

# COLLEGE ★ TOWN, UTA

## THE MAVERICK NEWSLETTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

SPRING 2025



The University of Texas at Arlington turns 130 this September. To celebrate, we’re throwing a yearlong party—and you’re invited!

From private primary school to military academy to agricultural college to world-class research university, UT Arlington has transformed over the past century-plus to become the academic powerhouse and community pillar it is today.

President Jennifer Cowley officially kicked off the anniversary celebration Jan. 30 (1-30, get it?). During the spring semester, the University held a Tartan Design Competition, where students had the opportunity to create a unique commemorative tartan design that captured the spirit of the milestone anniversary. Sophomore Rachel Chen’s tartan was selected as the winner



and will be featured in 130th anniversary merchandise available later this year in the UTA Bookstore.

Festivities open to the Arlington community will start ramping up later this summer, so stay tuned to [uta.edu/130](https://uta.edu/130) for all the latest updates. The anniversary website also features an interactive timeline depicting UTA’s history, a special birthday video, links to 130th gear, more!



### PRESIDENT’S LETTER

#### HI, NEIGHBORS!

This year marks a special time at The University of Texas at Arlington—we’re celebrating our 130th birthday, a milestone that means even more to us because we share it with a city we’re proud to call home. We’re marking the occasion with several fun events that we’d love for you to attend. If you haven’t been to campus in a while (or ever!), now’s the perfect time to stop by and celebrate with us.

From Maverick baseball games to live music performances to summer camps, there are so many ways to experience the unique spirit of our

campus. One of our favorite events each year is the Spring Glass Art Sale and Fundraiser, where you can shop for one-of-a-kind Maverick creations while supporting our students. No matter how you choose to get involved, you’re always welcome here.

We’re proud to be your hometown university. Here’s to the next 130 years of growing, thriving, and celebrating together.

**MAV UP!**  
*Jennifer Cowley, UTA President*



**BIRTHDAY WEEK**  
Join us Sept. 1–5 for a week of exciting events leading up to UTA’s 130th Birthday Bash

#### 130 BIRTHDAY BASH AT BRAZOS

The highlight of the University’s yearlong 130th celebration, the Birthday Bash at Brazos will be a party to remember. The event will be open to the campus, alumni, and the larger community.

#### LIBRARY EXHIBIT

UTA Libraries will unveil a new permanent exhibition focused on UTA’s history.

#### TIME CAPSULE BURIAL

To help cap off our 130th year, the University is creating and burying a new time capsule on campus.



**MAVERICK MEMORIES**  
Share your memories with us

We’re celebrating UTA’s 130<sup>th</sup> birthday all year long, but we can’t tell the University’s story without YOU. That’s why we’re asking all current and former students, faculty, staff, and community members to share their favorite memories of UTA.

Visit [uta.edu/130](https://uta.edu/130) to share your stories and upload your photos. Your #MaverickMemories will be preserved in a special UTA Libraries archive collection for future generations to enjoy and could be featured in anniversary posts and publications!





## LAB LIFE

### UTA EXPANDS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Undergraduate students at UTA now have even more opportunities to participate in high-level research, as the University has expanded a popular program enabling them to present at academic conferences.

Through the program, Rohit Raut, a senior physics major, presented his work at the DUNE Collaboration Meeting in Switzerland; art history major Ben Gervasi attended the Midwest Art History Society Conference in Chicago; and senior biology major Jaden Rankin showcased her research at an entomology conference in Phoenix; to name just a few.

“It was my first major research symposium, and it was so incredibly exciting to meet people at all levels of education,” says Rankin. “I plan to pursue a Ph.D. and possibly work in a national park after I finish my studies.”



Rohit Raut in Switzerland

## TOP TIER

### UTA RETAINS ELITE RESEARCH STATUS

UTA is among just 187 institutions—4.7% nationwide—to earn the prestigious R1 designation from the Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education, signifying the highest level of research activity. First earning R1 status in 2015, UTA has maintained this classification through each of Carnegie’s three-year reaffirmations ever since.

