

THE SHORTHORN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

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Since 1919
Volume 105, No. 3

INSIDE

Meet UTA sports team coaches,
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spot, see page 8

DIVERSITY

Programs excel in Latine Excellence

Two programs were selected as finalists for the Examples in Excelencia award, showcasing dedication to inclusiveness and diversity.

BY HANNAH GARCIA
The Shorthorn associate news editor

Excelencia en la educación, excellence in education, Excelencia in Education; combine these cognates to create a non-profit organization focused on

advancing Latine student success in higher education. Through awards like Examples in Excelencia, the organization delivers national recognitions highlighting the efforts made toward helping the community.

Out of 103 submissions, this year's 19 finalists include two UTA programs: the Spanish Translation and Interpretation program at the baccalaureate level and the Bridge-to-Math doctorate program at the

graduate level. Winners will be announced Sept. 28.

Founded in 2004, the Washington, D.C., based non-profit began with the efforts of President Sarita Brown and CEO Deborah Santiago. The two women saw a need to support Latine students going into higher education in order to meet national workforce and civic engagement needs. This meant not only raising the rates for enrollment but accelerating that pace as well.

Adriana Rodriguez, vice president for institutional programs, said rather than thinking from a deficit-based point of view, they wanted to focus on a more active one by asking "what could be done." In 2005, the award, Examples of Excelencia, was created to bring attention to people, places and programs having positive impacts on Latines in higher education.

EXCELENCIA continues on page 2



The Shorthorn: Ronaldo Bolaños

Alicia Rita Rueda-Acedo, director of the Spanish Translation and Interpretation program, and Jianzhong Su Mathematics Chair and professor were finalists for 2023's Examples of Excelencia. Their programs were nationally chosen for their impact on promoting Latine student success.

UNIVERSITY

Graduate student benefits increased

Following a recent petition, the university is implementing a minimum pay rate of \$12 per hour for all graduate workers. They will also be provided with health insurance and full tuition coverage.

BY LEO ROSAS
The Shorthorn staff

Graduate teaching and research assistants at UTA will now receive more compensation for their labor thanks to efforts from university leadership and stakeholders across campus.

In fall 2021, over 300 professors from various departments signed a petition calling for the university to provide better stipends for graduate teaching assistants as well as health insurance and full tuition coverage for graduate students, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

Now, UTA is expanding its support for GTAs and graduate research assistants with the intention of resolving equity concerns and competitive pressures, Graduate School Dean James Grover said.

"Two years ago, many other universities were paying better than we were in some way, or they had better tuition support, or they had better health insurance," Grover said. "In a competitive environment that makes it harder for us to go and attract students."

The first big change came in January, when full tuition coverage was rolled out for all graduate teaching and research assistants enrolled in a Ph.D. or terminal master's program.

Getting full tuition coverage for all those students required doing away with a "patchwork" system in which different colleges offered varied amounts of tuition support, Grover said.

"It was variable," he said. "So we just said across the campus, any of the students in these degree programs, who are employed by us in these standard graduate student positions, we will give them 100% of their tuition and mandatory fees as a benefit of their being employed here."



The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Magician Kevin Li shuffles a deck during the Welcome Back Magician: Kevin Li event on Sept. 1 in Rosebud Theatre. Li performed various illusions.

Magician mystifies Mavericks

Kevin Li put on a show at Rosebud Theatre on Friday

BY PEDRO MALKOMES
The Shorthorn staff

For a single moment on Friday evening, time froze in the Rosebud Theatre.

The audience held their breath as only two bags remained in front of magician Kevin Li — one wrong move and the nail contained in one of them would impale his hand.

POP! Relief flooded the crowd as the crushed bag and Li's hand, fully intact, stood in front of them. Praise erupted throughout the theater. What they witnessed was nothing short of magic.

EXCEL Campus Activities hosted a free magic show featuring Li, a professional magician who's been an "America's Got Talent" contestant and is the young-

est person to fool Penn & Teller on the TV show "Fool Us".

Anticipation filled the air as attendees packed into the theater, receiving free popcorn and soda on their way inside.

When Li took the stage, he brought energy and excitement. He gave the audience an idea of what they were in for.

MAGICIAN continues on page 6

CULTURE

Campus warms up for Hispanic Heritage Month

The celebration is from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The university will host various events throughout the month observing the holiday.

BY JOSÉ ROMERO
The Shorthorn news editor

The U.S. observes Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, honoring contributions from Hispanics and Latinos throughout the country's history.

The holiday falls around the independence days of some Latin American countries such as El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. It became a month-long celebration on Aug. 17, 1988, under former President Ronald Reagan.

To commemorate the holiday, various UTA organizations and departments are hosting events throughout the month that range from mixers to mariachi performances.

Studying Latinos and the Media: Past, Present and Future

Federico Subervi-Vélez, National Association of Hispanic Journalists Hall of Famer, will host a Speaker Series event for the Center for Mexican American Studies from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Sept. 14 in the University Center's Carlisle Suite.

HERITAGE continues on page 6

WNBA

Dallas Wings clinched spot in WNBA playoffs



Center Teaira McCowan dribbles during a game against the Indiana Fever on Sept. 3 at College Park Center. McCowan scored 12 points.

With a culture of compassion and selflessness, the team has earned its spot after a historic season.

BY ISAAC APPELT

The Shorthorn sports editor

Last Thursday, the Dallas Wings flew to Indiana with a mission. The team is having its most successful season since the franchise moved to Texas in 2016, but there was one thing left to do to cap off their historic campaign.

Heading into the game against the Indiana Fever, the Wings needed a win to clinch a spot in the 2023 WNBA Playoffs, but it wouldn't be easy.

All-Star forward Satou Sabally had missed the last two games with an ankle injury, and the team announced forward Natasha Howard and two assistant coaches had to miss the game after being listed in the league's Health and Safety Protocol — a

measure designed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Despite the adversity, Dallas came through with a 110-100 victory to seal the team's fifth playoff berth in eight seasons since the team moved to Arlington. The Wings, now in the No. 4 spot, will learn who they'll face in the playoffs this weekend, but one thing is certain.

They're in.

WINGS continues on page 8

GRADUATE continues on page 2

Excelencia

continued from page 1

Alicia Rita Rueda-Acedo, associate professor and director of the Spanish Translation and Interpretation program, said there is a large need for language services within the country. The Hispanic population makes up around 11 million of 30 million Texans, yet only 7 million residents speak Spanish.

The program intentionally serves Latine students who've been their family's sole translator since they were children, allowing them to take advantage of the skills they've gained by improving and professionalizing them. She said this type of language skill "empowers" community and minority members. The four-year graduation rate for students in the program has been around 87% for the last three years, according to the university's website.

"This is something that should not be happening. A five year old should not be at a hospital, telling her mom or grandmother that she is going to die of cancer," Rueda-Acedo said.

"That is happening right now as we speak."

She said the national recognition alone was an honor, and being a finalist was rewarding. When she opened her email and read "congratulations," she said she couldn't believe it. Other programs she's up against have hundreds of students, whereas hers is a small group within a small department.

