

THE SHORTHORN

# COMMON GROUND



## CULTURE EDITION

A collection of  
stories painting  
a picture of the  
diverse community  
that makes up  
UTA





THE SHORTHORN.com

# commUNITY

VOICES. BE HEARD.

Students like **you** cover timely, issue-driven topics every week.  
[theshorthorn.com/community](https://theshorthorn.com/community)

GENDER, IMMIGRATION,  
EDUCATION, EQUALITY,  
POLITICS, LEGISLATION,  
RACISM, COMMUNITY,  
HOMELESSNESS,  
HUMAN RIGHTS

#UTAVOICES

**Apply to be a columnist at [theshorthorn.com/communityapp](https://theshorthorn.com/communityapp)**

Community Voices columnists are selected by *The Shorthorn* editors at the start of the semester to be regular contributors for that semester. Columnists must write at least two columns a semester and are encouraged to actively participate in social media conversations. They also participate in writing and issue-driven workshops.



UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

**On the cover: Kinesiology senior Thu Tran** dons an Ao Dai, a traditional Vietnamese long gown worn for various special occasions. The attire has become one of Vietnam's national symbols. Men also wear Ao Dais for formal occasions.

# Table of Contents

Spectrum of Diversity **4**

Culture in Motion **6**

Not Just Monks **8**

Perspectives on Style **10**

Out in an Open Space **12**

Taste of Vietnam **14**

A Cup of Culture **17**

Cricket on the Rise **18**

**Editor in Chief**  
Rebekah Morr,  
editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Digital Managing Editor**  
Reese Oxner,  
managing-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Social Media Editor**  
Emily Hayden,  
editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

## Contact us

UC Lower Level, B100, Box 19038,  
Arlington, TX 76019

**Front Desk**  
817-272-4676 (HORN)

**Advertising**  
817-272-3188

**News (after 5 p.m.)**  
817-272-3205  
817-272-3898

**Social**  
@UTAShorthorn  
TheShorthorn

## NEWS

**News Editor**  
Arianna Vedia,  
news-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**News Reporters**  
Edward Cardenas, Dalton Heitmeier,  
Juanita Padron, Awa Sy

## PRODUCTION

**Copy Desk Chief**  
Caitlin Sherrill,  
copydesk-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Copy Editors**  
Jason Amaloo, Sean Cameron Howard

**Designers**  
Roman Brown, Braulio Tellez, Meredith Velazquez

**Ad Designer**  
Hanna Sirak

**Web Developer**  
Jonah Park

## LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT

**Life and Entertainment Editor**  
Maxwell Hilliard,  
features-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Life Reporter**  
Keyuri Parab

## MULTIMEDIA

**Multimedia Editor**  
Duy Vu,  
photo-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu

**Multimedia Journalist**  
Shay Cohen

## ADVERTISING

**Advertising Manager**  
Austin Hutchinson,  
admanager@shorthorn.uta.edu

**Campus Ad Rep**  
Kevin Le,  
campuses@shorthorn.uta.edu





# Spectrum of Diversity

UTA offers every student the opportunity to thrive, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality or disability

REBEKAH MORR | @bekah\_morr

**W**ith a community of students representing all 50 states and more than 100 countries, UTA is among the most diverse universities in the nation.

UTA serves students from across the globe, including underrepresented populations like the LGBT community, students with disabilities and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematic fields.

"We live in an increasingly globalized, interconnected world. It is crucial that students learn how to understand, communicate and work with people who are different from themselves," said Jay Horn, Office of International Education executive director, in an email. "UTA continues to build a global learning community, which serves as a microcosm of the world that awaits our students."

But diversity goes beyond the color of a person's skin or their ethnic background.

"I personally see it as different ideas," said Nimisha Budhwani, International Student Organization president. "Even if you come from the very same place, the way you're brought up or the way you think is way different."

Variance in culture is what enriches and defines the human experience, Horn said.

"Diversity also means that everyone has their own story to tell, and everyone should be viewed as a unique individual," he said.

Public relations junior Loan "Lindsey" Ngo was born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and moved to Nebraska at 16 years old. She received her first degree there but said the community lacked diversity, and there weren't very many Asian students like her.

"Here, I see everyone from around the world," she said. The multiplicity of cultures on UTA's campus was a big reason Ngo chose to attend UTA for her second degree.



## Cultural Diversity on Campus

The university tries to create a space to break down barriers between different ideologies in order to allow the free flow of dialogue and education, said Kasey Catlett, Multicultural Affairs and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally Program assistant director.

Multicultural Affairs offers an array of programs aimed at celebrating the rich diversity of the cultures found at UTA and educating the community about current social issues, according to UTA's website.

The LGBTQA Program within Multicultural Affairs offers educational and networking events, training, and anti-bullying education and advocacy to cultivate a positive environment for students of all sexualities and gender identities.

The makeup of UTA's campus is a learning opportunity; an opportunity to explore different traditions and cultures that may have seemed foreign before, Catlett said.

Discovering a new way of thinking and experiencing the world doesn't need to be in a formal academic setting but can be learned from each other, he said.

"We are educating ourselves on global issues every time we interact with somebody else," Catlett said.

In 2014, UTA became a Hispanic-Serving Institution after meeting the U.S. Department of Education's criteria, which requires the Hispanic population make up at least 25 percent of full-time undergraduate students, according to a university press release.

The designation makes UTA eligible for more federal grants that support and strengthen institutions with large numbers of Hispanic students.

One way the university serves its large Hispanic and Latino population is through the Center for Mexican American Studies.