R1 classification signals that an institution is considered a top-tier research university with a significant commitment to producing groundbreaking research, attracting top faculty, and securing substantial research funding—essentially placing it among the most prestigious research institutions in the country.



Prototype of taxi, courtesy of Motion Array

## AVIATION EXPECTATION

### Professor explores potential for flying taxis

Could flying taxis help mitigate the influx of traffic expected in North Texas during the 2026 FIFA World Cup? UT Arlington researcher Jinzhu Yu thinks it could be possible.

The civil engineering assistant professor has been tasked by the North Central Texas Council of Governments with identifying the best locations for vertiports, specialized hubs for aircraft that take off and land vertically. He and his team are using advanced data analytics, modeling, and optimization techniques to evaluate potential sites based on factors such as population density, socioeconomic status, traffic demand, accessibility to major event venues, and environmental impact.

“Our goal is to identify locations that maximize convenience and efficiency while minimizing impacts on existing transportation networks and communities,” Dr. Yu says. “With the surge in visitors expected during the World Cup, having an efficient air mobility system will be strongly beneficial in managing transportation demands.”

Their findings will be shared with local governments and industry partners to guide future infrastructure investments and policy development.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

### Tarrant County Age Study

We know factors such as where we live, what we eat, and how we spend our time affect how we age, but the specifics are still unclear to scientists. To help answer these vital questions, researchers at UT Arlington have begun a multiyear study on healthy aging—and they’re looking for the community’s help.

Researchers are enrolling volunteers from Tarrant County for the Arlington Study of Healthy Aging (ASHA), which will use advanced imaging, genetics, exercise science, neuroscience, and remote monitoring to investigate age-related health decline. The goal is to help individuals and health care practitioners better prevent the

impact of disease on older adults.

The team aims to enroll 600 volunteers between the ages of 50 and 80 to participate in the program. Each person will undergo two days of testing at UTA. On the first day, they will receive a full-body MRI, including images of the brain, heart, and skeletal muscle. On the second day, the team will study their blood vessel functioning, memory, and physical performance, and draw a small blood sample.

For more information on ASHA or to become a volunteer, visit [asha-study.uta.edu](https://asha-study.uta.edu).







COFFEE DATE

# UTA hosting weekly meetups for entrepreneurs

One Million Cups (1MC) has a new home at UT Arlington. The University this spring began hosting weekly Wednesday meetings of the international program, which is designed to engage and connect local entrepreneurs.

“The premise of 1MC is that bringing together innovators helps startups share ideas and work through problems in a safe space,” says Matthew Clark, faculty director for UTA’s Center for Entrepreneurship and

Technology Development (CETD). “Whether you’re a budding entrepreneur or a member of the community interested in learning about new business ideas, you’ll find that this event offers an incredible opportunity to engage with others.”

Founded in 2012 by the Kansas City-based Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, 1MC is based on the belief that entrepreneurs discover solutions through community engagement.

At the CETD-hosted meetings, attendees hear presentations from local startups and entrepreneurs, provide feedback, discuss additional ideas, and collaborate on overcoming potential challenges. 1MC also offers networking opportunities with UTA students, faculty, community members, and investors.

And, of course, there is always plenty of coffee available.



UTA's volleyball team

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

## UTA WOMEN'S TEAMS EXCEL IN POSTSEASON

UTA volleyball stormed into the record books last November, capturing its first regular-season championship since 2002 and going on to claim its first Western Athletic Conference title in program history.

“It was a remarkable season,” head coach J.T. Wenger says. “This team did so many amazing things this year, and I am so proud of them.”

For their part, the Lady Mavs basketball team earned a postseason berth in the Women’s National Invitational Tournament in March, where they won their first-round match (defeating the University of the Incarnate Word 78-52) for only the second time in program history. Though the players gave a valiant effort, they ultimately fell to North Texas in the second round.

