

WEATHER



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Students make their way to the MavsMeet AfterParty on Aug. 21 at Brazos Park. The event hosted attractions, activities and food.

Scorched start to the semester

More hot weather to come, perseverance is key to stay cool

BY MANDY HUYNH AND DREW SHAW
The Shorthorn editor-in-chief and managing editor

Walking outside on their first days of class, students squinted in the white sunlight. Within seconds, sweat glistened on their foreheads, as the heat sent them speed walking to the closest air-conditioned building.

The excessive heat warnings plastering phones didn't stop life on campus. The university still hosted events, crowds still attended them, and maintenance workers kept everything running. Triple-digit temperatures persisted the whole week, leading to various heat PSAs and fire threats.

Daniel Huckaby, National Weather Service meteorologist, said the Metroplex had been in the triple-digits since Aug. 17, after a brief "cold front" two weeks ago. The area also hit a record high of 110 on Aug. 25, trumping 2011's previous record of 106.

This summer is worse than normal, as it's currently the fourth driest summer, Huckaby said. The

season's had 46 100-degree days, ranking eighth as of Tuesday.

"It's not just your imagination," he said. "This is unusually hot."

Graduate student Divyasree Bingi said she used the MavMover Shuttle Bus on the first day. The moment she left the air-conditioned bus, she started sweating.

"I checked the temperature, and it was like three digits. Oh my god," Bingi said.

She darted between buildings to escape the boiling sun, she said. The weather was manageable thanks to the shade provided by the trees clustered around campus.

While the universities' trees, grasses and flowers can be easy to rush past, the university's plant life requires strategic, summer-long maintenance especially in record-breaking heat. The responsibility largely falls on the campus's roughly 21 groundskeepers.

Starting at 6:30 a.m. to beat the afternoon heat, the groundskeepers first care for the unshaded, hottest areas of campus, said Jeff

Johnson, maintenance operations and special projects director.

Once the unshaded areas are watered, like the sports fields and the spaces in front of the University Center, the groundskeepers move further into the campus. There, they work under the shade of trees and buildings as the day's temperature rises.

They have several breaks, and the workers are encouraged to stay hydrated and carry ice water, Johnson said. Most days, they finish by 2:30 p.m., before the sun's at its hottest.

"We make sure they have water, that's the number one goal: make sure they have water," Johnson said.

Some days are just too hot. When necessary, the groundskeepers move into the parking garages, where they pick up trash and clean in the shade, he said. The university has sprinklers, but they try not to use them between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. when the city encourages water conservation.

HEAT continues on page 2

STUDENT GOVERNANCE

Student leadership team prepares for a semester of change

Daniela Pedraja, Andre Clay and Angel Hernandez are excited to transform the organization through teamwork.

BY ALEXIA MUÑOZ
The Shorthorn staff

As the semester begins, excitement is building among Student Government's new leadership team.

The team consists of the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, Chief of Staff and Chief Justice. They help run the organization by delegating meetings, putting on events, sponsoring resolutions and more.

Student Body President Daniela Pedraja; Andre Clay, Student Body vice president; Angel Hernandez, speaker of the Senate, are all eager to work together to represent the student body this fall.

They hope to build a dependable Student Government using a positive environment within the organization, increasing the diversity among members and becoming more visible to the student body. As president, Pedraja serves as the face of Student Government.

One of her goals this semester is to facilitate a better environment for the organization, she said.

"I know in previous years

maybe the members haven't interacted all the time, but for an organization to be able to serve the students, they have to be able to interact with each other properly first," Pedraja said.

Student Government operates using a three-branch system which includes the executive, judicial and legislative branches. By improving communication between these branches, Pedraja hopes this will foster more active members.

She has reintroduced crossover reports from

last year, where a member of the leadership team presents to a branch they are not a part of. She said this has already helped with communication and ensuring members know what other branches are doing.

Pedraja also wants to work toward improving the organization's social events to make members feel like they are in a safe space.

"I think that if we create a space that is positive, we'll get more people wanting to join Student Government because they see that they can voice their opinions without being judged on what they say," Pedraja said.

Clay also has an idea of how to multiply the membership.

LEADERSHIP continues on page 4



Daniela Pedraja,
Student Body President

ARLINGTON

Non-profit Taste Project restaurant deadline postponed to 2024

The pay-what-you-can restaurant has faced major delays in construction.

BY LEO ROSAS
The Shorthorn staff

The Arlington City Council unanimously approved a resolution to amend the lease for the Taste Project restaurant set to open on Cooper Street, extending the construction and certificate of occupancy deadline from Dec. 30, 2023, to Aug. 31, 2024.

The non-profit Taste Project partnered with the city of Arlington in August of last year to open a pay-what-you-can restaurant by 2024 to serve those facing food insecurity, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

Taste Project's restaurant menu has no prices and is thought of as a give-and-take concept, according to their website. They ask their guests to either pay what they can afford, pay what they would typically pay for the food, or pay what they would typically pay plus a little extra.