The center serves as a bridge between the university and the outside Latino community in the Metroplex through outreach initiatives including speaking engagements, Hispanic Career

Week and more. It also promotes the research, recruitment, retention and professional development of UTA faculty actively committed to studies on Latino issues, according to UTA's website.

Similarly, the Center for African American Studies brings in speakers, hosts an annual conference and co-sponsors community events in an attempt to expose the broader community, as well as UTA students, to knowledge about

the African-American experience, said Jason Shelton, CAAS director and sociology associate professor.

"When you talk about the African-American experience, you are talking about, essentially, American studies," he said. "You're talking about our history as a nation and sort of the good, bad and ugly."

Shelton said UTA is one of about 100 universities in the country to provide a minor in Afri-

can-American studies, and being able to offer students this comprehensive list of classes and rigorous assessment is a privilege.

A good portion of the students in the minor are African-American, however, any race or ethnicity can choose to take classes in the center, he said. Students should approach these classes and interactions with an open mind because a broader perspective leads to a better understanding of the culture.

"When we can empower our students to know those kinds of things, then you're really creating a full and well-rounded student," Shelton said.

Another way UTA empowers students is through its Adaptive Recreation Program, offering students with disabilities intramural programs including soccer, track and field, football, basketball and more, according to UTA's website.

Doug Garner, Movin' Mavs head coach, said the mission of the program is to provide all students, traditional or not, the opportunity to participate in sports and recreation activities while also being an educational resource for the community.

"People just assume that because a university offers an athletics program or a recreation program, that they're meeting the needs of all students," he said. "It's just as important for a student with a disability to have those same opportunities."

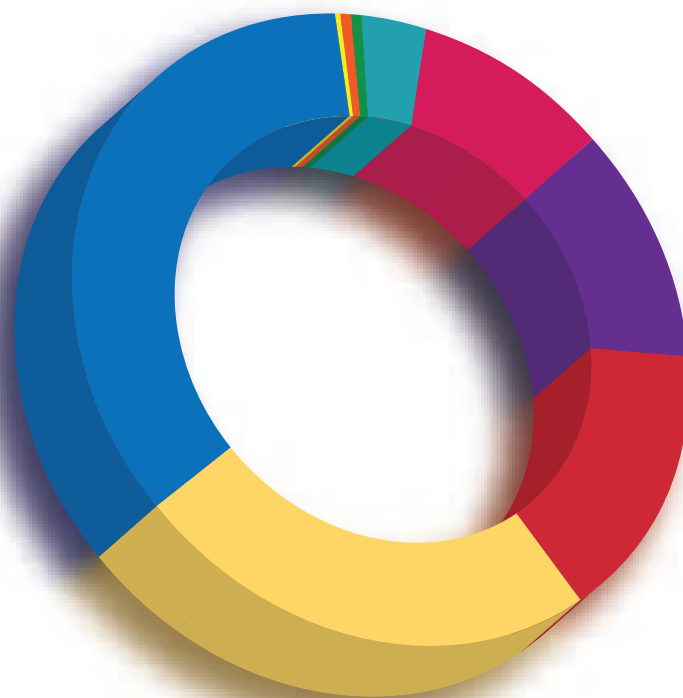
To Garner, diversity means meeting the needs of all students, especially those in special circumstances.

Regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or sexuality, there's something to be learned from each unique community on campus.

Budhwani said the diversity of UTA helped expand her network and taught her how to truly explore her identity.

"I felt like I started again with a blank slate, and I created myself again," she said. "This diversity has helped me become whoever I wanted to be."

*Maxwell Hilliard contributed to this story.* ■

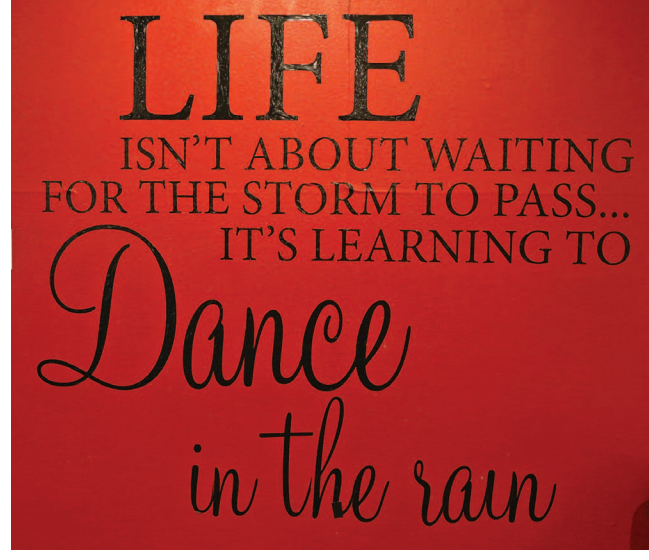


0.1%	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
0.3%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
0.6%	Not specified
3.2%	Multiple ethnicities
9.7%	Asian
11.2%	International
14.7%	Black/African American
23.8%	Hispanic/Latino
36.4%	White

Source: UTA  
Illustration: Roman Brown



**Upper Left:** UTA alumna **Kennya Sanchez** leads the Happy Hour dance class on July 9 at Vive by Design Dance and Fitness Studio. Sanchez started the dance studio in 2013. **Upper Right:** A quote adorns the wall of Vive by Design Dance and Fitness Studio.



# CULTURE IN *Motion*

*Dance is an expression of heritage that needs no translation*

Dalton Heitmeier | @HeitmeierDalton & Awa Sy | @awa\_see

**D**ancing, especially in the Latino community, is one of the many art forms people use to connect and communicate their culture.