BLAZE FORWARD

## UTA expands tuition support program

More students dreaming of attaining a college degree but worrying about how to pay for it now have a pathway to afford their education. Late last year, UT Arlington, in conjunction with the UT System Board of Regents, announced that it was establishing a new baseline of \$100,000 for its signature Blaze Forward program—meaning any student whose family has an adjusted gross income of that amount or less and meets other eligibility requirements will not be charged tuition or mandatory fees over four years for undergraduate students and two for transfer students.

“In 2024, 49% of all UTA undergraduate students had their tuition and fees fully covered. Now, even more Texans will be able to experience the transformative power of a UTA education tuition-free,” says UTA President Jennifer Cowley. “We are thrilled to create the opportunity to help more students achieve their dreams of a college degree.”

Blaze Forward represents just one example of the many resources UTA offers to eligible families. In all, the University committed \$400 million in financial support to UTA students entering the fall 2024 semester.



Kelly Phan



# SPRING & SUMMER



## SUMMER CAMPS

UTA offers a variety of summer camps to help inspire the next generation of **innovators**, **engineers**, and **artists**. Scan the QR code to see the full list.



### GENERAL CAMPS

#### JUNE 2-6

Sweet Treats & Colorful Eats (Grades 1-2)  
DIY Beauty Lab (Grades 3-5)  
Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-8)

#### JUNE 9-13

Sound Safari: Phonics Fun (Grades 1-2)  
Slime-tastic Art (Grades 3-5)  
Car Racers (Grades 3-5)  
First Lego League Robotics Guided Mission (Grades 6-8)

#### JUNE 16-20

Kitchen Prep for Kids (Grades 1-2)  
Exploring Oceans (Grades 1-2)  
Maverick Chemistry! (Grades 3-5)  
Lego Robotics Mini Challenges (Grades 6-8)

#### JUNE 23-27

Through June 26: Quantum STEM Camp (Grades 9-12, register at [quantumforall.org](http://quantumforall.org))  
Exploradores del Cosmos (Grades 1-2)  
Secret Agent in ASL (Grades 3-5)  
Space: Stars and Beyond! in ASL (Grades 3-5)  
Building with Hydraulics in ASL (Grades 6-8)  
Entry to Engineering (Grades 6-8)

#### JULY 7-11

Volcanos & Explosions! (Grades 1-2)  
Become a Youtuber (Grades 3-5)  
Fashion Designers! (Grades 3-5)  
Gamemaster: Create Your Own Board Games (Grades 3-5)  
Storm Chasers (Grades 3-5)  
Modern Masters in Clay (Grades 3-5)  
Conceptual Engineering (Grades 6-8)  
Instamazing: Urban Photography (Grades 6-8)  
Digital Creators: Video Transitions (Grades 6-8)

#### JULY 14-18

Intro to Drawing Anime (Grades 6-8)  
Dessert Designers (Grades 6-8)  
Quilt Camp (Grades 6-8)  
Film Making: LEGO® Stop Motion Animation (Grades 6-8)

#### JULY 21-25

Veterinarian Camp (Grades 1-2 & 3-5)  
Pastry Picasso (Grades 3-5)  
Building with Hydraulics (Grades 6-8)  
Teen Med Camp (Grades 8-12)

#### JULY 28-AUG.1

Secret Agent (Grades 3-5)  
Creative Writing Genres (Grades 3-5 & 6-8)  
Fab Lab: 3D Printing 101 (Grades 6-8 & 9-12)  
Dungeons & Dragons (Grades 6-8)

### SPORTS CAMPS



#### VOLLEYBALL

[utamavs.com/feature/volleyballcamp](http://utamavs.com/feature/volleyballcamp)

#### JUNE 10

One-Day Serve & Pass Camp

#### JUNE 10-13

Four-Day All-Skills Camp

#### JUNE 11-12 & 18-19

Two-Day Setter, Hitter, & Defense Camp

#### JUNE 13 & 20

One-Day Elite Volleyball Camp

#### JUNE 16-17

Two-Day Serve & Pass Camp

#### JUNE 16-20

Five-Day All-Skills Camp

#### WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

[uta.edu/student-affairs/movin-mavs](http://uta.edu/student-affairs/movin-mavs)