"Excelencia paid attention to our program and recognized the efforts that we're doing toward Latino students," she said. "It's a very rewarding feeling, it's really amazing."

Jianzhong Su, mathematics chair and professor, helps manage the Bridge-to-Math doctorate program. He said there are many minority-serving institutions that have intelligent students but, due to size and capacity, may not have a "full lineup" of courses to help them pursue higher degrees. The year-long program strengthens foundational skills, allowing a smooth transition into graduate studies.

Su said they've worked hard, and he's both glad and honored to have an area of study where minority representation is traditionally low chosen as a finalist. The recognition from

Excelencia spans from language to STEM, allowing these programs to act as potential examples for other colleges.

Over six years, the program has supported 42 students with 94% of them entering graduate programs at research universities, according to a UTA press release.

"I think that makes us stand out in a way where we can significantly improve the engagement and participation of Hispanic students," Su said.

Graduate student José Lozano took Bridge-to-Math in 2019-2020. He said there was a "huge gap" between undergraduate and graduate school. Students must think deeper about topics, something he said he feels many undergraduates struggle with. After completing his time with the program and studying, he passed all three of his Ph.D. qualifying exams.

Lozano said programs serving minority communities are inspiring. Seeing them succeed can help motivate other minorities to do the same, proving that "representation does matter," he said.

This is not the first time UTA has been recognized by Excelencia in Education. In 2022, the university



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Naomi Rodriguez, right, and Evelin Rangel, Spanish Translation and Interpretation senior, practice during a group exercise in the Interpreting in Healthcare course Sept. 1 in Trimble Hall. The course teaches students medical terminology in Spanish and English through studying different types of interpretation.

was awarded the Seal of Excelencia, a certification granted to colleges and universities for their commitment to accelerating Latino student success,

according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

Rodriguez said the university being recognized at both institutional and program levels shows its intentionally serving Latine students and building a student-centered campus,

allowing for a space where they can thrive.

"I think what it says about UTA is that there's been a commitment and investment," Rodriguez said. "Again, not just have it happening in one place, one program, but it's happening across the whole university."

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Graduate

continued from page 1



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Mohammad Rakib, Graduate Student Committee chief executive officer, said graduate assistants, especially international, were in need of health insurance. UTA has expanded support for graduate teaching assistants through full tuition coverage.

Full tuition support is especially beneficial for graduate students who receive smaller stipends than others. Those students now have more breathing room for their expenses, as they no longer need to allocate

their money for tuition, said Nabin Chapagain, vice president of the Graduate Student Committee.

GTAs and GRAs are now waiting to receive health insurance support from the university as well as a minimum rate of pay.

Health insurance is something graduate assistants, especially international students, were really in need of, said Mohammad Rakib, GSC Chief Executive Officer.

The insurance is mandatory for international students, as they cannot attend UTA without it. Sometimes, it's a surprise expense they aren't aware of until they arrive, and graduate students are no exception, Chapagain said.

Common practices for international students to make ends meet include starting a new credit card, taking out

a loan or borrowing money from people they know, Rakib said.

International students who are also GTAs or GRAs shouldn't need to do this anymore, as health insurance coverage will roll out this semester.

With full tuition and health insurance coverage settled, all that was left was to address the low pay over 100 students were receiving as a result of working in a less competitive market, Grover said. Moving forward, the minimum hourly wage for eligible graduate student employees will be \$12, up from the previous minimum, which was the federal minimum wage — currently \$7.25.

One main challenge preventing the university from setting a standard minimum pay rate was the classification of the dozens of

graduate-assistant job titles across different colleges, he said.

"They would have different job titles, and it got very messy," Grover said. "It got to a point where we had a very hard time understanding what was really happening on campus because you could search a set of job titles that you thought would get everybody, but it didn't."

Grover said they redefined the job titles, and they now follow a simpler structure. This has helped make the process cleaner and also lets them see who exactly is eligible for health insurance and tuition coverage, he said.

"I applaud the increase. I think this is needed," GSC President Chris Durham said. "My goal is to set it to \$15 an hour."

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COMICS

ROULETTE

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

"Mystery: Intrigue on a farm"

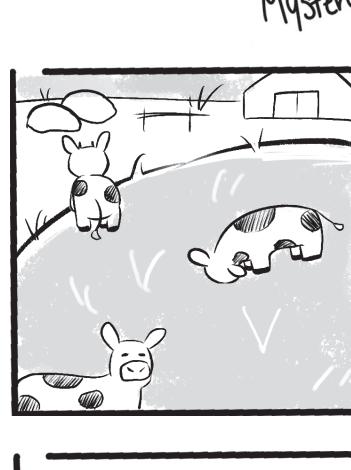
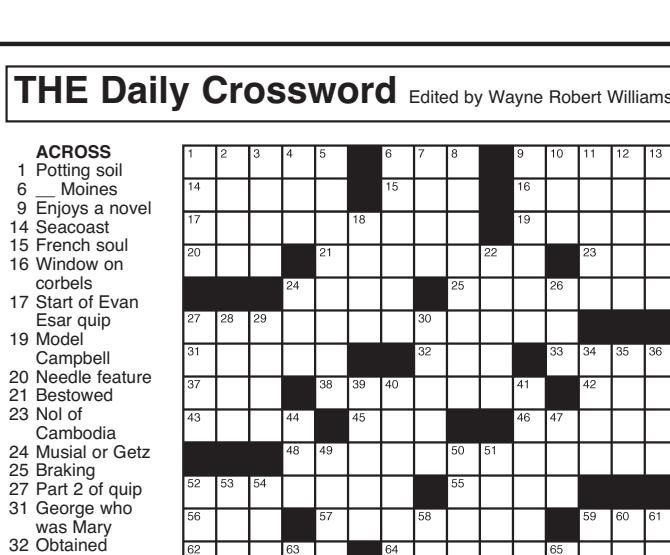


Illustration by Yvonne Collier

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

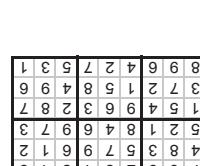


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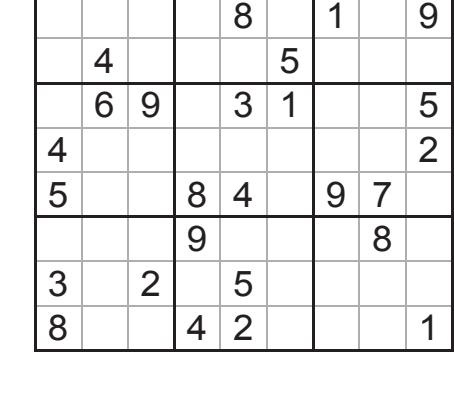
Instructions:

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.