"Dancing is a little piece of your heritage and where you grew up," communication senior Pablo Casado-Jurado said.

Dance allows people to culturally express themselves and form a connection to their roots, Casado-Jurado said.

"Music and dance are one of the most powerful mechanisms for building, maintaining and exercising communities," said Christopher Conway, Spanish language associate professor.

For alumna Kennya Sanchez, who also owns and instructs at Vive by Design Dance and Fitness Studio, her Mexican culture is something she holds close. She believes the expression of dance can create a culture of its own

by allowing people to share their stories with one another regardless of where they come from.

"It's not about the people that come that look like us, it's about the people that think and feel like us. That's what it is here," she said.

Sanchez's dance studio has a no judgment policy. She said there are people who come strictly to learn certain dance styles, but her goal is to provide a place to find happiness or fulfillment.

Political science senior Mariarenee Lopez, who is from Colombia, said in an email that she enjoys going out to nightclubs to dance with her friends.

For Lopez, dancing is a means of celebrating life and having a good time. She can be found going out dancing for fun, whether it's in the U.S. with her friends or in Colombia with her cousins. Latin American dances such as salsa, merengue, vallenato and

reggaeton are her favorite to participate in, she said.

Conway said most of these dances originated from European folk dancing, but when music and dances found their way to the New World, they underwent a transformation by mixing with African traditions and rhythms.

This process of cultural mixing in the Caribbean created some of these transnational musical forms, Conway said.

Some Latin American music forms have a specific country of origin, Conway said. Vallenato for example, originated from rustic Colombian people as a way to tell stories. However, when vallenato was popularized internationally, it was influenced by pop or electronic music forms to make it more accessible to dancers, he said.

"Musical expression is always a product of change, fusion, combination," Conway said.

He said as people transcend borders, music is a refuge they can take with them wherever they go.

This holds true for Casado-Jurado, who said it's important for first-generation immigrants like himself to hold on to their culture because in a country as diverse as the U.S., it's easy for one to lose ties to the culture and traditions of the country they came from.

As technology continues to advance, it's becoming easier to connect with music and dances from different cultures regardless of where someone lives. Conway said people who grew up in earlier generations probably only had access to one or two types of music, but now, people have the luxury of being able to sample many different kinds.

"Music we love is a kind of home we can come back to over again to help us deal with everyday life," Conway said. ■

The Shorthorn: Duy Vu



**LaTosha Carter**, UTA business operations director, stretches during a cardio dance class lead by alumna Kennya Sanchez on July 9 at Vive by Design Dance and Fitness Studio.



**CANALES FURNITURE**  
WWW.CANALESFURNITUREUSA.COM




**WE BEAT ALL COMPETITORS PRICES Guaranteed!**

ONE OF OUR 9 LOCATIONS

MESQUITE RICHARDSON DALLAS HAMPTON IRVING ARLINGTON ARLINGTON OUTLET MANSFIELD FORT WORTH LA GRAN PLAZA

ARLINGTON (817) 303.7735  
2202 E ABRAM ST, ARLINGTON, TX 76011

VISIT US AT: WWW.CANALESFURNITUREUSA.COM

**FALUN DAFA**

"An ancient meditation practice for modern living"



**STUDENTS FOR FALUN GONG**  
真善忍

**J.W. Dunlop Sports Center**  
8 am - 10 am, Sat. & Sun.

✉ fgclub.uta@gmail.com  
☎ 682 410 3200

To learn more, visit [studentsforfg.org](http://studentsforfg.org) or [en.falundafa.org](http://en.falundafa.org)

欢迎  
Fáilte!  
स्वागत हे  
Willkommen!  
Ласкаво просимо!

**SHOWDOWN SALOON**

WELCOME!  
¡Bienvenido!  
ยินดีต้อนรับ  
WELCOME!  
خوش آمدی  
Bienvenue!  
ようこそ  
Karibu!



**Monday** Happy Hour 2-7pm  
**Tuesday** Poker Night  
**Wednesday** UTA Night (Happy Hour prices all day)  
**Thursday** Ladies Night, \$1.75 Wells 7pm-12pm  
**Friday** TGIF  
**Sat & Sun** Free Shuffleboard, Free Darts

2019 South Cooper St (just 1 mile from campus!) (817) 460-4893  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK Mon-Sat 11-2 am Sundays Noon-2am

**UTA STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**

Want a  
**WORK STUDY JOB**  
in an exciting,  
student-centered  
media office?

Get experience  
and develop skills  
critical for today's  
work environment.

10258 Marketing Assistant  
10259 Office Assistant  
10260 Web Developer  
10257 News Clerk  
10256 Advertising Sales Rep

**APPLY ONLINE AT SNAPJOB**



[myinterfase.com/utahr/student](http://myinterfase.com/utahr/student)

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON STUDENT PUBLICATIONS  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



# Not Just Monks

Students share their personal experiences  
with Buddhism

REBEKAH MORR | @bekah\_morr

**S**nehal Pophale was depressed, always doubting herself and too concerned with the opinions of others.

Pophale said she felt trapped and her attitude was attracting more negativity, until one day she discovered a philosophy that helped turn her situation around.

She found the SGI-Buddhist Mavs.

The industrial engineering graduate student from Mumbai, India, said joining the group changed her entire situation. She found peace with the Soka Gakkai Buddhist philosophy and gained the confidence and courage to face her problems.

"Instead of doubting, I just focused on improving myself, and I think that changed a lot," she said.

Ankita Mehra, SGI-Buddhist Mavs president and New Delhi, India, native, said the group's philosophy centers around the idea of happiness, like many other sects of Buddhism. But the Japanese founders of the philosophy wanted to practice without idols or rituals.