#### JULY 14-17

Adults Camp  
Military Veterans Camp

#### JULY 17-20

Co-Ed Juniors Camp

#### JULY 20-24

All Girls Camp



### MUSIC CAMPS

[uta.edu/music](http://uta.edu/music)

#### JUNE 2-6

Texas Conducting Workshop

#### JUNE 8-12

Concert Band (Grades 7-12)

#### JUNE 15-19

Drum Major, Leadership, & Colorguard

#### JUNE 16-18

Middle School/Junior High Choir

#### JULY 6-11

Summer Strings (Grades 7-12)

#### JULY 16-19

All-State Choir





EVENTS.UTA.EDU

EVENTS CALENDAR



Every Wednesday 1 MILLION CUPS

9-10 a.m., Free  
Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology Development, 400 S. Center St.

Through April 30 EARTH DAY AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT IN TEXAS

Open during regular Library hours  
6th Floor, Central Library, 702 Planetarium Pl.

April 29 MOON TREE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The UTA Planetarium and College of Science are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Moon Tree's planting on campus. The tree was grown from a seed that orbited the moon on a NASA spacecraft as part of the Artemis I mission.  
2-4 p.m.  
Outside UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.

May 3 SPRING GLASS ART SALE & FUNDRAISER

Whether you're looking for a unique gift for Mother's Day or a special addition to your own collection, this is an opportunity to find something truly extraordinary. Explore and purchase one-of-a-kind glass artwork—all while supporting UTA students.  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Studio Arts Center, 810 S. Davis St.

May 10 DALLAS WINGS PRESEASON GAME

7:00 p.m.  
College Park Center, 600 S. Center St.

May 16 DALLAS WINGS HOME OPENER

6:30 p.m.  
College Park Center, 600 S. Center St.

May 16 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: DIANA ROJOS

Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m.; Tickets: \$35  
UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.

Get tickets & info at



June 13 THE WIGGLES: BOUNCING BALLS! TOUR

The Wiggles are back for their biggest global tour ever. Get ready to sing, dance, & wiggle in this high-energy musical extravaganza featuring all eight Wiggles and their friends.  
6 p.m., Tickets: \$25-60  
Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Dr.

June 13 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: TYLA & ED

Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m.; Tickets: \$35  
UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.

July 9-13 VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE

This exciting event will feature the world's top women's volleyball teams, including the reigning Olympic silver medalists, Team USA.  
Day, weekend, & all-tournament passes available  
College Park Center, 600 S. Center St.

July 24 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: HELIUM QUEENS

Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m.; Tickets: \$35  
UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.



MAVERICK ATHLETICS

MEN'S BASEBALL @ CLAY GOULD PARK

- April 29 TCU (at Lupton Baseball Stadium)
- May 2-4 Utah Valley
- May 6 Dallas Baptist University

SOFTBALL @ ALLAN SAXE FIELD

- May 2-3 Seattle U

TRACK & FIELD @ MAVERICK STADIUM

- May 16-17 WAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Lights, Camera, Mavericks!

In 2023, the Texas legislature set aside \$200 million in incentives to encourage more filmmakers to bring their productions to Texas—and to hire local film crews and background actors. It’s the highest amount the state has ever allocated toward the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, and UTA is helping prepare the workforce to meet the demand.

“These incentives enable our students to participate in significant productions without leaving Texas, providing them essential hands-on experience,” says August Davis, chair of the Department of Art and Art

History. “By tailoring our curriculum to leverage these new opportunities, we’re fostering a new wave of filmmakers who will help position Texas as a premier destination for film and television production.”

UTA’s Cinematic Arts Program trains its young filmmakers in theory and technique under a studio art model. As students move through the program, they’re immersed in all aspects of making a film, including directing, cinematography, editing, screenwriting, motion graphics, and much more. Students explore different areas of filmmaking—animation, documentary, live-action,

commercial, video arts, and narrative—and go on to specialize in the direction best aligned with their passions and career goals.