Solution

Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

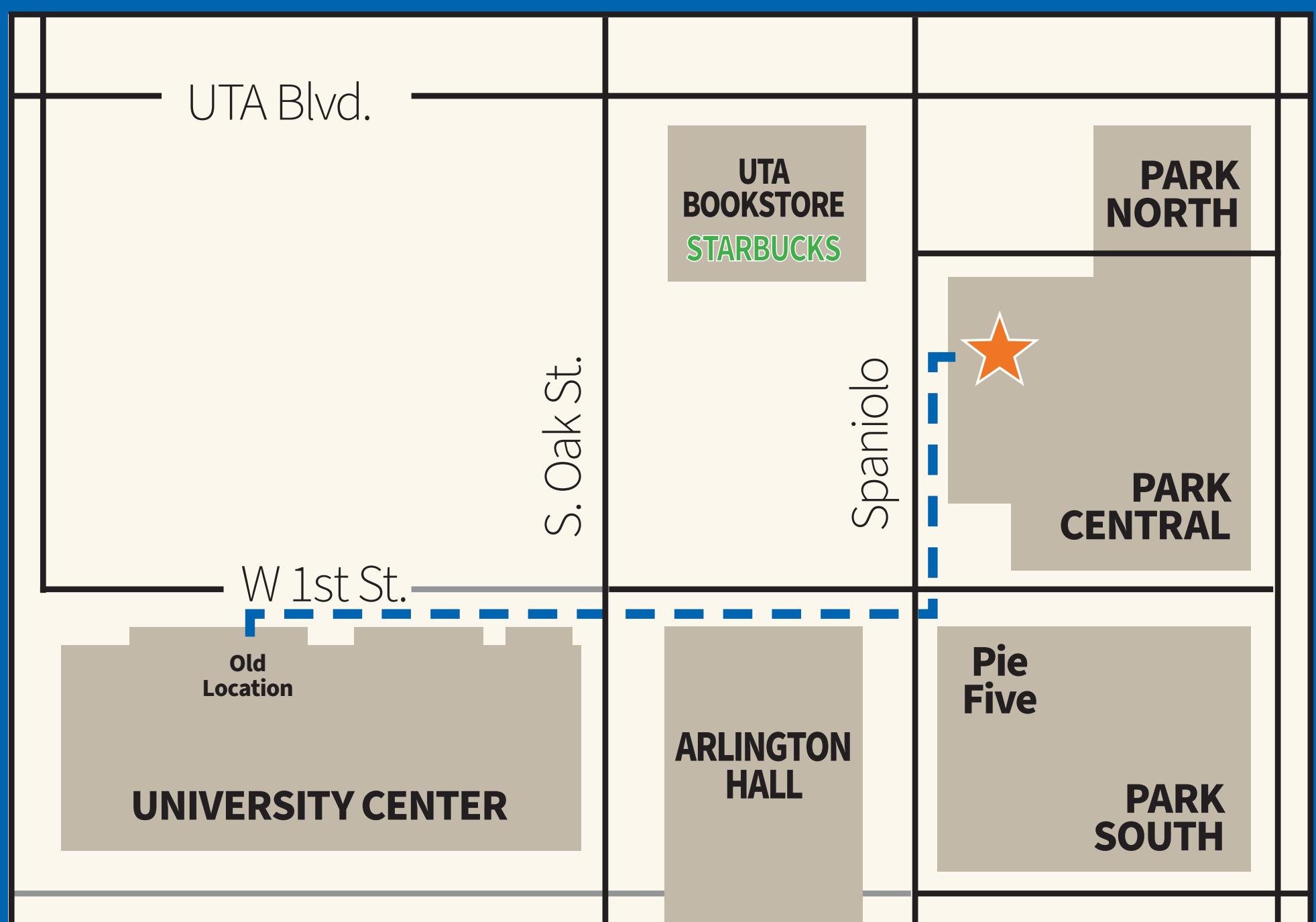


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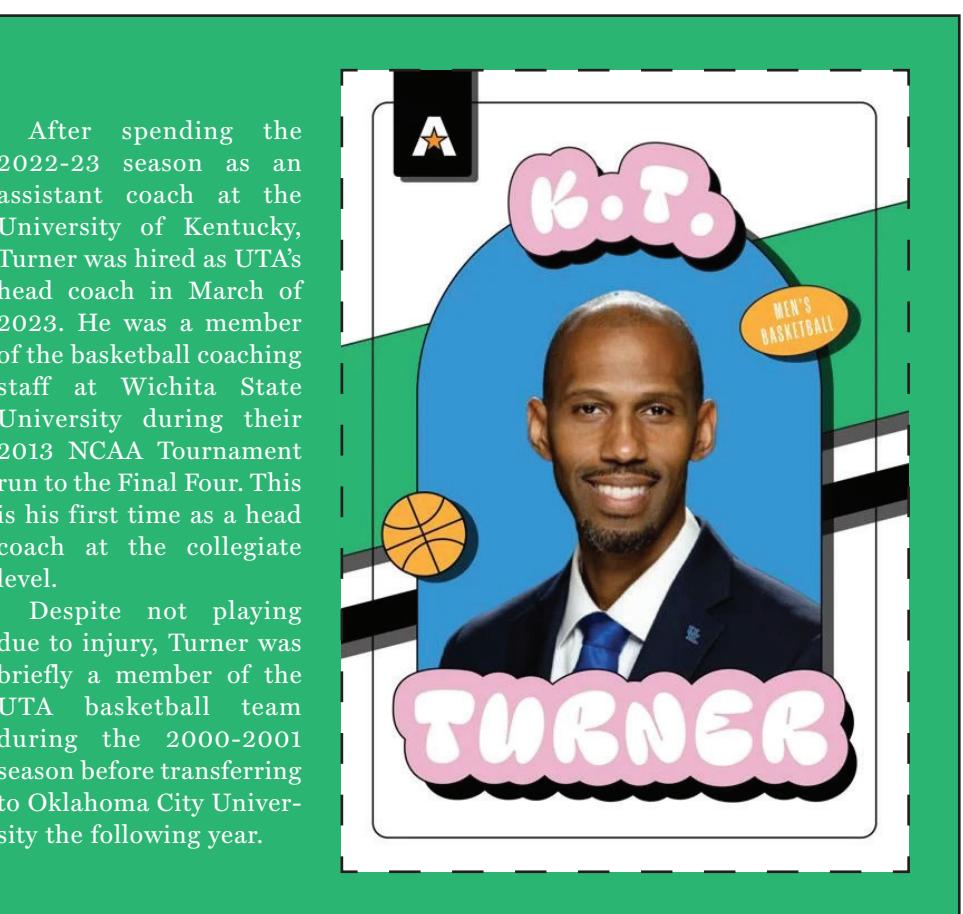
Summer and
Winter Breaks
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Meet the 11 head coaches leading this season's athletics teams

