

BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RONALD L. VAUGHN

It's easy to illustrate UT's progress in terms of construction and increasing enrollment. This year we're set to mark a 16th year of record enrollment, and the three major construction projects currently underway — Residence Hall 7, the Naimoli Family Athletic and Intramural Complex and the Martinez Athletics Center renovation and expansion — probably sets some sort of record as well. Each brick laid, foundation poured, cable run and tree planted is visible proof that UT

noted by the Princeton Review that we would be included as one of the best colleges in the United States. This list is a very prestigious one, and the recognition is long overdue. It is a recognition that validates the progress we've made academically and structurally. Also, it will make us even more appealing for prospective students who seek to be educated at only the top universities, as well as for prospective faculty and staff who want to be associated

with a \$1 billion investment. One of the high points this

Each year we take steps toward our mission of improving students' ability to learn and succeed as productive citizens. We look at how to welcome the most deserving students, how to make campus more comfortable for current students and attractive to future students, how to streamline processes and how to best invest in our future. This year was no different. We have been successful in finding ways to break enrollment records and continue to improve the campus, all while staying true to our mission of transforming students.

In January, the MFA in Creative Writing program initiated its speaker series, "Lectores," which featured prominent authors like Amy Hill Hearth '82 and Michael Connelly.

academic affairs

Each year, UT further secures its place as a model institution that provides an excellent education. As our enrollment has climbed, we have worked hard to maintain a low average class size and a low student-to-faculty ratio. This has been achieved by hiring professors who are experts in their disciplines, who are excellent teachers and who engage in cutting-edge research.

The 2011-2012 full-time faculty stood at approximately 275 members, with 31 new members. This year we look to hire nearly 40 new faculty members, to replace retiring professors, to support our growth and to simply add expertise to our academic departments. You'll read on page 16 how more than a dozen of our full-time faculty received their bachelor's degree at UT. The UT experience is so strong that some of our top scholars choose to come back here to teach as professors.

Interestingly, UT is following the national trend towards health-related and STEM (science, tech.263 r0<</MC1c





Jenna Sullivan '13 loads the viewing tray of the new scanning electron microscope.

The system provides for unprecedented communication capabilities in the event of an emergency.

We're currently upgrading all classrooms to include wireless access with enough

450

Campus wireless sites

bandwidth to support classroom capacity. And, four residence halls saw expanded wireless capabilities for improved coverage and reliability, thus enhancing the more than 450 campus wireless sites.

Of course, in order to support these operations, we must have a robust development and fundrais

ing program. One highlight this year was when a donor funded a scanning electron microscope that will greatly enhance our biology, zoology and forensic science programs. The Honor Roll of Donors on page 49 recognizes the many people who support the University financially. The total received for all gifts this year was \$13.5 million. This year's Annual Fund saw more donors than the previous year, and total Annual Fund giving was approximately \$2.3 million. If you're reading this, you likely were called by a student as part of our successful phonathon program. If you supported UT this year, I once again sincerely thank you.

enrollment

The 2011-2012 enrollment year is best characterized by a moderate increase in UT's volume across the admissions spectrum. This increase cascaded across most aspects of admissions, including events, mailings, visitors, requests for UT admission and waitlist (more than 1,700).

This fall UT set another record enrollment of 6,900, and welcomed more than 2,400 new freshmen, transfer and graduate students. More than 140,000 student inquiries were received this year from prospective students. In fact, on Nov. 11, 2011, we received 957 applications alone—a record.

While UT continues to set enrollment records, we are also making serious inroads in increasing our selectivity. This year, 46 percent of freshmen applicants were admitted, as opposed to 51 percent in 2011 and 59 percent in 2010. This compares to much higher applicant admission percentages, in the 70 and

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