Jeff Williams, executive director of Taste Project, said he wants to bring this restaurant to downtown Arlington because the area meets the demographics they are looking for. He specifically wants to address

food insecurity within the international student population at UTA.

"People from all different, varying life situations kind of converge, sort of, in that area," Williams said.

According to UTA's website, students come from every state and over 100 countries, resulting in one of the most diverse campus populations in the nation. About 15% of the student body consists of international students.

"[City Council] is very supportive of the Taste Project and want [them] to continue to come into the downtown area, and these were things that were necessary to improve our building."

Trey Yelverton
Arlington City Manager

Remodeling of the restaurant's future building is taking longer than initially anticipated. As a result, Taste Project requested to amend the lease because of delays in materials and construction, according to a staff report.

KITCHEN continues on page 4

LIBRARIES

The Central Library's FabLab and its features

Featuring machines like 3D printers, laser cutters and kilns, the FabLab teaches students how to be creative and professional.

BY AMANDA ALDRIDGE
The Shorthorn staff

The Central Library's Fabrication Laboratory, better known as the FabLab, offers a number of equipment and learning opportunities for students.

The makerspace gives students hands-on learning with equipment and materials including 3D printing and scanning, CNC milling, printmaking, kilns and more. Open to all students regardless of major, this creative workspace is here to encourage students to learn and make "almost anything" they set their minds to, according to the UTA Libraries' website.

Students must have their Mav ID to enter the Central Library and FabLab. Those wishing to use the lab also need either Mav Money loaded onto

their ID or print cards from the library in order to pay for the materials used. According to the website, they are currently working on a checkout system for various hand tools.

The lab uses a process called fused deposition modeling when creating 3D printing projects, providing filament for students to use. There are also sewing and embroidery machines that offer an array of thread colors and assorted fabric samples to use.

There's also opportunities for larger scale projects. According to previous *Shorthorn* reporting, students have used the FabLab for personal projects like creating 50 to 60 different hoodie designs to use as merchandise for their fan base.

Following the national shortage of face shields due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, a student lead for the lab utilized



The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Computer science junior Moiz Daruwala, right, and Braidon Clemence, assistant director of multimedia, look over a banner in the FabLab on Aug. 24 in the Central Library. Clemence said he owns a shop where he works on a 66 Mustang and an old Jeep, and with the FabLab he's able to "bring ideas to life."

the space to create masks that were then distributed to campus and local hospitals.

UTA's FabLab is the first Massachusetts Institute of Technology affiliated lab in a Texas university, according to the website. Students who use the space also have a chance to develop their professional,

interpersonal, creative and technological skills, allowing for a competitive advantage in the workplace.

Funded by the general libraries budget, the space officially opened in October 2014.

FABLAB continues on page 5

Heat

continued from page 1

While most plants can stand the heat with constant watering, a few plants haven't survived the summer. Despite the groundskeepers' efforts, a few of the campus's live oaks are struggling to outlive the heat, which beat them down before they could recover from damage by February's freeze.

It's not just the greenery that's suffering. The searing conditions sent students running to buy battery-operated personal fans, and prompted some to post pictures of campus fountains with the caption "heat making me wanna jump in."

Bingi, like many, rushed to buy a black umbrella from Walmart after experiencing the weather during the summer semester. She walked a lot during that time, and she soon realized she couldn't continue without one.

Compared to the heat in India, her home, Bingi said Texas is at a different level and way worse humidity-wise. Many people told her that you can't predict Texas weather. Now, she's experienced it in real life.

"Oh, this is Texas," she said.

In India, Bingi said summer only lasts for May and June. But in Texas, the heat lingers until September. Heat is common in India, but it feels worse in Texas to her. She's not sure how the locals can keep their cool.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, ERCOT, issued an energy conservation appeal Thursday afternoon, asking residents to conserve electricity due to the strain on the state's power grid. UTA issued a MavWire email asking the community to reserve power on campus.

The university's AC runs on an HVAC system, which covers about 70% of the campus, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. HVAC stands for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, encompassing different types of cooling and heating systems homeowners use to change the temperature and humidity indoors.

The rest of the campus relies on the air-conditioning systems that jet out from the roofs or outside of buildings, said Robb Chock, director of energy management and mechanical operations. A team of about 43 people work to maintain the cooling systems, their daily tasks ranging from maintaining UTA's thermal energy plant to repairing any malfunctions.

The new crowds of people made some rooms harder to keep cool, but Chock said the overall

The typical North Texas AC system is designed to accommodate temperatures up to 105 degrees, Chock said. This summer, temperatures have often exceeded that threshold, making system failures more common.

Recent months brought some of the highest humidity ever, Huckaby said, making it hard for buildings and bodies to cool themselves. The start of summer tends to be more humid than August, as moisture lingering from

He was drenched in sweat last Wednesday when he first stepped onto campus this semester. It felt disgusting, he said, so he went home and changed his shirt.

The day also marked his first outdoor UTA event: Waffleopolis.

Despite the change in wardrobe, he was sweating again while waiting for the event to start. What got him outside in the sun: "the waffles," he said. He doesn't have a lot of food, so the waffles were going to be worth it.

misted those looking to cool off.