STORY BY JAKOB GORTON AND
ILLUSTRATIONS BY KELSEY WELLS
The Shorthorn staff

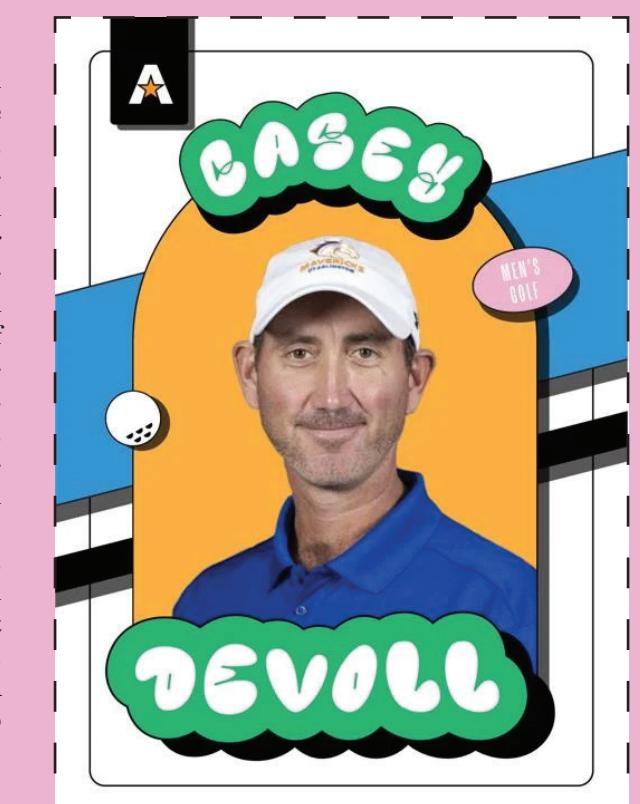
As the fall semester brings new and returning students to campus, UTA sports teams are set to begin their new athletic season. With a variety of experience levels, UTA's head coaches look to lead their respective teams to successful and exciting seasons for both athletes and fans.

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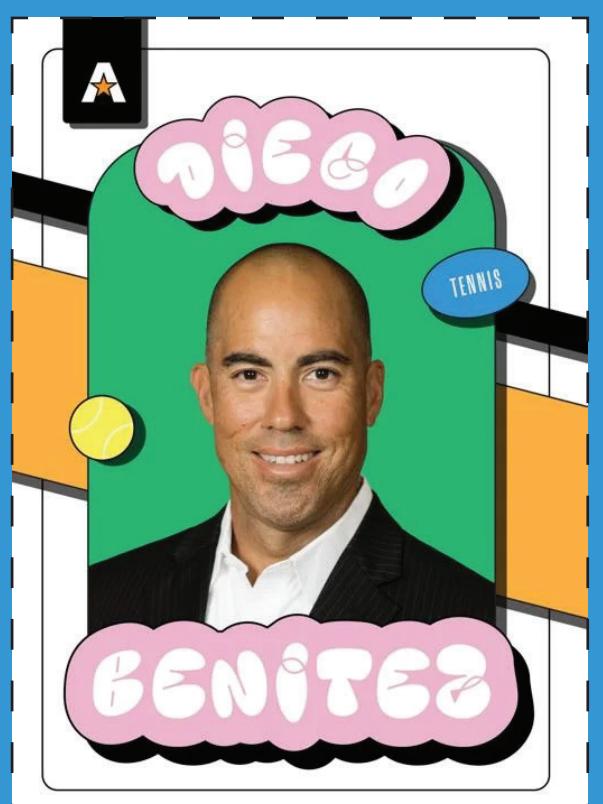
After spending the 2022-23 season as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky, Turner was hired as UTA's head coach in March of 2023. He was a member of the basketball coaching staff at Wichita State University during their 2013 NCAA Tournament run to the Final Four. This is his first time as a head coach at the collegiate level.

Despite not playing due to injury, Turner was briefly a member of the UTA basketball team during the 2000-2001 season before transferring to Oklahoma City University the following year.



Devoll is entering his fifth season as head coach of the men's golf team. Last season, the team won a co-championship at the Tunica National Intercollegiate with a 1-under 863 total, alongside Arkansas State. The team scored 17 eagles over the course of the season, the most in program history, and scored -12 at the WAC Championship, the lowest score at a conference tournament in program history.

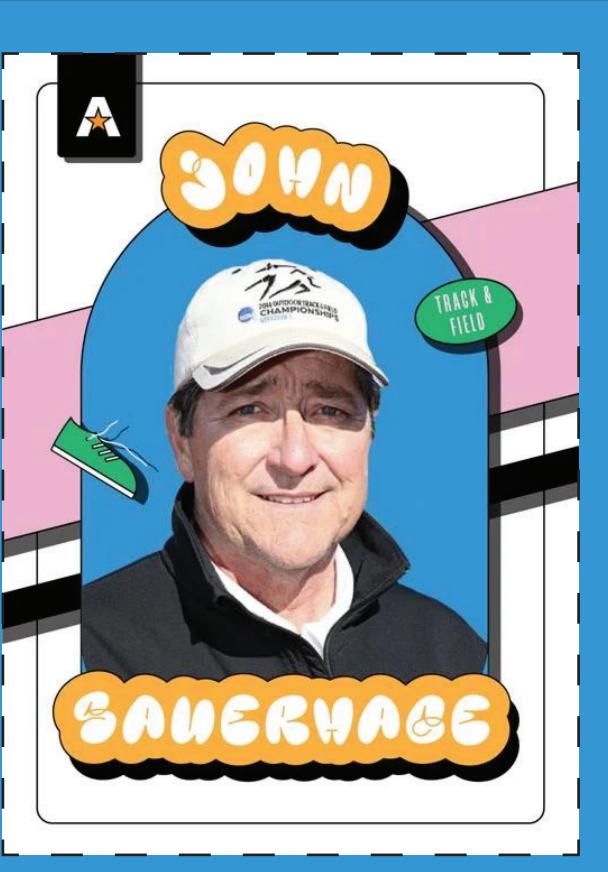
As a professional golfer, Devoll played in six Web.com Tour events, making the cut on three separate occasions. He also played in a PGA Tour event at the 2012 Valero Texas Open.



A member of the UTA tennis coaching staff since 2003, Benitez was promoted to head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams in 2006. As head coach, he has led both teams to two NCAA Tournament appearances.

This past year, Benitez led both teams to regular season WAC championships, with the men's team winning the conference tournament and clinching an NCAA Tournament appearance.

Benitez is the second-longest tenured coach on campus and has elevated the team to levels similar to the early 2000s when both teams won multiple conference championships.



A former UTA track and field athlete himself, Sauerhage was hired as an assistant in 1989 and became head coach in 1996, leading the men's and women's track & field and cross country teams.

