

COLLEGE ★ TOWN, UTA

THE MAVERICK NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024



BROADWAY BOUND

IT'S SHOW TIME AT UT ARLINGTON

Enjoy classic musicals, innovative dance performances, and hilarious plays this fall from UT Arlington's Department of Theatre Arts & Dance. The 2024-25 season features a beloved Leonard Bernstein show, a musical aimed at children, and a recent Broadway breakout hit.

NOV. 6-10 **ON THE TOWN**



Leonard Bernstein's classic musical comedy tells the story of three sailors during World War II and their amorous adventures

on a 24-hour shore leave in New York City. The show was an instant hit upon opening on Broadway in 1944. MGM acquired the film rights that same year and released their movie adaptation starring Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra in 1949.

NOV. 14 & 15 **MAMÁ GOOSE**



Bring your kids to this theater adaptation of *Mamá Goose: A Latino Nursery Treasury* by Alma Flor Ada and F. Isabel Campoy.

This performance—a co-production with Theatre Arlington—will feature English, Spanish, and American Sign Language. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance.



General admission tickets are \$22
utatickets.com



All shows are at UTA's Mainstage and Studio Theatres, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.



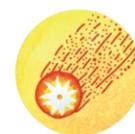
Parking validation is available at the Box Office counter for lots F6 and F9 for \$5 on weekday evenings.

NOV. 22-24 **DANCE DECONSTRUCTED**



A moving dance performance choreographed by UTA students and faculty.

FEB. 26-MARCH 2 **NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812**



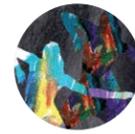
Drawing inspiration from a 70-page portion of Leo Tolstoy's classic novel *War and Peace*, *The Great Comet* follows Natasha, a young girl who forms a relationship with the attractive rebel Anatole while her betrothed Andrey is off fighting. The musical was nominated for 12 Tony Awards in 2017.

APRIL 2-6 **TREASURE ISLAND**



It's a dark, stormy night. The stars are out. Jim, the innkeeper's granddaughter, opens the door to a terrifying stranger. At the old sailor's feet sits a huge sea-chest, full of secrets. Jim invites him in—and her dangerous voyage begins. Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale of murder, money, and mutiny is brought to life in this thrilling adaptation.

APRIL 25-27 **IN E/MOTION**



Prepare to be wowed during this collaborative, immersive, interactive design and movement experience.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HI, NEIGHBOR!

A lot has been happening at The University of Texas at Arlington since our last edition of *College Town, UTA*. We wrapped up a busy summer on campus and across our community—from summer camps to completing the renovation of the Cooper Street bridges.

As we step into fall here in Arlington, there's much to be excited about. We welcomed students back in August and have a full schedule of events, including alumni mixers and a full slate of theatrical productions and music performances. This promises to be a great semester at UTA. Our

faculty and students are partnering with the community in various ways, including internships in city offices and improving motor skills in kids through the Little Mavs Movement Academy, which you can read about in the following pages. We are proud to be part of the American Dream City.

If you'd like to receive exciting updates from UTA directly from me, I invite you to become a Mavs Insider by texting "UTA" to 817-373-5147 or scanning the QR code at right. I'll keep you informed with periodic news from UTA.

I hope to see you at an event on campus soon.

GO MAVS!

Jennifer Cowley, UTA President



COSMIC GIFT



MOON TREE PUTS DOWN ROOTS



Earlier this year, UTA planted a “Moon Tree” on campus grown from a seed that orbited the moon.

Now growing outside the Chemistry & Physics Building near the Planetarium, the sweetgum seedling was given to the University through the NASA Office of STEM Engagement (OSTEM) as part of a national conservation education initiative.

OSTEM partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fly nearly 2,000 tree seeds—including sycamores, sweetgums, Douglas firs, loblolly pines, and giant sequoias—aboard the *Orion* spacecraft as part of Artemis I, an uncrewed mission that marked NASA’s return to lunar exploration after a five-decade hiatus.