SGI-Buddhists pray by chanting "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo," which is Japanese for "Glory to the Lotus Sutra," in front of a scroll called the Gohonzon. It allows them to connect with the universe and attract positive energy from it, Mehra said.

"It's just like reminding yourself," Pophale said. "What do you want to be? How do you want to be? And it just guided you in the right direction."

Chanting allows one to focus the mind and convert any negative karma to good karma, Mehra said. Karma in Buddhism and Hinduism is the sum of a person's actions, good or bad, in this life and previous states of existence.

SGI-Buddhists pray in the morning for the day ahead to be positive and in the evening, to reflect on challenges faced and give gratitude for what they learned from those challenges.

This practice of mindfulness can be seen in many sects of Buddhism. Kenneth Williford, philosophy and humanities associate professor and department chairman, said in an email that mindfulness is intended to help one become calm, observant and open to the experiences happening around them.

"This is important in the Buddhist tradition because it is supposed to help reduce one's tendency toward anxiety and the negative emo-



The Shorthorn: Du Vu





**Ankita Mehra, business analytics graduate student, holds prayer beads and chants during a meeting on June 30 at SGI-USA in Fort Worth.**



**Fort Worth resident Bharti Soni, left, Sneh Pophale, industrial engineering graduate student, middle, and SGI-Buddhist Mavs president Ankita Mehra, right, chant "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo" during a meeting on June 30 at SGI-USA in Fort Worth.**

tions associated with anxiety," he said.

Mehra said this practice makes her more conscious of her actions and more compassionate toward others. She said SGI-Buddhists recognize they are solely responsible for their own lives and chant to cultivate happiness for themselves as well as those around them.

"In this practice, it's more like you don't ask for your happiness from anyone else. You know that the happiness lies within you," she said. "You just have to bring it forth."

Williford said Buddhism dates back to between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C., originating in ancient India and eventually spreading throughout Asia. He said any institution or tradition that exists for such a long time undergoes variations — and Buddhism is no exception.

"Like Christianity and Islam, Buddhism spread to many places and was adopted by many different peoples with different cultural backgrounds and languages," Williford said. "It was adapted to the different cultural backgrounds of the places it traveled to and was embraced."

When Buddhism migrated to China, Williford said it was, in some ways, fused with elements of Taoism and Confucianism, native to China before Buddhism. One product of this combination was Falun Gong, also known as Falun Dafa.

Falun Gong is an ancient Chinese spiritual tradition involving meditation, moral teachings and a specific style of Tai Chi exercises. It centers around the concepts of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance, according to the Falun Dafa nonprofit website.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Huy Nguyen lived within a very strict, traditional culture in Vietnam. He grew up learning about Confucianism and Buddhism, and both had a great influence on him.

When Nguyen moved to the U.S., he said he left his past behind. He didn't know anyone or even have a car when he moved. After finding Falun Gong exercise videos online, Nguyen decided he liked the traditional practice and began to adopt it himself.

Soon he was able to let go of his "bad habits" like drinking and unhealthy eating, he said.

"Falun Gong has a curing effect. I don't come to Falun Gong to cure myself," Nguyen said. "One day it just occurred to me that all my disease was gradually fading away."

Ann Mai, landscape architecture graduate student, said though she doesn't consider herself strictly Buddhist, she was raised in a Buddhist family and lives by a similar ethical standard.

Mai said she practices meditation to help her reflect and live purposefully. She tries to bring this purpose to other choices she makes, including her vegan diet.

"I just try to live with intention," she said. "I try to choose food that's not only good for me but also good for the planet and also doesn't harm animals."

While Mai's lifestyle is more of a philosophy than a religion, she still believes she is part of something bigger than herself and tries to remain conscious of her actions and be considerate of others.

With the current western assimilation of Buddhism, there have been attempts to create a secular, or nonreligious, version of Buddhism, Williford said. When the religion is removed from Buddhism, what's left is a code of ethics, some practices like meditation and philosophical ideas about reality and the self, he said.

"It is safe to say that everywhere Buddhism has gone, it has been adapted to the local cultural backgrounds," Williford said. ■

### WHAT IS BUDDHISM, ANYWAY?

Buddhism is the practice of and spiritual development toward discovering the true nature of reality. Practices like meditation and Tai Chi help develop awareness, kindness and wisdom, which ultimately culminates in Enlightenment, or seeing reality clearly as it is and living fully in accordance with those values.





The Shorthorn: Shay Cohen

**Broadcast senior Karla Aguilar** arranges her workspace June 29 at her north Arlington apartment. Aguilar has been modeling on and off for about five years.

# PERSPECTIVES ON STYLE

Students from various cultural backgrounds share their interpretations of beauty

JUANITA PADRON | @Juanitapadron

**B**eauty is in the eye of the beholder.

A few UTA students embody and share what it means for various cultures to see beauty in different ways.

Broadcast senior Karla Aguilar said she has been influenced by different cultures through fashion shows, photo-shoots and working as a model throughout the Metroplex.

Although Aguilar was born in Mexico, when she came to the U.S., she lived with an African-American family while in foster care.

"I personally think that every single culture that I've experienced has been able to elevate my beauty outside, inside," she said. "Because I have been able to, like, learn from their own

habits and culture and their own tradition, so I think I just have like a little bit in me from every aspect."

Aguilar recalled a time when she was working with many models from different ethnicities and backgrounds and said they were all able to connect through their shared hardships. She said the most important part of it for her is the way people are able to embrace each other's diversity and just learn from each other.