The University recently added a commercial filmmaking minor and microcredentials to certify students as “on-set” ready for working on film sets. With Weatherford-based 101 Studios, UTA will soon also launch a production assistant program to prepare students for their first job in the film industry after graduation.

[Read more and watch a video about the program here:](#)



### TEACHER TRAINING

## UTA expands Alternative Certification Program

Thanks to a gift from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation, UTA is expanding its Alternative Certification Program (ACP) in the College of Education

The fully online, self-paced program offers a pathway for aspiring teachers with a bachelor’s degree in a non-education field to earn their teacher certification. Students receive curriculum, instruction, and mentorship from the college’s faculty and staff while completing 50 hours of classroom observation and field experience to ensure they are ready for full-time teaching roles. The program meets Texas Education Agency

requirements and prepares candidates for teaching certification exams.

Shirley Vela (’23), a current ACP student, is one exam away from becoming a certified teacher in Texas. She started the program in October 2024.

“What I’ve gained most through ACP is time; it has just been amazing how much I’ve accomplished since I enrolled,” Vela says. “I know my first-year teaching is going to be a challenge, but I’m looking forward to being in the classroom.”

Learn more at [uta.edu/education](https://uta.edu/education).



### RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

## NEW RESEARCH ON TEEN BODY IMAGE

Adolescents who perceive themselves as overweight are three times more likely to consider committing self-harm compared to those who do not, regardless of whether the person is objectively overweight, according to a new study released by UTA researchers.

“What we found was that the perception of being overweight has a much stronger effect of suicidal ideation than the objective measure of weight,” says Philip Baiden, associate professor of social work and lead author of the study.

In their results, the researchers highlighted the critical role schools, families, and communities play in creating supportive environments that can help improve adolescents’ self-perceptions.

“Investment in preventive measures and early intervention programs is key,” says Dr. Baiden. “If we can reshape the way young people see themselves, we can save lives.”







Two heroes with ties to UT Arlington are among the 3,528 Medal of Honor recipients whose stories of valor, humanity, patriotism, and sacrifice are on display at the National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, newly opened in March 2025.

Col. Neel Ernest Kearby and Gen. Richard Cavazos ('49) were recognized with the Medal of Honor—the United States' highest award for military valor in action—for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, at the risk of their lives and beyond the call of duty. Both attended the University when it was North Texas Agricultural

College and participated in the Corps of Cadets.

The museum serves as a national landmark and provides an unrivaled and interactive visitor experience that commemorates the historical thread of sacrifice, patriotism, and courage that connects past and present members of the U.S. military. During the opening ceremony, the UTA Army ROTC Color Guard presented the colors, in conjunction with the Fort Cavazos First Calvary Division Band. Visit [mohmuseum.org](https://mohmuseum.org) for more information.



PROGRESS REPORT

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



UTARI DRONE FACILITY

The UTA Research Institute in Fort Worth began construction on a new state-of-the-art outdoor netted drone facility late last year. When completed, the Maverick Autonomous Vehicle Research Center will be equipped with lighting, an advanced suite of cameras and other sensors, and an adjacent control/education building.

The facility is important for research in part because it will allow for testing in all weather conditions, which is necessary for Federal Aviation Administration compliance.

FRATERNITY & SORORITY LIFE COMMUNITY CENTER

In February, UTA unveiled its new 8,900-square-foot Fraternity & Sorority Life Community Center, a dedicated space for the University's 30 fraternities and sororities.

Located at the entrance of Greek Row and campus, the newly renovated facility will now serve as a hub for Fraternity and Sorority Life and its 650-plus members by fostering engagement among students,

alumni, and the surrounding community.

"To our students—this space is yours, use it well," said President Jennifer Cowley at the grand opening. "Make it a place where friendships are built, where big ideas come to life, where support is always within reach, and where UTA's fraternities and sororities continue to thrive."