MUSIC WITH A VIEW

While you’re visiting the Moon Tree, stop in for a show at the UTA Planetarium. This fall, it’s hosting a concert series where you can hear live music under the incredible atmosphere of space. Each ticket includes admission to the show and appetizers during the reception. Visit uta.edu/planetarium for details.

2024 CONCERT SERIES

- OCT. 11 & 12 This Will Destroy You
- OCT. 30 Helium Queens
- NOV. 15 Panther City Quartet
- DEC. 20 Diana Rojas



Rose Hollermann
Photo credit: Wheelchair Sports Federation

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

UTA Olympians and Paralympians Take Paris

Nearly a dozen Mavericks headed to Paris this summer to compete at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Aerospace engineering major Austen Smith earned a bronze in women’s skeet shooting and a silver in mixed team skeet shooting at the Olympics.

At the Paralympics, alumni Fabian Romo and Paul Schulte won gold with Team USA in men’s wheelchair basketball, Josie Aslakson and Rose Hollermann won silver with Team USA in women’s wheelchair basketball, and Brent Lakatos won gold for Team Canada in men’s T53 800m and silver in men’s T53 400m.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Computer Scientist Decoding Dog Speech

What if the next time you asked your dog “Who’s a good boy?” you could understand Fido’s response?

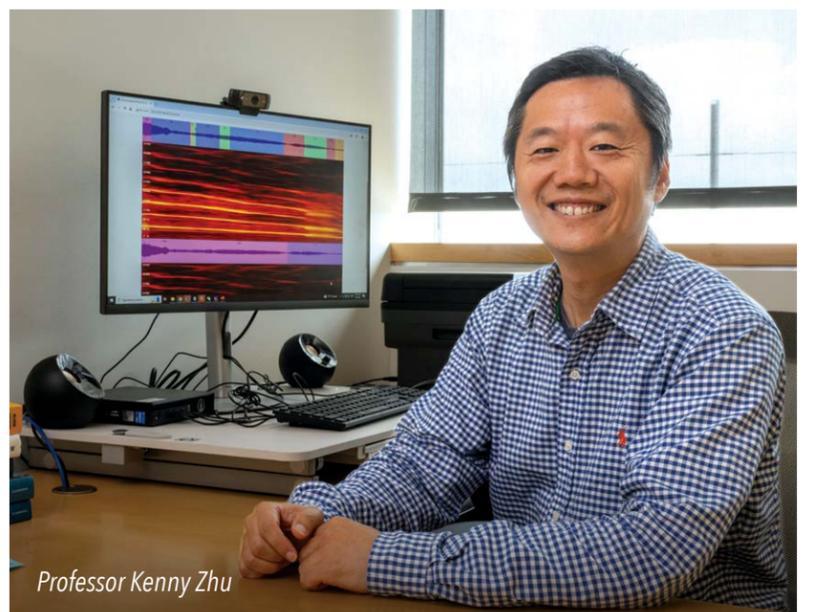
Kenny Zhu, a UTA professor of computer science and engineering, is using machine learning to translate dog sounds into phonetic representations and, eventually, words.

“Scientists have been trying to decode the noises of whales, dolphins, and chimpanzees for many years, but most of that research has been conducted by biologists or ecologists with little computer science knowledge,” he says. “My research is in natural language processing for humans, so why not look at how animals communicate?”

To collect the sounds, Dr. Zhu downloads videos from YouTube and other sources and strips away all other noise in the audio file except for the sound of the bark. He uses machine

learning to catalog the sounds, segments them into pieces like syllables, and assigns each syllable a symbol similar to the alphabet.

To date, he has transcribed about 10 hours of barks into syllables. Early indications are that dogs from other parts of the world vocalize in different tones than their American counterparts.