As a model, she has been able to work on her confidence, playing with different looks depending on the situation, she said. Her love for the camera exposes the best of her identity in each one of her photos.



"It just kind of allows me to step out of my comfort zone," Aguilar said. "It encourages me to be someone that I am not normally on the regular basis."

A colorful life can be more fun, and Aguilar just wants to represent a positive energy, which is why she goes for vibrant and happy colors when it comes to makeup — it's a symbol of the person she looks forward to being.

Psychology senior Jael Makanzu expresses her beauty through her Congolese roots.

"It's not necessarily how we look; it's our culture, it's our food, our fabric, our music," she said. "A lot of beauty comes within the Congolese culture."

Makanzu described her Congolese culture as happy.

"We're known mainly for dancing with our waist. So, when you know how to dance, people are more attracted to you," Makanzu said.

In her culture, hairstyles are popular in different ways, she said, with her box braids taking up to six hours to style.

"Like the summertime, I love to have braids because it's easy; it's hot outside, just put it in a pony tail, you can leave the house," Makanzu said. "In the wintertime, I like to have big hair, like curly hair. I wear wigs, so I love my wigs and stuff like that."

Makanzu said the Congolese people are more than just party people and dancers — they're serious, they're successful, and they care about education.

"When other African countries think of Congo, they don't think, like, we're serious people because we're so into parties, and dancing, and music and all that stuff, we're just very happy," she said. "But people don't understand that, you know, we get serious."

Makanzu said she encourages other people to learn about her culture because it's one of a kind.

"If you guys ever get the chance, like, to ever experience African culture, like whichever country it is," she said. "Take it, embrace it because you'll learn a lot, and you might like it."

Broadcast senior Griselda De La Rosa emigrated from Mexico to the U.S. five years ago and said she is proud to keep her classy traditions when it comes to beauty.

"Where I come from, especially my family, we really like to take care of our hair, our face and the way that we dress when we go out," De La Rosa said.

She described her culture as colorful, captivating and unique.

"Our traditions and beliefs create our characters as Mexicans and the way we see what learned to be beautiful," De La Rosa said.

Part of her conservative culture is that one must look natural even when they're wearing makeup because being classy and traditional never goes wrong, and that's how her family carries the tradition, she said.

"I keep my hair simple, one color, and my makeup really natural," De La Rosa said. "I still dress up for events even if other people don't do that."

Along with keeping things traditional, taking care of herself through nutrition and exfoliating helps her maintain her beauty, she said. Her skin looks better, her hair grows faster, her nails grow stronger, proving the point that 'You are what you eat,' she said.

Aside from physical beauty, De La Rosa is a student who values intelligence and the capability of anyone who dares to believe in the beauty of their dreams.

"Even though you like to dress up, wear makeup and stuff, what makes you unique and beautiful is your essence," she said. "Your self-esteem is what makes you unique and different from other women." ■

“Your self-esteem is what makes you unique and different from other women.”

Griselda De La Rosa  
Broadcast senior



**Broadcast senior Karla Aguilar** uses a powder brush June 29 at her north Arlington apartment. Aguilar currently boasts almost 19,000 followers on Instagram.



**Broadcast senior Karla Aguilar** applies makeup June 29 at her north Arlington apartment. Aguilar said she is learning video editing and would be interested in starting her own YouTube channel in the future.



The Shorthorn: File photo

# OUT IN AN OPEN SPACE

*Being part of the LGBT community can make it difficult to fit in sometimes, but at UTA there's a place for everyone*

MAXWELL HILLIARD | @MaxwellHilliard

Since the age of 5, Mason Chavez felt that he was different in terms of his sexuality. The former Coordinated Admissions Program student lived the first 18 years of his life reflexively recoiling from some of the expectations of his religious community and family, even spending some nights engrossed in prayer over the conflict between his sexual preference and culture.

Chavez said when he arrived as a freshman at UTA, however, he felt the freedom to embrace his own identity for the first time.

"I know a lot of people think that homosexuals, especially gay men, are very flamboyant [or] feminine, and I wasn't that," Chavez said. "I just always kind of knew, much like my parents said they always kind of knew something was a little bit different."



Prior to attending UTA, Chavez said his main source of fear and confusion in relation to coming out as homosexual was the potential for people who already knew him to change their perceptions about him afterward.

He came out to his sister within a month of being accepted into a friend group that didn't hold him to an ideal of heteronormativity, Chavez said.

Heteronormative beliefs are defined as those relating to or based on the attitude that heterosexuality is the only normal and natural expression of sexuality, according to merriam-webster.com.

For those who need a support network when finding their identity, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Ally Program, or LGBTQA Program, provides the leadership, education and inclusion needed by marginalized communities, said Hayden DuBois, psychology and sociology senior and program assistant.

DuBois said beyond providing information and resources for individuals struggling with their identity, the program hosts regular events to help connect like-minded students, such as the Out to Lunch series, which is a roundtable discussion of social issues.

One of the many resources provided by the program is a list of religious organizations that are inclusive to LGBT culture, which has been vetted by employees of the program to ensure an inclusive spiritual environment for those who need it, DuBois said.

"There's people of every religion, every race, every origin, all of these things," DuBois said. "Because everyone, in some form or fashion, is a sexual being."

Chavez said he was raised Catholic and retains much of his spirituality, but there is a disconnect between his sexual preference and the rhetoric of some Christians. He said much of his religious belief is kept largely private in an effort to avoid being generalized.

"There is no perfect Christian, there is no perfect Catholic,"

Chavez said. "But I don't want people to get this idea about me just based on my religion, just like I don't want people to have some preconceived notion of who I am based on my sexuality."

