



TEXAS
The University of Texas at Austin

Global Engagement



Photo by Octavio Kano-Galván

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A Global University

As our societies grow increasingly interconnected, The University of Texas at Austin leads the way in global engagement, underscoring our commitment to become the world's highest-impact public research institution.

By forging partnerships worldwide, we are harnessing the power of international education to prepare the next generation of global citizens, fostering an academic and creative community that welcomes diverse perspectives, and advancing innovative research and teaching collaborations that change the world.

From the President

As part of our drive to become the world's highest-impact public research university, The University of Texas at Austin must develop future leaders who understand and embrace the global context. Key strengths make us uniquely suited to this important work: the scope of our faculty expertise and research; increasingly experiential and interdisciplinary learning opportunities; and collaboration with alumni, government, industry, scholars, and community partners. In addition to driving entrepreneurship, new discoveries, and global engagement, our collective efforts are helping UT Austin and our graduates address society's most critical challenges.

Jay Hartzell, Ph.D.
President, The University of Texas at Austin



Leading in Global Initiatives

Welcome to our biennial report, showcasing the remarkable strides we have made in advancing global engagement at The University of Texas at Austin. We continue to strengthen our global presence, develop substantive partnerships, and create learning opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff to engage with the world in meaningful and transformative ways — all while aspiring to become the highest-impact public research university in the world.

In these pages, you'll discover inspiring examples of the exceptional work contributed by every college and school, reflecting our commitment to preparing students for leadership in an interconnected world while expanding the horizons of knowledge across continents.

A key highlight is UT Austin making history as the first U.S. university guest of honor at La Feria Internacional del Libro de las Universitarias y los Universitarios 2023. This conference attracted more than 42,000 participants and 300 university presses from around the world, with more than 140 UT faculty members, students, scholars, artists, and alumni proudly representing the innovative and creative spirit of our great University.

We've also expanded education abroad and internship opportunities to help our students continue to compete and succeed in the global marketplace. This year, Texas Global and the Office of Admissions launched Take

the World by the Horns for first-semester students to kick off their college experience in Copenhagen, Panama City, or Seoul. Additionally, our new Global Career Accelerator program offers students credit-bearing virtual internships with leading global companies from more than 100 countries, giving them invaluable intercultural experience working on projects with peers from around the world.

We have made significant investments to create a welcoming environment for global engagement right here on campus. Texas Global's renovations, completed in February 2024, were designed to host a globally engaged community. The reimagined space offers our students, faculty, staff, and alumni a place for connection and collaboration on the Forty Acres.

Our University is deeply committed to fostering a globally connected community through groundbreaking research across

disciplines, transnational teaching initiatives, and creative activities that bridge cultures to address the complex challenges of our time. We are developing tomorrow's leaders and cultivating lifelong connections with our global alumni.

UT Austin sustains a rich history of internationalization, and this report represents the incredible depth and breadth of the University's global activities. I hope you find yourself both proud and inspired by what we have achieved.

Hook 'em,

Sonia Feigenbaum, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Provost for Global Engagement
Chief International Officer





TEXAS GLOBAL
Renovations Usher New Era of International Collaboration

Texas Global ushered in a new era for international education at UT Austin with a renovated facility that embodies the University's dedication to fostering global engagement across the Forty Acres and beyond.

The spacious Global Lounge provides a modern setting for in-person gatherings, with cutting-edge technology that enables virtual connectivity to worldwide partners. Private advising suites give UT's international and study abroad students a dedicated space to meet with their advisors.

Aligning with the University's strategic plan, Change Starts Here, these innovations underscore campus leaders' commitment to invest in facilities and upgrades that advance the institution's educational and research mission.

The revitalized space establishes a home away from home for international students and scholars on campus while serving as a hub for Longhorns seeking opportunities abroad and a connection point for alumni and visitors around the world.



“

Texas Global's return to a newly renovated home represents a significant milestone, ushering in a new era for global engagement at the University. The transformed space — now with the capacity to host students, faculty, alumni, and international visitors — mirrors our unwavering commitment to facilitating transformative experiences, fostering a welcoming environment, and serving the needs of our global community.”