Professor Kenny Zhu

UTA master's student Maggie Rivera



SERVICE LEARNING

Students Spend Summer Interning in City Offices

UTA students spent their summers giving back to their communities while gaining valuable career skills through the Geisel Distinguished Summer Internship program. Hosted by the College of Architecture, Planning, and Public Affairs, the program places students in city offices and nonprofits across the DFW Metroplex.

"Having these kinds of programs where students can go out to engage and participate in their community and give back is something students really are looking

for," says David Coursey, chair of the Public Affairs and Planning Department. "For the institutions, it's a good opportunity to attract and develop the next generation of workers."

This year, participants interned at Dallas County Habitat for Humanity and in city offices in Grand Prairie, Mansfield, and Farmers Branch.

"Overall, this internship provided practical knowledge and skills essential for a career in

"The relationships built and connections made through this program can help the next generation of employees." –Intern Oneva Sadiq

public service and governance," says Maggie Rivera, a Master of Public Administration student who interned with the city of Grand Prairie. "This was a front-seat experience of how local government administers public funds."



The Hendricks family

MAVERICK FAMILIES

UTA UNITES FOUR GENERATIONS

For the Hendricks family, UTA is more than just a university—it's a family tradition.

"I'm honored to have an 80-plus year family history with UTA," says Alicia Hendricks. She graduated in 2001, 31 years after her father, Armando Rodriguez, while her husband, Eric, graduated 30 years after his father, Randoll, and 60 years after his grandfather, George.

"It's amazing to be part of something so long-standing," Eric says. "The University has offered so many opportunities for our family."

The tradition is continuing with the youngest members of the family: The Hendricks' son, also named George, participated in UTA's Little Mavs Movement Academy, and their daughter, Ellie, swims at the UTA pool.

"UTA has grown so much over the years, and so has our bond with the University," Alicia says. "It holds a special place in my heart."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Little Mavs Academy Helps Improve Motor Skills

A UT Arlington researcher has made it her mission to boost the skills and confidence of young North Texans, inspired by her own childhood experience.

"I was a clumsy child who always wanted to play sports but couldn't," says Priscila Tamplain, associate professor of kinesiology and director of the Motor Development Lab at UTA. "It was a natural fit for me to study kids with coordination problems."

She founded the Little Mavs Movement Academy to help children ages 4-13 with motor or developmental disabilities. The program not only enhances their skills, but boosts their confidence as well.

"Higher confidence is linked to lower anxiety and depression, which are at epidemic levels in adolescence and adulthood," Dr. Tamplain says. "Good motor skills help kids join in fun activities." Learn more at littlemavs.uta.edu.



Little Mavs Movement Academy participant

EVENTS AT UTA



EVENTS.UTA.EDU

OCTOBER

24 EPICMAVS: BUILD STUFF PEOPLE WILL BUY + BUSINESSES THAT SCALE WORKSHOP

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology Development, 400 S. Center St.

25 CÉSAR LOZANO: FELIZMENTE IMPERFECTOS

8 p.m., Tickets start at \$39

Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Dr.

30 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: HELIUM QUEENS

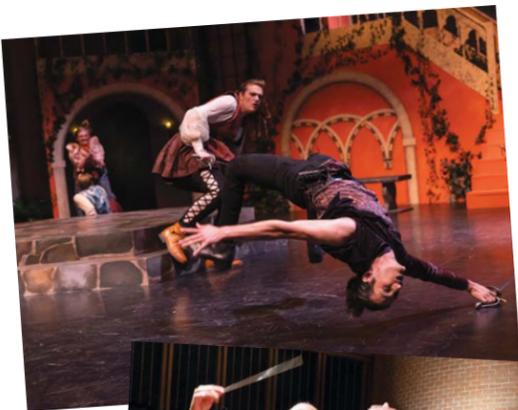
Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m., Tickets: \$35

UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.

31 EPICMAVS: VIDEO CREATION WORKSHOP

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology Development, 400 S. Center St.



NOVEMBER

4-9 UTA HOMECOMING

Enjoy the Chili Cook-Off, Homecoming Step Show, Street Festival, 5k Run/Walk/Roll, and more.