The LGBTQA Program has an in-office list of religious institutions vetted by program assistants to be accepting of all sexualities and gender identities.

Students within the LGBT community striving for representation and acceptance in the professional setting may find solace in Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, or oSTEM, said Sarah Blakeney, biology senior and oSTEM vice president.

An official student organization as of April 2018, oSTEM focuses on providing a network of peers for LGBT students in STEM fields, Blakeney said. UTA boasts the first North Texas chapter of the largest nonprofit of its kind, she said.

During the fall and spring semesters, the organization will host regular meetings and plans to implement a schedule of guest-speakers consisting of STEM professionals who are public with their sexual identity.

"What we want is for students to see that, you know, they can have really successful careers in these fields, even being out," Blakeney said. "I do think LGBTQ people are underrepresented in STEM fields, that probably half of them aren't really out, like, professionally because they're worried about career repercussions."

An annual national conference of oSTEM chapters will also be an opportunity for some members to show their research and network with companies that support diversity, Blakeney said.

DuBois said intersectionality is a large part of being in the LGBT community, but his sexuality is but one facet of himself. He said if one defines people by a group they belong to, they're missing out on the majority of who they are.

"I am queer, but I'm also a student, I head a research lab on campus, I'm an activist," DuBois said. "I am so many things. I just happen to be queer." ■

# MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

**The mission of Multicultural Affairs is to promote an inclusive atmosphere that embraces individuals from diverse backgrounds. Our aim is to cultivate a campus community that respects and values our commonalities and differences. To fulfill our mission, we commit to an**

**Appreciation of Diversity,  
Intersectional Social  
Justice Education,  
and Multicultural Leadership.**



**Connect with us!**

**[uta.edu/multicultural](http://uta.edu/multicultural)**

 UT Arlington  
Multicultural Affairs

 @DiversityatUTA

 UNIVERSITY OF  
TEXAS  
ARLINGTON | MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

A cluster of  
mackerel pike lies  
on a bed of ice  
June 27 inside of  
Ben Thanh Central  
Market.



# Taste of Vietnam

REESE OXNER | @reeseoxner

Local grocery  
stores and  
markets offer a  
taste of home  
to international  
students

Scents of salt and the sea fill Cho Saigon New Market in central Arlington as customers browse the aisles.

In the seafood section, live crabs scuttle in low bins, while catfish slowly swim in tanks at eye level. Butchers prepare cuts of meat to customer specifications.

“Food is vital to any culture, especially the Vietnamese culture,” said Danny Tran, Mr. UTA and UTA Ambassadors co-president. “It is a way to gather and bond through sharing a meal — it brings families close together.”

“Having Vietnamese grocery stores, it allows local patrons to explore ingredients that are special to Vietnamese culture. It allows Vietnamese Americans to stay connected to the cuisine by being able to purchase these products to make home-cooked meals that taste like, you know, mom’s cooking.”

Asian hubs in Arlington and Grand Prairie provide a connection to home, family and tradition, bridging geographical and generational gaps.

The Metroplex has the fourth-largest Vietnamese population in any U.S. metropolitan area, according to the Pew Research Center analysis of the 2013-2015 American Community Survey.

Ben Thanh Central Market in east Arlington houses a variety of Asian businesses and a grocery store. The center is named after the famous Ben

Thanh Market in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Unique and fresh ingredients such as live seafood and exotic fruit are what make Asian grocery stores special, said David Nguyen, marketing and management junior.

Nguyen moved out of his parents’ house to gain independence when he started college, but shopping at Vietnamese markets reminds him of home. He comes most weeks, whether it is by himself, with his parents or with some friends who want to tag along.

At the market, Nguyen can find things he cannot find anywhere else, like one of his favorite snacks — the pink and green dragon fruit.

Business classes leave little time for cooking, so Nguyen typically purchases prepared food and drinks. One of his favorite sections is the one dedicated to ramen, with options ranging in flavor and in country of origin.

“As a broke college student, I just get, like, a ton of ramen,” he said. “There is a lot of ramen, this is like heaven for me.”

Chemistry junior Ryback Lomboy was born in the Philippines but moved to the U.S. when he was 7 years old.

Lomboy and his family first lived in Arkansas after moving and were far away from any Asian market, which his family missed terribly.





The Shorthorn: Duy Vu

Even though the options in and around Arlington are mostly Vietnamese or Chinese, his family is able to find what options they need now that they live here, Lomboy said.

Having spaces for Asian culture creates a greater Asian community, uniting Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and Filipino cultures, he said.

His own tastes span across the different Asian cultures. Lomboy takes friends to eat pho, a traditional Vietnamese rice-noodle soup, uses Korean BBQ bulgogi marinade when he grills meats, drinks boba milk tea with his fellow fraternity brothers and consumes traditional Filipino cuisine.

The hubs are bound together by food and the connections it forms within the community, he said.

Fourteen years later, Lomboy still has many fond memories of growing up in the Philippines.

He specifically remembers his parents buying a favorite treat, a Filipino chocolate candy called *Curly Tops*, as a reward after shopping in Filipino markets. He would savor a piece or two after eating a family dinner.

"It's very nostalgic for me," he said. "I remember my parents, my grandparents, other family members, they'd bring them to me and my sister."

Food provides Lomboy with a connection to his heritage and origins, he said.