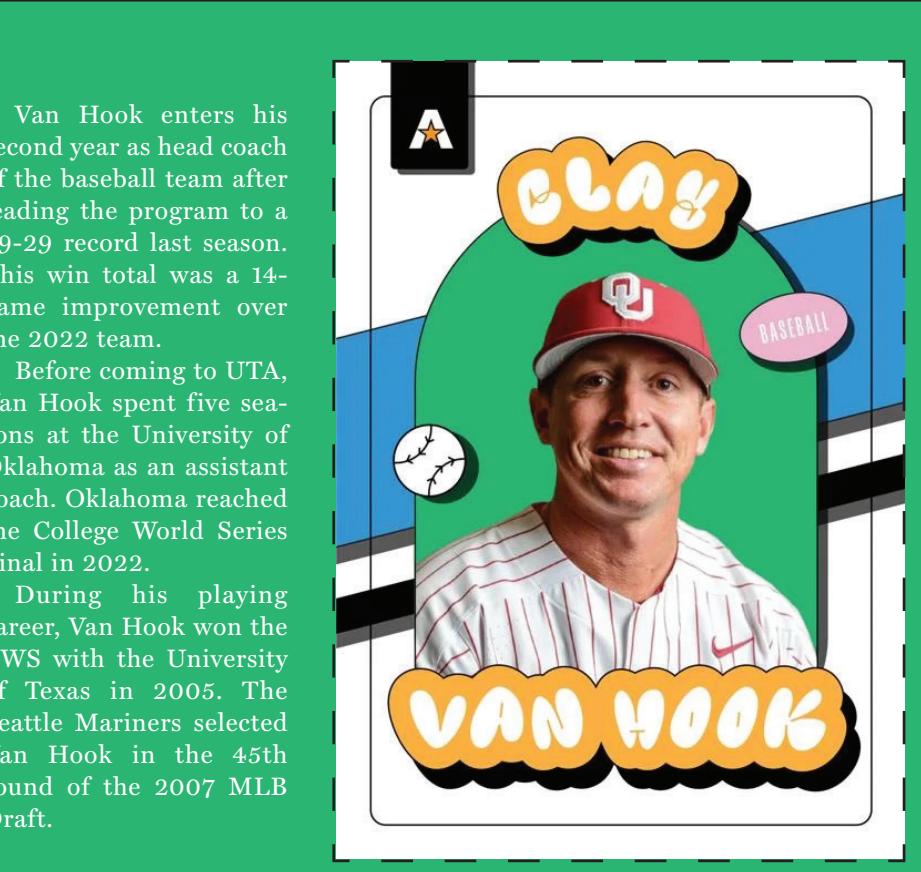
Throughout his career, Sauerhage has coached his teams to 33 conference championships and has been named conference coach of the year 33 times. His squads have collected conference "triple crowns" by sweeping the cross country, indoor and outdoor track championships in the same academic year on four different occasions.



Wright is heading into her fourth season as head coach of the women's basketball team. With a 47-32 record as coach, Wright led the team to a 20-8 record, a Sun Belt Conference Tournament win and NCAA Tournament berth in 2022.

This past year, Wright guided the team to a 14-17 regular season record before falling to Seattle University in the first round of the Western Athletic Conference Tournament.

Wright played collegiate basketball at Purdue University, where she was a three-time All-American and the program's all-time leader in offensive rebounds.



Van Hook enters his second year as head coach of the baseball team after leading the program to a 29-29 record last season. This win total was a 14-game improvement over the 2022 team.

Before coming to UTA, Van Hook spent five seasons at the University of Oklahoma as an assistant coach. Oklahoma reached the College World Series Final in 2022.

During his playing career, Van Hook won the CWS with the University of Texas in 2005. The Seattle Mariners selected Van Hook in the 45th round of the 2007 MLB Draft.

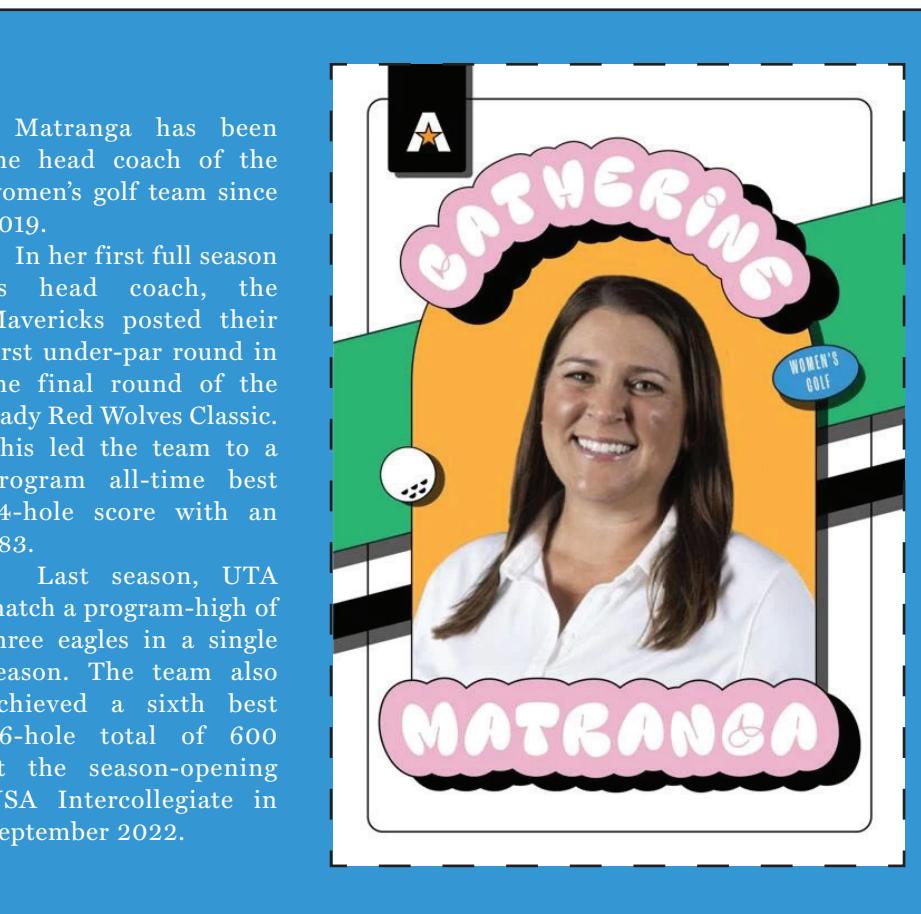


Gouge, entering his second full season as head coach, took over the program after the retirement of former head coach Doug Garner last summer. A former Paralympic gold medalist, Gouge was a member of the Movin' Mavs and helped them win one of their 10 total national championships in 2006.

Last year, the Movin' Mavs had a regular season record of 13-7, but went 1-2 at the National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, coming short of a third straight national championship.

Coaches who conquer

FEATURE



Matranga has been the head coach of the women's golf team since 2019.