Various times, events.uta.edu/homecoming

5 UTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

7:30 p.m.

Center for Visual & Performing Arts, 900 E. Sanford St.

6-10 ON THE TOWN

Leonard Bernstein's classic musical comedy.

Tickets \$22

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

14-15 MAMA GOOSE

An English, Spanish, and ASL musical for children.

12 p.m., Tickets: Free, but reserve in advance

Studio 143, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

15 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: PANTHER CITY QUARTET

Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m., Tickets: \$35

UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.

17 UTA A CAPPELLA & UNIVERSITY SINGERS CONCERT

3 p.m., Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 alumni & seniors

Irons Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

21 EPICMAVS: PITCH PRACTICE WORKSHOP

4 to 5:30 p.m.

Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology Development, 400 S. Center St.

22 UTA WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT

7:30 p.m., Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 alumni & seniors

Irons Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

22-24 DANCE DECONSTRUCTED

Tickets \$22

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

24 UTA SYMPHONIC WINDS & SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT

3 p.m., Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 alumni & seniors

Irons Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

25 FACULTY & FRIENDS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

7:30 p.m., Tickets: \$10 adults, \$7 alumni & seniors

Irons Recital Hall, Fine Arts Building, 700 Greek Row Dr.

DECEMBER

7 HOLIDAY GLASS ART SALE & FUNDRAISER

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Studio Arts Center, 810 S. Davis St.

14 BLIPPI: JOIN THE BAND TOUR!

Fun for the whole family!

2 p.m., Tickets start at \$32.50

Texas Hall, 701 W. Nedderman Dr.

20 PLANETARIUM CONCERT SERIES: DIANA ROJAS

Reception: 6 p.m., Show: 7 p.m.

UTA Planetarium, 700 Planetarium Pl.



2025

JAN. 26

UTA DAY AT THE RODEO

Details to come

FEB. 26-MARCH 2

NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812

Drawing inspiration from the Russian masterpiece War and Peace.

Tickets: \$22

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

MARCH 4

UTA NIGHT AT THE DALLAS STARS

7 p.m.

American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave.

MARCH 15-16

LEGENDSCON

A fan-run convention celebrating the original Star Wars Expanded Universe.

All day, Tickets: \$50

College Park Center, 600 S. Center St.

Get tickets and info at

UTATICKETS.COM



ATHLETICS

VOLLEYBALL

The Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Championships will be hosted at College Park Center this year, and the volleyball team is hoping to cap a special season with a hometown victory. A trio of returning Mavericks earned WAC preseason honors, with Mollie Blank named the preseason setter of the year and Brianna Ford and Paige Reagor selected for the All-WAC Team.

HOME SCHEDULE

OCT. 10 @ 6 P.M.	SEATTLE U
OCT. 17 @ 6 P.M.	GRAND CANYON
OCT. 19 @ 12 P.M.	UTAH TECH
NOV. 2 @ 12 P.M.	CALIFORNIA BAPTIST
NOV. 4 @ 6 P.M.	ABILENE CHRISTIAN
NOV. 9 @ 11 P.M.	UTAH VALLEY
NOV. 4 @ 6 P.M.	ABILENE CHRISTIAN
NOV. 21 - 22	WAC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT



WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

The Movin' Mavs and Lady Movin' Mavs will look to reclaim their spots atop the national standings this season. The women's team came in second last year, while the men's team took fifth place. Find ticket info at uta.edu/movinmavs.

HOME SCHEDULE

OCT. 25 - 26	UTA COLLEGE TOURNAMENT (MEN'S & WOMEN'S TEAMS)
JAN. 24 - 25	UTA TOURNAMENT (MEN'S & WOMEN'S TEAMS)
MARCH 14 - 15	UTA COLLEGE TOURNAMENT (WOMEN'S TEAM)



UTATICKETS.COM

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mavs are coming off a season where they won 20 games for the first time since 2017-18 under first-year head coach KT Turner and reached the WAC Tournament Final. Key contributors Brandyn Talbot and Kade Douglas are returning, and the team added 11 talented transfers to complete its roster. UTA opens conference play in January, with the conference tournament scheduled for March.