**VIETNAM** continues on page 16



The Shorthorn: Shay Cohen

**Butcher Gilberto Villalobos hands** a customer her purchase June 30 at Cho Saigon New Market.





The Shorthorn: Duy Vu

**Top, Grand Prairie residents Jessica Chevrier, left, and Adam Chevrier, right, look through bags of crawfish June 29 at Hong Kong Market inside of Asia Times Square. Center, piles of durian lie in a freezer at Cho Saigon New Market in Arlington. Bottom, David Nguyen, marketing and management junior, holds a pitaya, otherwise known as dragon fruit, June 27 inside of Ben Thanh Central Market in Arlington. Nguyen said dragon fruit has a sweet, mellow flavor.**



**VIETNAM** continues on page 15

“Eating something simple as candy can really evoke memories of, you know, back home,” he said.

Vietnamese food brings generations together, especially her older relatives who immigrated to the U.S., said Lon Tran, Vietnamese Student Association event coordinator.

Sitting down together and enjoying a meal — the same meal her relatives enjoyed in Vietnam — helps them relate and find a common pleasure, she said.

It can be disappointing for older generations when young Vietnamese Americans stray from tradition, but they are pleased to share the same meals they ate as kids, she said.

For some people who’ve never purchased Vietnamese food, it might seem overwhelming, Lon Tran said. But starting small with familiar dishes such as pho can help ease someone into trying the cuisine.

“Do your research on the Vietnamese recipes prior to shopping for ingredients. So, find out what you’d like to try with some familiar ingredients and branch out to other dishes,” Tran said. “Don’t be afraid to try the ‘stinky’ foods and the sauces. That’s the best part and the most flavorful aspect of Vietnamese dishes.”

Nuoc mam, a traditional fish sauce often served with Vietnamese dishes, might smell different to some people but is one of the best sauces, he said.

The sweet durian fruit is another food some students may be hesitant to try because of the smell, he said. However, Mr. UTA thinks it’s delicious.

“Those are some of the few that will probably strike you the wrong way initially, but if you utilize it correctly, it can elevate your dishes,” he said.

Grand Prairie residents Adam Chevrier and Jessica Chevrier are not Vietnamese, but when Adam Chevrier was hired as an attorney at The Viet Law Group, a law firm that works mostly with Vietnamese clients, they began to explore the culture and cuisine at Asia Times Square in Grand Prairie.

The two have made it a point to attend as many cultural events as possible at the venue, including the Lunar New Year, one of the most celebrated Vietnamese holidays which celebrates the arrival of spring on the Vietnamese calendar.

Jessica Chevrier is Korean and buys ingredients she grew up using, while Adam Chevrier jokes he was “introduced by marriage” to Asian culture and cuisine.

The Chevriers first visited the venue as a “date night” and each picked an unfamiliar Vietnamese ingredient to sample, something the couple has repeated several times.

Trying new things and exploring cultures respectfully is important for enriching their lives, Jessica Chevrier said.

“When you’re interacting with any new culture, you need to recognize that their own reality is just as valid as yours. Enter in with an open mind and open heart,” she said. “Be humble and willing to learn.” ■





The Shorthorn: Shay Cohen

**A variety of teas** lines the wall of The Cultured Cup on July 2. All teas — including the most popular white, black, green, oolong and dark — are made from the leaves of a single species of plant.

# A Cup of Culture

The versatility of tea allows it to express the regional flavors and customs of the places where it originates

SHAY COHEN | @shaydougjie

Ask certified tea specialist Kyle Stewart, and he'll say culture is more than abstract; it can be brewed.

"I think every culture wants to kind of put their stamp on tea," Stewart said. "And that happens even from person to person."

From chai in India to Earl Grey in England, tea's universality allows for a great variety of interpretation. In the approximate 5,000 years since its discovery, tea has been adapted to suit every culture that takes it in, incorporating regional flavors and customs to

create an entirely unique ritual and product.

Chemistry senior Jamal Aslam's parents make chai tea every morning and usually indulge in a second cup in the afternoon. As a Pakistani American, Aslam said tea is a major character in his household, though he differs from his parents and brother when it comes to preference.

"I usually drink, like, herbal and naturally flavored fruit teas," Aslam said, noting it was more casual for him than routine. "For me, it's sort of like a healthy alternative to soda."

Aslam said he and his

friends will sometimes make a trip to a nearby boba tea shop, where he might grab a tea to go before playing volleyball.

Stewart said the individual reinterpretation of tea into a personal ritual is something he and his partner, Phil Krampetz, encourage in their tea and coffee shop, The Cultured Cup.

"Tea, I think, is the one beverage that brings people together like no other beverage on Earth does," Stewart said. "More cultures drink tea than any other prepared beverage."

Here at UTA, this sentiment is shared by the Office of International

Education. Every Thursday in the spring and fall semesters, the office holds its Global Grounds events, which aim to bring students closer together over snacks, tea and coffee.

"You're giving students a taste of several cultures, and at the same time, every student feels at home at some point," said Nimisha Budhwani, International Student Organization president.

She said the goal of the event is to allow students to explore other cultures while providing an element of familiarity for international students.

"When we have events

as such, people from different cultures get attracted to go and try it," Budhwani said.

Budhwani said Indian chai tea is one of the event's most popular offerings, and the next year will introduce different British teas into the mix as well.

Until then, Stewart said it's important to take respite in the mindfulness a personal relationship with tea can offer.

"We need those kinds of things right now," he said. "We need to take a break from, kind of, all the frustration that we're all feeling." ■



Harsh Patel, UTA  
Mavericks Cricket Club  
president, hits a ball July  
7 on the cricket pitch  
behind Allan Saxe Field.