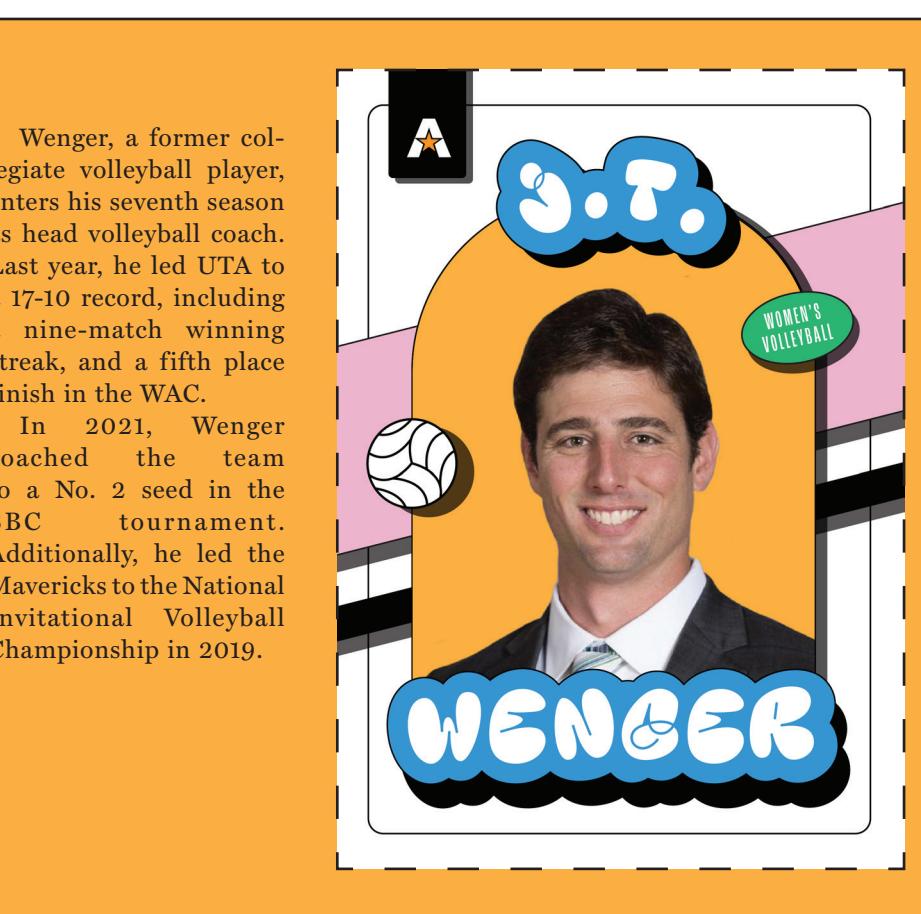
In her first full season as head coach, the Mavericks posted their first under-par round in the final round of the Lady Red Wolves Classic. This led the team to a program all-time best 54-hole score with an 883.

Last season, UTA match a program-high of three eagles in a single season. The team also achieved a sixth best 36-hole total of 600 at the season-opening USA Intercollegiate in September 2022.



Dill enters her second year as head coach after guiding the team to a 22-30 record in her first season, highlighted by a win over No. 16 University of Kentucky. The Mavericks ended the season with a sixth place finish at the WAC Tournament. Before her time at UTA, Dill spent six seasons as a pitching coach with Texas A&M University. In 2022, the team had six wins over nationally ranked opponents.

In college, Dill ranked in the top-10 of multiple batting categories at the University of Kentucky.



Wenger, a former collegiate volleyball player, enters his seventh season as head volleyball coach. Last year, he led UTA to a 17-10 record, including a nine-match winning streak, and a fifth place finish in the WAC.

In 2021, Wenger coached the team to a No. 2 seed in the SBC tournament. Additionally, he led the Mavericks to the National Invitational Volleyball Championship in 2019.



Entering her second full year as head coach, Wood looks to lead the Lady Movin' Mavs back to the finals of the Women's Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball National Tournament. Last year, the team reached the final, but was defeated by the University of Alabama.

Wood, a former Lady Movin' Mav, was a part of the inaugural team and national championship winning teams in 2016 and 2018.

Magician

continued from page 1

"I'm just so excited to mess with all of your minds tonight," Li said.

The routine began with simple tricks and became progressively more complex, leaving the audience fooled. The magician interacted with the crowd throughout the show, and the engagement made the performance enticing in a manner beyond the magic.

One of the first tricks performed involved passing 10 shuffled cards to random people in the audience while Li had his eyes closed. The audience members who received a card were told to stand and only sit down if Li called out their card.

Eventually, Li correctly guessed all but one of the cards, leaving the crowd in awe. They mumbled among themselves trying to understand how the trick was possible.

With only one person remaining, Li asked the woman what card she had, insisting he would have a matching one in his pocket. The woman had an eight of hearts. The crowd sighed, disappointed, as Li pulled out a five of hearts, but it was not over.

"This is gonna sound ridiculous and crazy, but I want you all to imagine this looking more and more like an eight of hearts," he said.

Li lightly blew on the card, and what happened next was beyond any reason or explanation. The card transformed in front of everyone. The crowd cheered as Li held up the now eight of hearts before them.

As the tricks became more complex, they also became dangerous.

The crowd was confused when the magician pulled out two pieces of seemingly normal string. An audience member was brought up and told to slowly bring her hands to a fist over the strings Li was holding.

Li counted down from three and told her to pick a string and pull hard. After she pulled, the audience's confused faces slowly changed into shocked ones.

"I'm so glad you chose that string. I'm so glad you didn't change your mind because I forgot to mention there is another component to this game," Li said. "This string is actually attached to a fishhook, a very real, very sharp fish hook."

The magician continued his act to the end, with smiles, shocked faces and praise following each new performance.

Electrical engineering sophomore Alexis



The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Linguistics freshman Ryan Kirkpatrick participates in a magic trick performed by magician Kevin Li during the Welcome Back Magician: Kevin Li event Sept. 1 in Rosebud Theatre. Li had Kirkpatrick pull one of two strings before revealing a fish hook on the string she didn't pull.

Aguinaga passed by a sign advertising the show as he was leaving campus. Aguinaga had no prior interest in magicians but decided to stay for the show anyway.

"It was interesting — the anticipation, his engagement to the audience, I kind of liked how he was doing it," Aguinaga said. "He got me engaged to actually pay attention to what he was trying to do."

EXCEL decided to host Li at UTA after seeing his performance at the National Association of Campus Activities, EXCEL Programming Director Alexander Alvarez said.

"He was definitely one of the presenters that stood out," Alvarez said.

The EXCEL staff who saw Li's performance at NACA found the experience fascinating and enjoyed experiencing the show, so they wanted to bring that to the university.

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The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Magician Kevin Li turns a knife into a fork during the Welcome Back Magician: Kevin Li event Sept. 1 in Rosebud Theatre. Li has won various awards and has been featured on the TV show "Fool Us."



Illustration by Cristina DelGorno Trio

Heritage

continued from page 1

The talk will focus on Latinos' relationship with the media. Vélez will bring in survey research to assess the Latino media landscape, touching upon visibility and representation issues in English and Spanish media.

Vélez currently serves as co-editor-in-chief of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Communication, which is an online encyclopedia that covers communication research.

The event is a part of the fifth Hispanic Media Conference. The conference is an effort by the Hispanic Media Initiative — a program by UTA's Department of Communication.

On Sept. 16, presentations will be held throughout the day on campus. More scheduling information is on

the Hispanic Media Initiative's website.