MEN'S HOME SCHEDULE

NOV. 4 @ 11 A.M.	UNT DALLAS
NOV. 9 @ TBD	LOUISIANA TECH
DEC. 14 @ TBD	LOUISIANA-MONROE
DEC. 18 @ TBD	EVANSVILLE
JAN. 16 @ 7 P.M.	UTAH VALLEY
JAN. 23 @ 7 P.M.	SEATTLE U
JAN. 30 @ 7 P.M.	SOUTHERN UTAH
FEB. 1 @ 2 P.M.	UTAH TECH
FEB. 13 @ 4 P.M.	CALIFORNIA BAPTIST
FEB. 15 @ 2 P.M.	GRAND CANYON
FEB. 22 @ 2 P.M.	TARLETON STATE
MARCH 1 @ 2 P.M.	ABILENE CHRISTIAN

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Lady Mavs return nine players, three of whom—Nya Threatt, Avery Brittingham, and Taliyah Clark—are starters. Last year, Brittingham led the WAC in rebounding and in double-doubles and posted the second triple-double in program history. This year's team features five talented newcomers, including a pair of intraconference transfers.

WOMEN'S HOME SCHEDULE

NOV. 7 @ 6:30 P.M.	ARLINGTON BAPTIST
DEC. 4 @ 6:30 P.M.	HOUSTON
DEC. 16 @ 4 P.M.	FIU
DEC. 30 @ 4 P.M.	WILEY COLLEGE
JAN. 4 @ 2 P.M.	TARLETON STATE
JAN. 9 @ 6:30 P.M.	UTAH TECH
JAN. 11 @ 2 P.M.	SOUTHERN UTAH
JAN. 25 @ 2 P.M.	ABILENE CHRISTIAN
FEB. 6 @ 6:30 P.M.	UTAH VALLEY
FEB. 8 @ 2 P.M.	SEATTLE U
FEB. 27 @ 6:30 P.M.	GRAND CANYON
MARCH 8 @ 2 P.M.	CALIFORNIA BAPTIST



ARTS & CRAFTS

Glass Arts on Full Display at UTA

Call them masters of the elements. Students who take classes in UTA’s Glass Program eventually become just that, melding sand, fire, and water to create everything from basic glass shapes to more elaborate works of art.

UTA’s program is among the nation’s most respected and boasts one of the largest studios in the country, with a 4,800-square-foot hot shop, a 3,000-square-foot cold shop, a kiln room, and more. With bachelor’s, master’s, and minor tracks available, the program offers a creative resource for students looking to explore this special art form.

“Glass is something we use every single day, but we don’t consider the process behind how it’s made,” says Justin Ginsberg, assistant professor and program coordinator. “There’s something magical about our program—I have witnessed several people realize they’ve found the thing they want to do with their lives. It’s a privilege to provide access to something that will become someone’s passion.”

You can take home a piece of glass art for your very own during the **11th Annual Glass Pumpkin Sale and Fundraiser** on Oct. 18 or during the **Holiday Glass Art Sale and Fundraiser** on Dec. 7.

MAVS GIVE BACK

Hundreds Volunteer for Super Service Saturday

During UTA’s annual Super Service Saturday event this September, 300 Mavericks set out across Arlington to give back to the city and its residents.

Volunteers were scattered across 26 sites, including Mission Arlington, the Arlington Public Library, three Arlington parks, the Fielder Museum, Lake Arlington Native Plant and Pollinator Garden, and more. They helped by beautifying parks, cleaning and organizing, composting, cleaning trails,

stocking food pantries, managing clothing rooms, painting, making bedrolls for the homeless, and so much more.

Super Service Saturday is organized by UTA Volunteers, a student-led, staff-supported service organization housed within the Follett Student Leadership Center. The community service event introduces new and returning Mavericks to the many different ways they can help others in the city.