The Shorthorn: Emily Hayden



# Cricket on the Rise

Indian students share their love for the popular sport

REESE OXNER | @reeseoxner

**Y**ou can play it anywhere. And UTA students do.

From the paved parking lots and the grassy university cricket pitch, to the streets of India and games throughout the Metroplex — cricket is everywhere.

The passion followed some students since birth, to college, and for many international students here, around the world from their homelands.

“Cricket is completely ingrained in Indian culture,” said Jenil Mahetalia,

Campus Recreation intramural sports game manager.

With more than 100 membership countries in the International Cricket Council, cricket is played across the world and brings countries together every four years for the ICC Cricket World Cup.

“It’s been followed like a religion, I would say, in India,” said Vivek Pandey, industrial engineering graduate student. “People are mad about the game.”

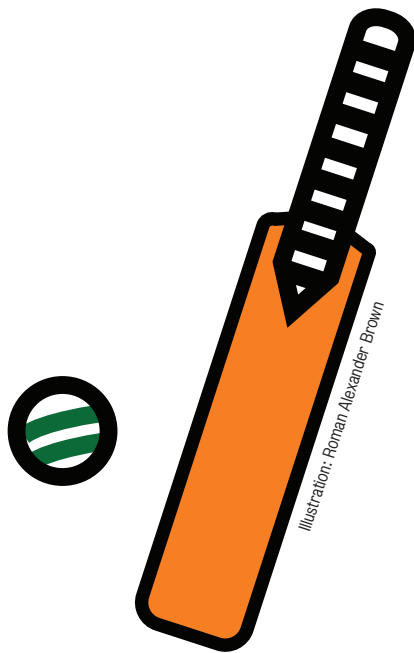
Watching the different formats broad-

cast 10 months out of the year, joining games seen across the country, or idolizing professional players: most people in India have a connection to the sport, he said.

The sport has grown here on campus with the UTA Mavericks Cricket Club, several casual teams, as well as spontaneous casual games in parking lots.

Intramural participation in cricket has doubled since last year, said Travis Lankford, Campus Rec sports program assistant director. A new indoor format





will be added in fall 2018.

One of the best things about cricket, is its accessibility, Pandey said.

"If we have a ball and something to hit it with, we can start playing cricket," he said.

In India, children play in apartment complexes, in alleyways and in the streets, he said. Anytime children in India get together, there is a strong chance of a game breaking out.

"Everyone in India plays cricket," said Harsh Patel, UTA Mavericks Cricket Club president.

Patel doesn't remember when he first learned, but he always remembers playing the game.

It's something fathers and uncles teach sons and nephews, he said. He taught his own nephew how to play.

On a bright summer day on the UTA cricket pitch behind Allan Saxe Field, two batsmen alternate swings at a flying leather ball, which the bowler hurls like a javelin after sprinting down the pitch.

After the ball connects with the bat, the batsman has a split second to form a plan.

Strategy is at the core of cricket, economics junior Harsha Chaudhuri said. It's brains over brawn.

It's all about analysis and adjusting to the way the other players are playing, Pandey said. After hitting the ball, it's up to the batsman to decide to run — and risk getting out — or playing it safe and waiting for another opportunity.

During any cricket match, professional or casual, you might hear players engage in "slogging," a type of banter back-and-forth intended to throw off the opposing team's batsmen.

Sometimes players try to distract and get in the mind of the batsman, Pandey said. But at the end of the day, it's friendly and healthy for the game.

Cricket's rules are similar in many ways to softball or baseball, Chaudhuri said. But, there is really only one way to learn: watch and play.

"Trust me, go watch a game," Chaudhuri said. "You'll fall in love."

"That's how we all fall in love with the game," he said.

The traditional leather ball becomes a tennis ball when students play in parking lots around campus.

Illuminated by the yellow glow of street lights, a group of alumni play in the lot north of the University Center, after most of the cars are gone. This is a common sight, especially on summer nights when the heat breaks.

They are careful when swinging to avoid hitting the ball out of bounds or into a car or building. The soft tennis balls negate the need for protective gear, freeing the players to play the game, Patel said.

Different groups gather in empty parking lots across campus to play.

Pandey said he's always willing to teach someone about cricket, and most players are the same way. They want to share their favorite game.

The game is special because of the friendships and bonds it produces, he said. Whether it's the childhood friends he grew up playing with, or the UTA students he taught how to play, cricket brings people together.

For students who want to learn more, Pandey recommends asking a student for guidance.

"If they have any Indian friends, just tell them 'Dude, I want to play cricket,' and you know, their Indian friend will be like, 'OK dude, thanks a lot, let's go, I'll teach you everything. Don't worry,'" he said. "They'll be thrilled." ■



The Shorthorn: Emily Hayden

**Alumnus Pradeep Raghuwanshi catches** a ball with one hand on the cricket pitch behind Allan Saxe Field on July 7.



The Shorthorn: Emily Hayden

**A cricket ball sits** on the grass July 7 at the cricket pitch. The ball is made of cork and surrounded by leather.



The Shorthorn: Reese Oxner

**Keval Lad, civil engineering graduate student, shouts "3, 2, 1, UTA"** with teammates after breaking a huddle in a game against the Ballbusters. The team won the match scoring 216/2.

# THE SHORTHORN

---

## CULTURE EDITION

The University of Texas at Arlington  
99th Year, © *The Shorthorn* 2018

All rights reserved. All content is the property of *The Shorthorn* and may not be reproduced, published or retransmitted in any form without written permission from UTA Student Publications. *The Shorthorn* is the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Arlington and is published by the UT Arlington Office of Student Publications. Opinions expressed in *The Shorthorn* are not those of the university administration.