Student Activities rented the tents and fans for the MavsMeet AfterParty, Maverick FRIENDzy and Waffleopolis, said Student Activities director PK Kelly in an email.

They wanted to give students a reprieve from the heat, and the cost was a little over \$4,000 for the three large events. The fans were also rented out to some smaller events like the Move-in Event, the Parent & Family Hang-



The Shorthorn: Axel Hoge

Attendees keep cool during the Welcome Back BBQ hosted by Apartment & Residence life and Fraternity & Sorority Life. Students brought personal fans with them to beat the heat.

energy demand only slightly increased since school started.

In the summer, even empty buildings need to stay air-conditioned. This was seen in Kalpana Chawla Hall, where temperatures were kept cool to prevent mold growth and corrosion to the chilled-water system.

July brought the worst of the summer, when high temperatures and humidity stretched the systems to their limit.

the spring dries up through July.

Newer buildings tend to be easier to keep cool, Chock said. Buildings like the School of Social Work and the Smart Hospital have newer equipment and retain temperatures better. Older buildings have older systems and patchworked hallways, leading to more heat infiltration and warmer temperatures.

The sweltering heat wasn't doing bilingual education senior Abraham Aguayo any favors.

"I'm gonna eat one waffle, and then I'm gonna go back home," he said.

He was joined by other attendees, who lined up to get waffles topped with melting whipped cream, fruit and sprinkles. The crowd clustered in Brazos Park, dancing and enjoying their treats, which in minutes were floating in ice cream puddles.

At the corner of the event, a tent stood with four fans that

out and the Welcome Back BBQ.

The start of this week saw temperatures dipping with rain hitting Arlington over the weekend. However, by Friday the heat might return to triple-digits — offering little relief from the weather.

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Bring factual errors to *The Shorthorn's* attention via email to editor.shorthorn@uta.edu or call 817-272-3188. A correction or clarification will be printed in this space.

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COMICS

ROULETTE

A revolving comic based on randomly-generated prompts,
by The Shorthorn design desk

"TWO PEOPLE ARE LITERALLY STUCK TOGETHER"

Illustration by Kennedy Coit

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS
1 Wild guess
5 Supply of BB's
9 Employees
14 Leslie Caron film
15 French evening
16 Nadu, India
17 Track shape
18 Gives a bad review to
19 Contest site
20 Daunting task for a lepidopterist?
23 Dinghy mover
24 Opp. of SSW
25 Healthy spot
28 ___ avis
31 Privileged classes
36 Fitzgerald or Fairnes
38 Memorandum
40 Battery part
41 Daunting task for an urbanist?
44 Nonsensical
45 Guessed figs.
46 Trig function
47 Make a claim
49 Tex-Mex staple
51 Neighbor of Syr.
52 Edge
54 Manipulate
56 Daunting task for an artist?
65 Short summary
66 Boxer Oscar ___
67 Quiz choice
68 Eel at a sushi bar
69 Radiate
70 Tobacco kiln
71 Delaware senator
72 Easy gait
73 Favorites

DOWN
1 Traffic caution
2 Digital recorder
3 Winklike
4 Phil Silvers' TV role
5 Hopeful
6 Protective ditch
7 Ho Chi ___ City

8 Director Welles
9 Regional regulation
10 Fictional plantation
11 Prayer's conclusion
12 Hunky-dory
13 Level
21 Combat
22 Article in Arles
25 Brown tint
26 Designs
27 Rap-sheet word
29 Ludwig Mies van der ___
30 Banned big bang
32 Roadside retreats
33 Japanese gateway
34 Idyllic gardens
35 Passover meals
37 Bancroft or Meara
39 James of R&B
42 Maryland player

43 Kiss
48 ___lac-toe
50 Buckeyes' sch.
53 Sample house
55 Bar, legally
56 Trounce
57 "Aurora" fresco painter Guido
58 USMA word

59 Carry on, as a war
60 "Nautilus" skipper
61 Fastener
62 "Dies ___"
63 Depose
64 New Jersey team

su | do | ku
© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions:
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

	8						7	
3				1				5
6			4	2	7			3
8		4				2		9
		3	6		9	1		
1	7					3		6
7			5	8	2			4
2			3					8
	3						2	

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Leadership

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To attain new members and credibility on campus, it's important to become a walking billboard for the organization, he said.

"We're in Maverick Stampede making sure to show our faces and participating in every event, broadcasting Student Government, broadcasting our resources, our Program Assistance Fund," Clay said.

Continuing his efforts from last semester as a College of Liberal Arts senator, he wants to invite people from different ethnicities and backgrounds to join.

People involved in varied student organizations are needed to represent new ideas and offer different perspectives on resolutions, he said.

"I want that diversity there so that everybody is heard and everybody's voice can be recognized," Clay said.

Hernandez aims to fill the seats in the senate this semester.

Similar to Clay, he hopes for diversity as he invites students from various colleges like business, education, engineering, nursing and social work, to join the Student Senate.