The Biggest Baile of the Year

Student organization La Sociedad Hispánica is hosting a cultural celebration at 6 p.m. Sept. 17 in Brazos Park. "Baile" directly translates to "dance," so the event will have a DJ to deliver on that promise.

Agua frescas and food will also be available.

Cafecitos

Nuestra Comunidad will host a virtual meeting from 7 to 7:50 p.m. Sept. 20 on Microsoft Teams, allowing attendees to discuss any topic.

Cafecitos is a part of the program's recurring events. Nuestra Comunidad is aimed toward the university's Hispanic/Latino population and was spearheaded by social work professor Regina Praetorius.

Mariachi Los Jineteros and Art History

A mariachi-centric event will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sept. 20 in the Central Library's parlor.

A performance by the student group Mariachi Los Jineteros will take place along with a panel discussion delving into the history of mariachi garments. UTA Libraries Special Collections will show items relevant to Hispanic heritage as well.

Movie Night: No Más Bebés

There will be a screening of the 2015 Emmy Award-nominated film *No Más Bebés* from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 21 in rooms 104 and 105 of the School of Social Work and Smart Hospital.

The event is hosted by Nuestra Comunidad and the School of Social Work. The documentary follows a group of Mexican immigrant mothers who were sterilized after giving birth

in a California hospital during the '60s and '70s.

Their stories and efforts resulted in a 1975 landmark civil rights lawsuit, *Madrigal v. Quilligan*, which argued against forced sterilization. The judges ruled in favor of the doctors, but the case led to more transparency for non-native English speakers.

After the film, a panel discussion will occur about forced sterilization and maternal well-being.

Health Fiesta

iLotería! Health Services will host a custom health center lotería — bingo — game from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 27 on the Health Center's lawn. Dominoes will be available for attendees to play.

The prizes are T-shirts, mini appliances and wellness items. Attendees can get free agua frescas and snacks.

Study Abroad Student Panel: Hispanic Student Heritage Month

A panel of Hispanic students will discuss their study abroad experiences from noon to 1 p.m. Sept. 27 at the University Center's Naches Room. They'll explore potential opportunities to study in Spanish-speaking countries.

Some countries in that criteria available in the study abroad program include Argentina, México and Costa Rica.

Arlington City Library Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

The George W. Hawkes Downtown Library is hosting its second Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at noon Oct. 7. Performers and community vendors will be at the event, along with crafts for attendees.

The Office for Cultural Engagement and Social Change will have a table and activity at the event.

Women's Volleyball Game vs. Tarleton State

The Office for Cultural Engagement and Social Change will be in attendance for a volleyball match occurring at noon Oct. 14 at College Park Center.

The first 40 students who sign up for the event will have the chance to watch the match in a suite where they'll be provided catered food and giveaways.

Destino Success: From Shadows to Spotlight in the Workplace

A panel about Hispanic perspectives and representation at work will be hosted by the Career Development Center from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the University Center's Carlisle Suite. The discussion will focus on giving insight from Hispanic leaders as they share their success stories.

They will also discuss strategies to help students advance their careers. Free food is provided while supplies last.

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Texas Legislature expands reach with new bills

On Sept. 1, all new bills that were passed went into effect, restricting some Texans' rights

On Sept. 1, 774 laws passed by the Texas Legislature went into effect, with many expanding state government reach.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes that some bills give the state government too much authority over Texans. Many of these bills prevent people from making decisions regarding their child's health care, what books they want to read and what shows they want to see.

People have contested some of these laws by challenging them in court due to supposed constitutional violations. Some of these bills have been approved by the court while others are blocked while waiting for the ruling.

Here's list of some of the bills we believe overstep the government's authority.

Public university tenure policy changes

Senate Bill 18 changes how faculty are granted tenure at public universities. Only the university's governing board may grant tenure, upon recommendation from the institution's chief executive

officer and system chancellor.

This will increase the impact the governor and lawmakers can have on tenure approval and disapproval. The University of Texas Board of Regents, who will decide on faculty tenure, is selected by the governor and approved by the Senate.

The original bill, supported by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, intended to completely remove tenure in universities.

Restriction of trans athletes in college athletics

SB 15, or the "Save Women's Sports Act," requires college athletes to compete in competitions for their "biological sex." A student may not compete in an intercollegiate college athletic competition designated for the opposite sex.

According to Gov. Greg Abbott, this bill aims to promote "fairness" in college athletics. This bill expands on a previous piece of legislation that bans transgender athletes from competing in K-12 sports.

Since 2020, 23 states passed legislation restricting transgender athletes from

competing in school sports. As of April 2023, roughly three dozen transgender athletes have competed at the collegiate level with three transgender athletes ever winning national championships.

Banning gender-affirming care for minors

SB 14 prevents minors from receiving hormone replacement therapy, puberty blockers or gender-confirmation surgery. Any healthcare professional who prescribe these treatments to treat gender dysphoria or other mental health issues will lose their medical license.

Maria Cantú Hexsel, state district court judge, filed a temporary hold on the bill, saying that it interferes with families' private decisions and strips parents of their rights over their child's medical care. However, the Texas Supreme Court lifted the ban on Aug. 31 without any explanation for their decision.

Minors who have access to gender-affirming care show improvements to their mental health and often have similar levels of mental health when

compared to their cisgender peers, according to the American Psychiatric Association.

Regulating library books

House Bill 900 attempts to ban sexually explicit books from school libraries, requiring book sellers to rate books based on the presence of sexual materials. Books with a "sexually explicit" rating are banned from school libraries, and books with a "sexually relevant" rating require parental authorization before a student can check them out.

State bookstores and national bookseller associations sued the state in July, saying the law violates the First and 14th amendments. The plaintiffs claim the law uses vague language and targets protected forms of speech.

Removal of sexually explicit performances from public spaces

SB 12 aims to restrict certain drag shows and other explicit performances from public spaces or in the presence of minors. The law will criminalize businesses or venues that host shows with suggestive dancing or certain

prosthetics that exaggerate sexual characteristics.

LGBTQ+ rights groups sued Texas' attorney general's office, saying this bill violates the First Amendment. The judge temporarily blocked the bill, saying that the implementation of this bill would likely cause irreparable damage to the plaintiffs.

A final decision is expected

THE ISSUE:

Many of the bills passed by the legislature this year have gone into effect.

WE THINK:

Some of these bills extend authority of the state government too much.

TAKE ACTION:

Students should be informed and take action for or against these bills.

to come in the next couple of weeks with Texas likely appealing the results.

Decreasing the authority of cities

HB 2127, also called the "Super Preemption Bill,"

limits cities and counties from enacting certain kinds of laws. This would eliminate various worker protection laws, like mandatory water breaks, created by certain cities.

Another criticism of this bill is that cities would be required to consult the state legislature before passing certain kinds of legislation. Since the legislature only meets every other year, any emergency legislation, like eviction holds after a hurricane, might not be passed in time.