TEACHING TEACHERS

BRINGING QUANTUM TO THE CLASSROOM

Over 70 high school students and science teachers attended UTA’s Quantum for All workshop and camp in Arlington this summer. Led by UTA assistant professor Karen Jo Matsler, the two-week event trains teachers to introduce quantum information science (QIS) concepts to high school students.



Although QIS is crucial for technologies like cellphones, it’s usually not taught until late in college, leading to missed opportunities for well-paying jobs. With the QIS technology market projected to reach \$44 billion by 2028, talent shortages are significant. Dr. Matsler’s program addresses this gap by equipping high school science teachers with the tools and confidence they need to teach QIS.

“Just the word ‘quantum’ scares people, so many teachers and administrators avoid it,” Matsler says. “My goal is to change that.”

Learn more at quantumforall.org.



FAST CAR

UTA Racing Zooms into New Season

Each year since 1982, UTA students have designed and built a race car from scratch to compete in the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) racing series against other universities across the globe. The program has a history of success, with eight national and three international championships.

Formula SAE teams compete against the clock for bragging rights on the track. Over the years, UTA cars have claimed innovative changes, including moveable wings to reduce drag and an all-electric vehicle. UTA was also the only U.S. team to compete in last year's Global Electric Vehicle Challenge, a two-phase competition involving more than a dozen international teams.

The flagship event for the program is **Texas Autocross Weekend**,

held every October on the UTA campus. Collegiate racing teams from across the country gather to test out the latest technologies and gadgets on their cars and race in an informal competition.

"What is great about this event is that team members share ideas with each other. There's a camaraderie among the nearly 400 students who will come to this Texas Autocross," says Professor Bob Woods, adviser to the FSAE program. "It is also impressive to see so many different designs of the cars and the enthusiasm that the students bring to this project."

The 23rd Annual Texas Autocross Weekend is set for Oct. 11-13.

The event is free for spectators. Find more details at [instagram.com/utaracing](https://www.instagram.com/utaracing).

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor Earns Emmy Nomination

Julian Rodriguez, a broadcast journalism specialist at UT Arlington, has been nominated for a 2024 News & Documentary Emmy Award in the Outstanding Investigative News Coverage in Spanish category.

His documentary, *Decisiones: Datos y Cambio Climático* (*Decisions: Data and Climate Change*), is a collaboration with The Weather Channel en Español and researchers from Catholic University of Colombia. The hour-long program explores how public data access can help people understand climate change and reduce their environmental impact. Rodriguez and his team documented their research journey, visiting coral reefs in the Caribbean, mountain ranges in Colombia, and glaciers in Southern Argentina and Antarctica, alongside meteorologists from The Weather Channel en Español.

You can see the full *Decisiones: Datos y Cambio Climático* documentary on YouTube with English subtitles by scanning the QR below.



BACK TO SCHOOL

NEW ACADEMIC OFFERINGS AT UTA

UTA launched several innovative programs and certificates this fall to help students meet workforce demands and gain the most out of their education.

Alternative Teaching Certification: a 100% online program for those with a bachelor's degree who want to pursue teaching careers.

Bachelor of Business Administration: offered in two new concentrations: HR Management and Entrepreneurship.

Master of Multidisciplinary Studies: ideal for those who have started but not completed a master's degree or who want to enhance their resume with skills in two or more complementary fields.

Rural Health: undergraduate and graduate certificates in rural health will be offered beginning in spring 2025.



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Want to join the university recently ranked **No. 1 in DFW** by *The Wall Street Journal*? (That's us!) Explore our academic programs and find your Maverick Factor today!



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 FALL 2024



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

- | A full calendar of **fun events and sports** at UTA this fall
- | UTA **Olympians** and **Paralympians** in Paris
- | A local family that can claim **four generations** of Mavericks
- | A professor who's trying to **translate dog speech**
- | **And much more!**

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