Hernandez previously served as a Col-



The Shorhorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

The Student Government's new leadership consists of the Chief Justice Deon Rodrigues; Andre Clay, Student Body vice president; Student Body President Daniela Pedraja; Chief of Staff Alejandro Tamez and Angel Hernandez, Speaker of the Senate. The members will hold their positions for the 2023-2024 academic year.

lege of Liberal Arts senator. This new position made him excited about getting more membership applications and resolution suggestions, he said.

The team constantly works on advertising themselves to the student body, he said.

"Being able to be more visible to the student body and being able to listen to them

and to see our members advocate for whatever they believe in is what I'm looking to the most," Hernandez said.

Student Government's tabling events help achieve this goal. They show how the organization works with the university administration to implement resolutions.

Hernandez said he believes the senate

can bring a positive impact to the university, and it's a rewarding position to hear the voices that care about UTA.

"We're just an organization dedicated for the people, by the people," he said.

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Kitchen

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Arlington City Manager Trey Yelverton said supply chain issues are partly to blame for the delay. The city council agreed to extend the deadline to give Taste Project more time to obtain quotes for the construction needed on the building. He also mentioned they are addressing some increased asbestos removal.

"This is an old city building," Yelverton said.

Located at 200 N. Cooper St. the restaurant's future



Courtesy of the City of Arlington / Created by Coeval Studio

building belongs to the city but is also leased by UTA.

The building will hold a restaurant and a UTA Community Design/Build

Center, and Yelverton said the utilities for the building must be split from one-user to multi-user. UTA will lease part of the building and split

the cost of utilities with the restaurant, according to a staff report.

"[City Council] is very supportive of the Taste Project and want [them] to continue to come into the downtown area, and these were things that were necessary to improve our building," Yelverton said.

The city agreed to contribute \$350,000 to the cost of the necessary roof and HVAC repairs needed to accommodate the permitted improvements, according to a staff report.

"[The building] is the city's, and so the things we

are doing are contributing to our physical infrastructure," Yelverton said.

Bruce Payne, Economic Development manager for the project, said the delay is not just due to the building's age but also the its design.

It used to be an office building, Payne said. Because of this, it hardly has any infrastructure needed to operate as a restaurant. He mentioned that the restroom space needs to be redone, and the property must meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Most everything inside

minus the flooring, which is still intact, will be removed to install the necessary restaurant equipment, leaving only the exterior structure standing. The building must undergo serious renovation, Payne said.

In spite of the more-than-anticipated construction, Williams believes the restaurant will still open in early 2024 as they originally projected.

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UNIVERSITY



Illustration by Kennedy Coit

New dashboard offers data to encourage sustainability

With a focus on sustainability, the dashboard shows data relating to several categories. The idea is to give students a chance to make a change.

BY MARIE RENEA
The Shorthorn staff

The Office of Sustainability recently launched an online sustainability dashboard to monitor the university’s eco-footprint.

The dashboard serves as a tool to monitor the way the university manages its sustainability. Viewable on their website, it comes with a multitude of features to track categories like energy and water usage, waste, food and greenhouse gas emissions.

The dashboard is made up of key performance indicators, which are individual consolidations of data into the five categories. Energy usage is measured

by energy use intensity, which is the amount of energy used divided by total square feet, according to the website. Water is tracked by use per square foot, food waste is tracked through recovery and composting, and trash is measured through generation, diversion and reduction. Greenhouse gas emissions are broken down by source, square feet and number of campus users.

Chief sustainability officer Meghna Tare has worked with the office for 13 years. She said the dashboard gives students an opportunity to look at the statistics and see how they can make an impact.

“It is your job as a campus community to help us improve and, you know, just kind of bring awareness that UTA is trying to do this and we all have to do our share,” Tare said.

The implementation process for the

dashboard took almost a year to complete, she said. After consolidating data to use on the website, she then had to think about the design.

“You create an outline, but you still have to color within the outline, and that is the process that takes the longest,” Tare said.

The dashboard has multiple opportunities not only for its use, but also for growth. Rather than having a set plan on how to expand it, Tare said they plan to “build upon” it by making sure the data is updated every month and adding new indicators. The water filling stations on campus keep track of how many plastic water bottles have been diverted from landfills. She said if her team gets “really” creative, that could be another statistic for the website.

The sustainability dashboard on its own

isn’t the only new change UTA made to move towards a greener footprint. Over the summer, the office partnered with Cowboy Compost, a Fort Worth based zero-waste company, in an effort to reduce post-consumer waste on campus by taking excess food waste like banana peels and egg shells and composting it. After a successful soft launch, Tare said they’ve decided to double pickup capacities.

Tare said she hopes people get curious about the efforts on campus and that they come to the office and say “I want to help.” The sustainability dashboard is designed to help not just students, but the general population get creative and curious about sustainability and see what they can do to be a part of the narrative.

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The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Events library specialist Cal Latour applies masking tape in the FabLab on Aug. 24 at the Central Library. Latour created vinyl prints for the Makeover Your Space event.