Follow UTArlington    

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



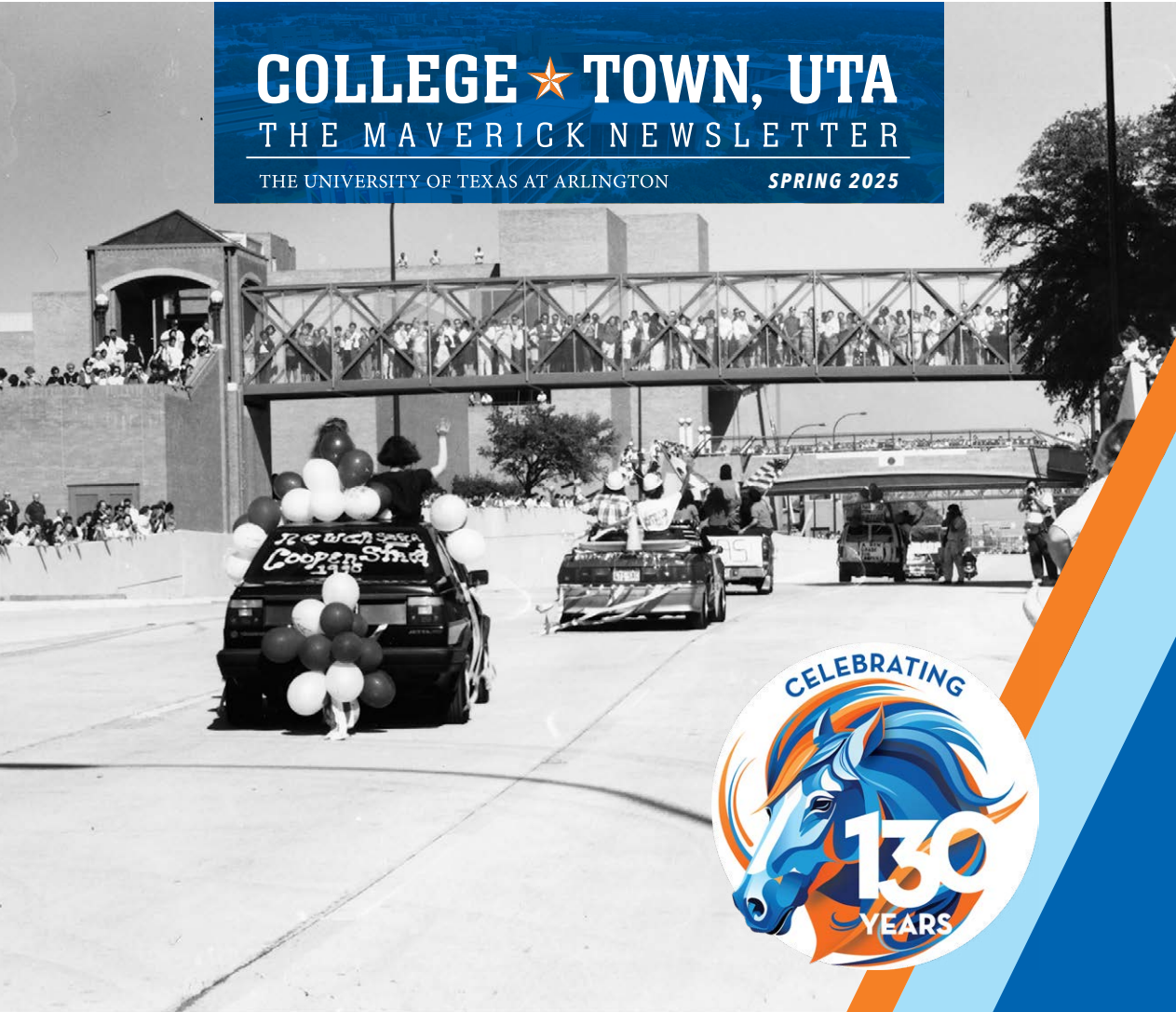
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON **SPRING 2025**

**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.

**In this issue, you'll find stories on**

- Our yearlong **130th anniversary celebration**
- Summer camps** at UTA
- How you can be involved in a **study on healthy aging**
- Whether **flying taxis** could be a solution for World Cup-related traffic in 2026
- And much more!**

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