkey



Get tickets & info at



EVENTS.UTA.EDU

APRIL

4 EPICMAVS

A workshop series for entrepreneurs.
4:30-6:30 p.m., 400 S. Center St.

5 UTA WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT

7:30 p.m., Irons Recital Hall, 700 Greek Row Dr.

10-14 BONNETS

A dark comedy that plays with elements of camp, history, and rock 'n' roll.
Studio 137, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

12 STOMP WARS 2024

Fireside chat with Earn Your Leisure.
7 p.m., College Park Center

13 STOMP WARS 2024

National step championship competition.
5:30 p.m., College Park Center

20 ALUMNI BRUNCH @ MAIN ST.

FORT WORTH ARTS FESTIVAL
11 a.m.-2 p.m., Downtown Fort Worth

UTA JAZZ PERFORMANCE @MAIN ST.

FORT WORTH ARTS FESTIVAL
11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., & 2 p.m., Downtown Fort Worth

22 EPICMAVS

4:30-6:30 p.m., 400 S. Center St.

22 UTA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXPO

8 a.m.-6 p.m., College Park Center

25 SYMPHONIC WINDS AND SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

7:30 p.m., Irons Recital Hall, 700 Greek Row Dr.

26 WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT

7:30 p.m., Irons Recital Hall, 700 Greek Row Dr.

26-28 DANCE IN FLUX

Mainstage Theatre, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

JUNE

7 AN EVENING WITH MAC MCANALLY

The Hall of Fame songwriter performs his hits.
8 p.m., Texas Hall

3-7 TEXAS CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

A workshop for orchestra directors of all levels.
Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

JULY

13 8TH ANNUAL 3D PRINTED AIRCRAFT COMPETITION

Watch competitors launch their flying machines.
1-4 p.m., Maverick Stadium, 1307 W Mitchell St.



SUMMER CAMPS

UTA offers camps in everything from **sports** to **engineering** to **music** to **board games**. Short workshops and multi-week camps are available, with offerings for children as young as 3 all the way to grade 12.



CAMP ARLINGTON

EACH WEEK IN JUNE & JULY

This camp provides athletic and educational activities for ages 3-5 (Discovers) and children entering first through fifth grades (Explorers). Each session lasts one week, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and takes place at the Maverick Activities Center. The cost includes all guest speakers, snacks, and activities. kidventure.com



SPORTS & MUSIC CAMPS

CONCERT BAND CAMP (GRADES 7-12)

June 9-13, Fine Arts

SOFTBALL MINI MAVS CAMP (AGES 5-10)

June 10-12, Alan Saxe Field

BASEBALL YOUTH ALL-STAR (AGES 6-14)

June 10-13 & July 8-11, Clay Gould Ballpark

VOLLEYBALL CAMPS (VARIOUS AGES)

June 10-21, Maverick Activities Center

MARCHING BAND CAMP (GRADES 9-12)

June 16-20, Fine Arts Building

SOFTBALL SUMMER CAMP (AGES 7-12)

June 17-18, Alan Saxe Field

BASEBALL ELITE PROSPECT (GRADES 9-12)

Aug. 17, Clay Gould Ballpark



Find details, prices, and registration forms here:



UTA KIDS AND TEEN UNIVERSITY

JUNE & JULY

Camps for grades 1 through 12 in science, technology, engineering, arts, and more.

SELECTED CAMPS INCLUDE:

Blaze Art Camp • Build & Design: Structural Engineering With Legos • Gamemaster: Create Your Own Board Games • Maverick Gardening • Med Camp • Mad Scientist! • Steam-Explosions • Build Your Own Robot • Creative Writing • Roller Coaster Engineering • Fashion Designers • Anime/Manga • Maverick Forensic Science Camp • Instamazing: Urban Photography • Summer Strings



A full list of offerings, dates, and prices can be found at uta.edu/youth or 817-272-2581.



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Find videos, feature stories, research updates, student profiles, and much more at the [Maverick News Hub](#).



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- And much more!
- World Series run and celebration archive documenting the Texas Rangers' 2023
- How you can contribute to a permanent digital archive documenting the Texas Rangers' 2023
- UTA alumnus Lou Diamond Phillips' recent visit to campus
- Summer camps at UTA
- Festivities planned for the total solar eclipse

In this issue, you'll find stories on

College Town, UTA is a community newsletter published twice a year by The University of Texas at Arlington. Its goal is to inform and entertain our neighbors about interesting, exciting, and relevant news and events taking place at the University.



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