FabLab

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The intent of the facilities is to further student experiential learning, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. This learning style allows users to apply their knowledge through play and hands-on activities.

Lauren Stutler, director of Creative Spaces and Services, oversees staff members and is responsible for ensuring that they are setting students up for success. She said they

are working hard to bring in new ideas to the FabLab like creating a dark room to improve 3D scanning and partnering with the College of Nursing to give students a more interactive education.

Stutler said she wished students knew the FabLab is available for use, and they don’t need prior experience to access the equipment or materials offered. Staff members hold consultations to those who need help on how to use the services.

The equipment in the FabLab is “just another” resource to allow students to learn in real time, rather

than reading from print, she said. Some of the most popular resources students use in the lab are 3D printing and their “brand new” laser cutter, which can cut and engrave wood, glass, acrylic and more.

“I love that any student, staff, faculty, whatever, can walk in here, and if they have an interest in something, they can pick it up, they can learn it, they can talk to someone,” Stutler said. “You have that opportunity to learn something different, and it’s completely self motivated.”

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AI-generated art severs human connection

Artificial intelligence could negate human creativity, further disconnecting a society that's more isolated than ever before. But humans might not take the bait.

DREW SHAW



Shaw is a journalism and political science senior and managing editor for *The Shorthorn*.

Join the discussion by commenting online at theshorthorn.com.

AI is terrifying.

It's SkyNet in *Terminator*, HAL 9000 from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, AUTO from *Wall-E*. For decades we've dramatized the dangers of AI in our TV shows and movies, all while bumbling the technology forward into reality.

"Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should," Jeff Goldblum's character says in *Jurassic Park*, minutes before the synthetic dinosaurs go haywire.

Artificial intelligence isn't threatening to kill us, but it is starting to steal jobs and upend industries. As it sends society scrambling to determine what the technology means for the job market, it also, more subtly, chips away at a deeper part of what connects us as humans: our creativity.

Programs like ChatGPT can write short stories and essays in seconds. AI image generators can digitally create detailed oil paintings, complete with lifelike brushstrokes, off of erratic, few-word prompts. The technology is learning to create songs, design buildings and edit videos while using centuries of human-made work as reference points.

People are already experimenting with AI art, like the publishers of *Abolition of Man* — a comic book illustrated by the Midjourney platform. Last year, an image generated by an AI text-to-image application won an art prize at a state fair competition, according to *Forbes*.

For businesses looking for a new logo or graphic design, an AI generator is faster and cheaper than hiring a person. In Hollywood,

the movie industry is exploring using AI to generate scripts and create background actors, *Variety* reports.

But this could hurt our human creativity, which on top of driving innovation, connects us. Early societies shared stories and sang together. Now, we crowd movie theaters and pack concert venues, rallying behind our favorite musicians and directors.

Creativity builds community, transcending cultures, countries and language barriers.

Behind every building, article, song or image, there's the heart of an architect, journalist, musician or illustrator. AI technology takes this art, which should connect us, and reduces it into content to be consumed.

Historically, most human progress aimed to connect people: the alphabet, printing press, telephone, internet and Facebook. By eliminating creativity, AI threatens to do the opposite at a time when we are more isolated than we've ever been.

For reasons including social media, remote working and COVID-19, we are a community-starved country. In 2020, a Harvard-backed survey found 61% of American young adults felt "serious loneliness". In December of 2022, Pew Research Center reported that 41% of Americans have faced "high levels of psychological distress" since 2020.

We might not realize it, but creative arts are one of our last lifelines to connection. With AI's "creative" abilities continuing to ripple the music, movie and graphic design industries, the situation could only be getting worse.

To combat this, we should ensure AI doesn't stop us from engaging with our creativity. Just as many try to avoid modern fast fashion — convenient and cheap, but often abusive and unsustainable — in favor of more ethical clothing, we should prioritize connecting with other people's creative content over soulless pieces of mechanically-curated content.

AI-generated art could end up being the death of itself if it helps us realize our craving for human connection.



Illustration by Kennedy Coit

Deep inside, we long for community. Maybe, our continued wandering toward lonely individualism will result in a creative resurgence, as we strive to reconnect.

We find this longing for "human-made" things in other areas of our life beyond entertainment, like food.

Modern technology makes food more accessible and imperishable than ever before, but there's a reason I still prefer my mom's five-ingredient casseroles over the frozen "chef's choice" taquitos in my freezer. We spend extra money on "real" food personally made by restaurant chefs instead of always grabbing cheap fast food.

There's something special about a hand-made meal that another person poured effort into versus food manufactured by a factory. It doesn't just taste better, it feels better.

We might not realize it yet, but I believe we feel the same about human-made music, novels and even advertisements. As AI art becomes more common, our appreciation for "real" creativity will become more noticeable.

To some, the potential blow to art industries could seem like a natural evolution. Granted, it probably won't be musicians or painters building rockets to Mars or solving climate change. But beneath new technology, creativity is an invisible foundation that brings us together and inspires progress. It's a foundation worth preserving.