As these bills come into effect, The Shorthorn Editorial Board thinks students should educate themselves on how they will impact their lives. Knowing this will help them understand how to take action with an informed view.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board held a special editorial board meeting with opinion editor Chris Huddleston, copy desk chief Deekota Diaz, sports editor Isaac Appelt and editor-in-chief Mandy Huynh to make this decision.

opinion-editor.shorthorn@uta.edu



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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for INDIAN CORNER FOR SELLING LIQUOR LICENSE/PERMIT [BG] for selling and consuming on premises by DIPAL LLC DBA INDIAN CORNER to be located at 115W 2ND STREET, ARLINGTON, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS 76010. Officers of said corporation is NISHITH DESAI AS MANAGING DIRECTOR.

LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a RETAIL DEALER'S ON-PREMISE LICENSE by PHO GHIEN LLC dba PHO GHIEN, to be located at 100 W PIONEER PKWY STE 158, ARLINGTON, TARRANT, Texas. Officers of said corporation are DENNIS HUYNH, MANAGER, ANH NGUYEN, MANAGER.

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Isaac Appelt, editor
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SPORTS

THE SHORTHORN

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Wednesday, September 6, 2023



The Shorthorn: Mary Abby Goss

Guard Crystal Dangerfield reaches for the ball at tip-off during a game against the Indiana Fever on Sept. 3 at College Park Center. Dangerfield, who scored 11 points, has been a spark plug for the Wings this season.

Wings

continued from page 1

The Wings have built a culture of compassion and selflessness that has made them one of the most feared teams in the WNBA. As of publication, they are the only team in the league to defeat the top-three teams and, with their 19th win last Sunday, the team notched their highest win total since 2008.

"We just gel well together," guard Arike Ogunbowale said after the clinching win Friday. "I think we play well together. We have great chemistry on and off the court, and I think off the court really helps because we really enjoy being around each other. We have a coaching staff that supports us and pours everything into us, so it's just a good group."

Leading the charge behind this historic season is first-year head coach Latricia Trammell. After 30 years experience of coaching the game at the WNBA, collegiate and high school levels, Trammell got the offer last November to lead the Wings from Greg Bibb, team president and CEO.

Since the day she walked into College Park Center for her introductory press conference, Trammell's made a difference for this team. She's not in this for herself, she's in it for the team. Before every post-game press conference — win or lose — she sits down, looks at the box score and tells the media about something good that happened that day.

Whether it's a career-high points night or an observation she saw throughout the game, like a player's hustle or their demeanor on the bench, Trammell has been her team's biggest advocate since the day she took the job.

"They're fun to be around," she said about her team in June. "I always say that I drive to my passion every day. I love the people that I work with, and it's been an absolute joy, and it's my honor to be coaching this team."

With a supportive coach behind them, the team soared to new heights. Ogunbowale, who was named to her third All-Star game this season, continues to be an offensive catalyst for this team like she has been her entire career. Ogunbowale is averaging over 20 points a game for the second time in her career, but she's also improved as a playmaker. Her assist numbers this year are a career-high.



The Shorthorn: Mary Abby Goss

Dallas resident Rudy Nunez, 27, cheers on the Dallas Wings during their game against the Indiana Fever on Sept. 3 at College Park Center. Nunez said he dressed as a chicken for fun and to hype up the crowd.

Sabally has come into her own in her first majority-healthy season in the league. Before this year, her career-high in games played was 17. In last Friday's game — her 34th appearance this season — Sabally had the best game of her professional career when she poured in 40 points and made seven three-pointers.

She's a candidate to win the league's Most Improved Player award and for good reason. The fourth-year forward has set new career-highs in points, rebounds, assists and steals per game. Sabally is also shooting the ball better, notching career-bests in field goal percentage and three-point percentage.

Even with their individual successes, Sabally and Ogunbowale don't let it go to their heads. They're always looking to make the right play and rarely hesitate to pass the ball when someone's open. During Sabally's career night Friday, she had the ball late in the fourth quarter. As she drove right, the defense surrounded her and she immediately found center Kalani Brown under the basket for an easy layup.

"We have a great team. We have great chemistry," Sabally said in June. "We want to be champions, and I feel like we're setting that winning culture up."

Brown joined the team in late May after injuries forced the team to look for outside players to fill the gaps. Dallas signed her to a hardship contract and briefly released her in late June before immediately resigning her to a rest-of-season contract.



Guard Arike Ogunbowale, left, passes the ball mid-air to forward Natasha Howard during a game against the Indiana Fever on Sept. 3 at College Park Center. Ogunbowale and Howard scored 22 and 15 points, respectively.

In her time with the team, Brown has made a difference, appearing in over 75% of the team's games and averaging career-highs in points and rebounds. She primarily comes off the bench for the Wings, but Trammell has said she's talented enough to be a starter in this league.

Brown had seen her WNBA playing time go down significantly after a promising 2019 rookie campaign. She appeared in just 11 games over the 2020 and 2021 seasons and was out of the league entirely in 2022. Her resurgence gives the Wings the depth and talent necessary to make a deep run in the playoffs.

"She's been away, but she stayed ready," Trammell said after the team signed her in May. "She kept her value up. She did what she was supposed to do when she was here the first time, and that's really special because she's a force to be reckoned with."

Brown's an integral part of one of the deepest frontcourts in the league. Brown, Howard, center Teaira McCowan and forward Awak Kuier make up a rotation that's been giving teams headaches all season.

Aug. 4 against the Chicago Sky.

When opposing defenses try to shut down all three, McCowan steps up. Her rebounding and inside finishing have left the league in awe at times, with defenders sometimes throwing their hands in the air as if to say, "What more can I do?"

These are just some of the players making an impact on this team. It'd be remiss to not mention guard Crystal Dangerfield, nicknamed Dangerous, and her contributions on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. Her midrange jumper is one of the most lethal shots in the league.

Guards Veronica Burton and Odyssey Sims have made contributions off the bench and rookie forward Maddy Siegrist has shown flashes in her playing time. When they're not on the court, the bench is supporting their teammates and being vocal during huddles.

"I don't know any team that can't rely on their bench during playoffs," Trammell said after a game in August. "Sometimes they're the main difference makers in games and to see our bench come on as strong as they are is really exciting."

Dallas has struggled with injuries this season as only Ogunbowale and Burton have appeared in every game. But when they're healthy, they are a team that strikes fear in their opponent, and they now look to expand their game in the playoffs and help lead the franchise to something it hasn't seen since 2008: a WNBA championship.

The team has been preparing for the playoffs all season, treating every game like an elimination match. Over the last two weeks, Dallas has eliminated two teams, the Phoenix Mercury and Indiana Fever, from playoff contention by beating them. Trammell said after the Phoenix game she knew it would be tough to defeat a team playing for their lives, but her team pulled through.

When the team clinched Friday, it was cause for celebration. Sabally was doused in water during an on-court celebration, and Trammell got

the same treatment in the locker room after the game. Players and coaches were excited and proud of the work they'd done to clinch a playoff spot, but Ogunbowale kept her focus in the postgame.

"Clinching feels good," Ogunbowale said. "It's not over, but that's definitely a step."