AI isn't evil — it's an exciting advancement that could create new horizons for society in industries like healthcare, education and transportation. But even if it's quicker, more convenient and technically "better" at creating things, it should stay out of industries that thrive off the arts. If for nothing else, for the sake of human connection.

In the end, I think that's what we want more than anything else.

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EDITORIAL

UTA has too many cars, too little space

Parking is still stressful for many. Here's solutions to alleviating the frustration

Another semester of searching for a spot on campus has begun with packed parking lots, cramped garages and traffic all down Cooper Street.

Over the past few semesters, the number of students attending in-person classes has risen almost to their pre-COVID levels, said Greg Hladik, executive director of Parking and Transportation Services.

Over 13,000 parking passes have been sold so far with the number expected to rise to around 25,000 during the semester, Hladik said.

Parking and Transportation Services recently implemented ways for students to access parking easily, he said. They started implementing a parking guidance and traffic control system which gives people information about the number of available parking spaces in a given area.

These systems provide real-time information about parking on campus through the UTA Parking Finder app. As of publication, about 39% of parking spots have occupancy sensors, which feed information into the app. The goal is to have 85% of parking spots with a sensor.

UTA is an ever-growing university, and even with more space, traffic congestion will always be an issue on weekdays at peak times.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes students need

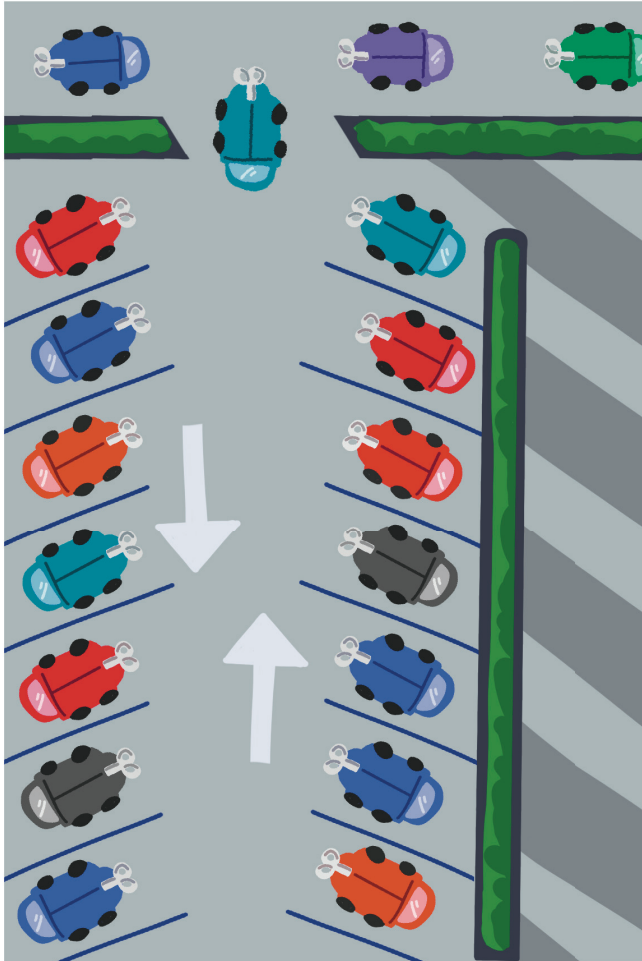


Illustration by Yvonne Collier

more options to access and move around campus. Reducing the number of cars on campus should be a priority. The board came up with three solutions that we think could help students get on campus and make it to class on time.

Carpooling incentives

One way to help students access campus and reduce traffic would be to provide options for carpooling to campus.

Students who live off cam-

pus could have the option of sharing a parking pass with a few friends. Each student in the carpooling group can park their car on campus, but not at the same time as other members.

Other universities, like the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston, have similar carpool systems where groups of students can carpool together and receive dis-

counted parking rates and reserved spots.

While this requires more coordination from students, it would allow them to split the cost of parking on campus. After the recent rise in parking permit prices, students who might be struggling to afford it would have more choices when selecting parking for the semester.

There already is a UTA student rideshare Facebook group, so there is a demand for carpooling among students. An official carpooling system could bring more awareness to this option and connect interested students.

Better bike infrastructure

UTA received the bronze level for being a bike-friendly university by the League of American Bicyclists in 2022. The campus already offers various bike racks and repair stations around campus.

This is a great start, but one issue facing bikers on campus is the exposed bike lanes on many of the streets near campus. UTA Boulevard and Center Street both have bike lanes that are a part of the road and offer no separation between bikers and cars.

These exposed roads offer little to no protection for bikers, increasing the risk of biking to campus. These risks might deter students who would consider using bikes from using these lanes, and instead, they

will end up using their cars and parking on campus.

While UTA and Parking and Transportation Services do not have total control of the surrounding roads, they are able to work with the city to encourage bike usage in the downtown area. Many changes like these will take more time, but are important for developing a diverse transportation system.

Hybrid class options

The university could make more classes a hybrid-online model. This could stagger the crowds of in-person students and faculty, spreading out who

Friday, the other two sets of classes could meet virtually in turn.

The university could structure this system according to classes that students often take in the same semester. For example, if most freshmen take English 1301 concurrently with Math 1301, those two classes could be structured to have the same virtual days.

The system might not be perfect, but it could allow students to compose their schedules in ways that allow them to stay virtual one or two days of the week, and stay in person the other days.

UTA could also build more Saturday classes into schedules. Though the idea might turn many away, a minority of students could be attracted by smaller crowds and more free time during the week.

These systems could help chip away at the number of students needing to park at the same time.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board is made up of opinion editor Chris Huddleston, managing editor Drew Shaw, copy desk chief Deekota Diaz, associate news editor Hannah García, engagement editor Ella Scott, multimedia editor Christine Vo, sports editor Isaac Appelt, photographer Ronaldo Bolaños, copy editor Skylar Fondren and news reporter Rabbia Molai.

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Left: Attendees dance during Vegas Night on the 101 Strip on Aug. 24 in downtown Arlington. They danced to “Wobble” by V.I.C.
The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Below: Visual communication senior Raul Gonzalez kickflips on the first day of school, Aug. 22, in front of the Central Library. Gonzalez has been skating for 11 years.
The Shorthorn: Joel Solis



AROUND TOWN

Summer comes to an end, student life heats up

First week brings new experiences, close-knit community and course loads for Mavericks



The Shorthorn: Mary Abby Goss

Students dance with glowsticks during Waffleopolis on Aug. 23 at Brazos Park. Waffleopolis serves free waffles to students as a part of Maverick Stampede, a celebration to welcoming new and old students to campus.



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Students receives snowcones during the Honors College Welcome Back Party on Aug. 25 at College Hall. The event provided attendees with snacks and swag.



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Attendees Tobias Hinojosa, left, and Faith Hinojosa watch streamers fall during MavsMeet Convocation on Aug. 21 at College Park Center. The event celebrated the start of the academic year at UTA with speeches from President Jennifer Cowley and special guest Olympian Laurie Hernandez.

VOLLEYBALL

Rival turned ally: new volleyball coach promotes competition, communication

Texas State alumna Emily DeWalt takes her place as assistant coach for the volleyball team

BY ORLANDO TORRES
The Shorthorn staff

Now serving in her first season as assistant coach of the volleyball team, the stage is set for Emily DeWalt to spike new challenges and help take the team to the next level. DeWalt joins the coaching staff after playing against the university for the majority of her career.

The Texas State alumna enters with an efficient resume after completing an All-American career as the Sun Belt Conference – where UTA was a member until July 2022 – all-time assist leader.

DeWalt said it was always competitive playing against UTA, and being they were the only two Texas schools in the SBC, it felt like an in-state rivalry. In November 2020, UTA secured its first win over a nationally ranked opponent in the J.T. Wenger era, snapping Texas State's 17-match win streak.

"I think we're able to look back a little bit and joke about those times," DeWalt said. "We always joke about we at Texas State had the upper hand just a tad bit, but they beat us to take our regular season conference championship away from us at our place."

Now as a Maverick, DeWalt said her focus is making sure the team is functioning and hitting on every level.

She was awarded the SBC Volleyball Player of the Year in 2021 and 2022 and Setter of the Year in 2022. DeWalt also helped her team secure five combined SBC regular season and tournament championships and three NCAA Tournament appearances. After she finished her career, DeWalt knew what she wanted to do next.

"I knew coaching was 100 percent the next chapter for me," she said.

After graduating in May, DeWalt said her former coaches helped her secure a

role with the Mavericks after reaching out to current head coach Wenger.

There was a strong applicant pool for the open position, but after seeing DeWalt's name, Wenger called DeWalt's previous coaching staff and from there it moved quickly, he said.

"I went through a similar path in my life," Wenger said. "Sometimes the opportunity presents itself, you kind of have to go for it."

Being new to the program, DeWalt said she encourages communication and has an open-door policy for discussions surrounding issues on and off the court.

"I want [players] to come in here, and I want them to talk to me," DeWalt said. "I don't want them just to talk about vol-

leyball. If something's going on in life that they feel like they need someone to talk to, I want to make sure that they feel comfortable with me."

DeWalt fell in love with the sport at an early age after her parents bought her a volleyball for Christmas. Volleyball was fast-paced but still gave her moments to soak in the little victories throughout the game, she said.

In a sport that primarily features tall setters, 5'10" DeWalt said she knew she wasn't going to beat opponents with her physicality and instead focused on becoming a student of the game.

To improve her game, she studied setters who were similar to her in size who played for Power Five schools, and Micha Hancock, who's been a member of the U.S. National Women's Team since 2016.

In her fifth year at Texas State, DeWalt was forced to take a step back and recover from surgery after tearing her labrum and rotator cuff in her right shoulder. Watching from the sidelines gave her a broader understanding of the game and sharpened her volleyball IQ.

Senior setter Mollie Blank said she was

"I want [players] to come in here, and I want them to talk to me. I don't want them just to talk about volleyball. If something's going on in life that they feel like they need someone to talk to, I want to make sure that they feel comfortable with me."

Emily DeWalt
Assistant coach



The Shorthorn: Bryan Taylor

Assistant coach Emily DeWalt, left, talks to sophomore setter Sophie Skinner during a timeout in a scrimmage match against Dallas Baptist University on Aug. 18 at College Park Center. DeWalt enters her first full-time coaching position after her part-time assistant coach job with the United Volleyball Association.

excited when she found out about DeWalt's hiring and acknowledged DeWalt's impact, saying she's like a "puppet master" after watching the way everyone on the court moves and flows with her. Blank also cited being more consistent with her hands and recalled past times when game planning against DeWalt.

"I would say it was intimidating, but it was always fun," Blank said. "And I'm really glad that she's on our side now."

Between DeWalt's demeanor and playing abilities, her ideas about the game were very sophisticated. She was always

a step ahead cerebrally, and having her impart some of her wisdom into UTA's athletes is a good recipe, Wenger said.

After being influenced by so many coaches, DeWalt said she wants to be able to give back everything she's learned to the next generation of players.

"I would just say, anything you put your mind to, you can achieve," she said.

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INTRAMURAL AND CLUB SPORTS

Registration opens for fall intramural sports

Intramural sports will take place throughout the semester, but deadlines for tournaments are approaching. Students and faculty are invited to participate.

BY ISAAC APPELT
The Shorthorn sports editor

As students adjust to college life and look to make new friends, intramural sports are a great opportunity to meet people and play the games they grew up loving.

Campus Recreation started recruiting last week with a focus on introducing students to sports and programs, said aerospace engineering senior Linden Settles, who works as a referee. With some deadlines approaching fast, the department wants students to know about intramural sports and how they could get involved.

Campus Recreation runs the university's Intramural Sports department and strives to include as many people as possible. From team sports to one-day events like UNO and esports tournaments, there is something for everyone.

For traditional team sports, Campus Recreation offers volleyball, flag football, badminton, outdoor soccer, 4v4 basketball and indoor cricket in the fall. Registration is open for all sports and deadlines are fast approaching, with the volleyball deadline Thursday.



Illustration by Yvonne Collier

In these leagues, teams play once a week with chances to play bonus games if the team wants, said Nathan Ha, Campus Recreation's coordinator for sport programs. Most leagues run a three-week season followed by two weeks of playoffs.

To play team sports, players must purchase a \$10 player pass on the Fusion Play app. This one-time fee allows players to play on as many teams as they want for the semester. Once the pass is purchased, players can use the app to sign up for sports and find teams.

Ha said intramural sports are a chance for the department to get involved with students.

They can play with their friends, residence halls, fraternities or even

complete strangers if they choose.

"In undergrad, it was a way for me to get out of studying all the time," Ha said. "Like yes, obviously school is important. It's essential to why we're here, but if you want to get involved and really meet other people, intramural sports is the way to go."

Intramural sports aren't as intense as varsity collegiate athletics, he said. But it's enough to satisfy people who played sports growing up while also offering a welcoming environment for players who may be trying the sport for the first time.

Josh Hale, assistant director for sports programs, said the department breaks up sports into different leagues: men's, women's, co-rec, fraternity/sorority and residential halls.

There's an effort to separate the more competitive teams from teams with less experience to keep the games fair.

"Ultimately, we want to make our program as fun as possible and have students continue to come out," Hale said.

If students are interested in being involved but don't want to play the sports, they can also sign up to be a referee like Settles.

Settles said refereeing gives him a chance to meet other students and learn how to work with different kinds of people while getting managerial experience. It also let him learn sports he may have never experienced, like cricket.

"It is the biggest that I've seen in my now over a year here," Settles said about the department's recruiting. "This is the biggest outreach that we've had to try and get people to play intramurals."

As the department expands its recruitment, it's also looking to give international students something from home, Hale said. One recent addition is cricket, which was appreciated. Additionally, they plan to offer pickleball, one of the fastest growing sports in the country.

If students aren't interested in playing league sports, the department also has one-day tournaments. The next tournament will be the pickleball tournament Thursday. Campus Recreation will also host two

esports tournament days, a tennis tournament, an UNO tournament, a dodgeball tournament and a Maverick Game Night.

The game night will be Dec. 4 and will act as a "destress before the test" event, Hale said. With finals approaching, students can enjoy a leisurely night of board games in the upstairs lounge of the Maverick Activities Center.

These single-day tournaments are not just popular with students, but also faculty members. Campus Recreation allows anybody to play intramural sports, so faculty members will sometimes join the tournaments, especially soccer, to play against students.

Finally, the department will host online and special events throughout the semester, including a college football pick 'em league and the university's annual Oozeball tournament where teams of six play volleyball in mud pits.

So, whether students are looking to play sports, meet friends or just get away from class, Campus Recreation is building an environment where everyone can find something to enjoy.

"We are always trying to program for the everyday 18 to 22 year old student," Hale said.

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