Sonia Feigenbaum, Senior Vice Provost for Global Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin



UT AUSTIN BY THE NUMBERS

53,082
STUDENTS

3,942
FACULTY
MEMBERS

393
DEGREE
PROGRAMS



HONORS AND ACCOLADES

No. 1

**HISPANIC-SERVING
INSTITUTION**
Niche, 2024



No. 1

**PRODUCER OF PEACE
CORPS VOLUNTEERS
IN TEXAS**
Peace Corps, 2024



No. 2

**STUDY ABROAD
PARTICIPATION**
Open Doors Report, 2023



No. 3

**FULBRIGHT-PRODUCING
PUBLIC INSTITUTION**
Fulbright U.S. Student
Program, 2023–2024

Students from
50 states and
130 countries

8 ALUMNI AND
FACULTY **NOBEL
LAUREATES**

580,000
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

3,764
GLOBAL RESEARCH
AND CREATIVE
ACTIVITIES BY FACULTY

185
COUNTRIES WITH **UT
AUSTIN CONNECTIONS**

4,684
EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENTS

6,626
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1,209
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY
AND SCHOLARS

4,244
EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENTS

6,481
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1,027
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY
AND SCHOLARS

No. 1

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN TEXAS
U.S. World & News Report, 2025

No. 4

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S.
QS World Rankings, 2025

No. 7

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S.
U.S. News & World Report, 2025

No. 35

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
Center for World University Rankings, 2024

Cultivating Global Citizens

At The University of Texas at Austin, global engagement thrives with the dedicated efforts of our faculty, students, alumni, and donors. These global citizens propel the mission of the University by creating transformative learning opportunities, infusing international perspectives into our classrooms, and leveraging their connections and talents to make an impact on communities worldwide.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

LLILAS Director Fosters Transformation

“ The thing I enjoy about directing a center is that you are a mediator of possibilities.

Adela Pineda Franco, Director, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies

Internationalization and interdisciplinary collaboration are philosophies that Adela Pineda Franco brings to her roles as director of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and Lozano Long Endowed Professor in Latin American Literary and Cultural Studies.

Pineda Franco’s career is informed by an affinity for language, culture, and literature. Fueled by a childhood in Puebla, Mexico, that was steeped in a multitude of languages and dialects, her background eventually brought her to UT Austin to seek a master of arts in Latin American studies, then a Ph.D. in comparative literature.

“I was exposed to so many different regional cultures and languages all the time,” Pineda

Franco said. “That’s why I didn’t want to study strictly Mexican or strictly Latin American literature only. I wanted to compare languages and cultures.”

After obtaining her doctorate at UT Austin, Pineda Franco headed to Boston University, where she founded and directed the Center of Latin American Studies and spent 20 years teaching Latin American literature and film.

In 2021, attracted by UT Austin’s rejuvenated commitment to internationalization and global impact — not to mention proximity to Latin America — Pineda Franco officially returned to direct the institute and teach Latin American literary and cultural studies. The opportunity to lead LLILAS felt especially appealing.

“I was attracted to LLILAS not only because [UT] is my alma mater, but also, when I was reading about LLILAS, I saw how transformative it had been for the last 20 years, particularly because of its partnership with the Benson Collection, which is an amazing library,” Pineda Franco said.

She found herself and LLILAS uniquely positioned to foster connections across campus and beyond, with a sense of opportunity that emanated partly from the University’s new 10-year strategic plan, Change Starts Here.

Pineda Franco continues to build

connections, refining and expanding LLILAS’ offerings to build on its strong reputation bolstered by endowments and grants from prestigious foundations like Tinker and Mellon. Her methods spring from a concept of bringing nations with different cultures and societies together under the same umbrella.

“You can approach the region in very different ways, but what I learned as a director is the importance of growing interdisciplinary and interregional knowledge,” said Pineda Franco. “That’s at the core of the mission of any institution that is international.”



Photo by Boris Corredor



Courtesy of Jackson School of Geosciences

JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

Geologist Wins Top Polar Exploration Award

Ian Dalziel, a professor at UT's Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, was honored with the United Kingdom's top award for polar exploration in 2023. Presented by Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, at Windsor Castle, the Polar Medal recognizes exemplary contributions to Antarctic geology.

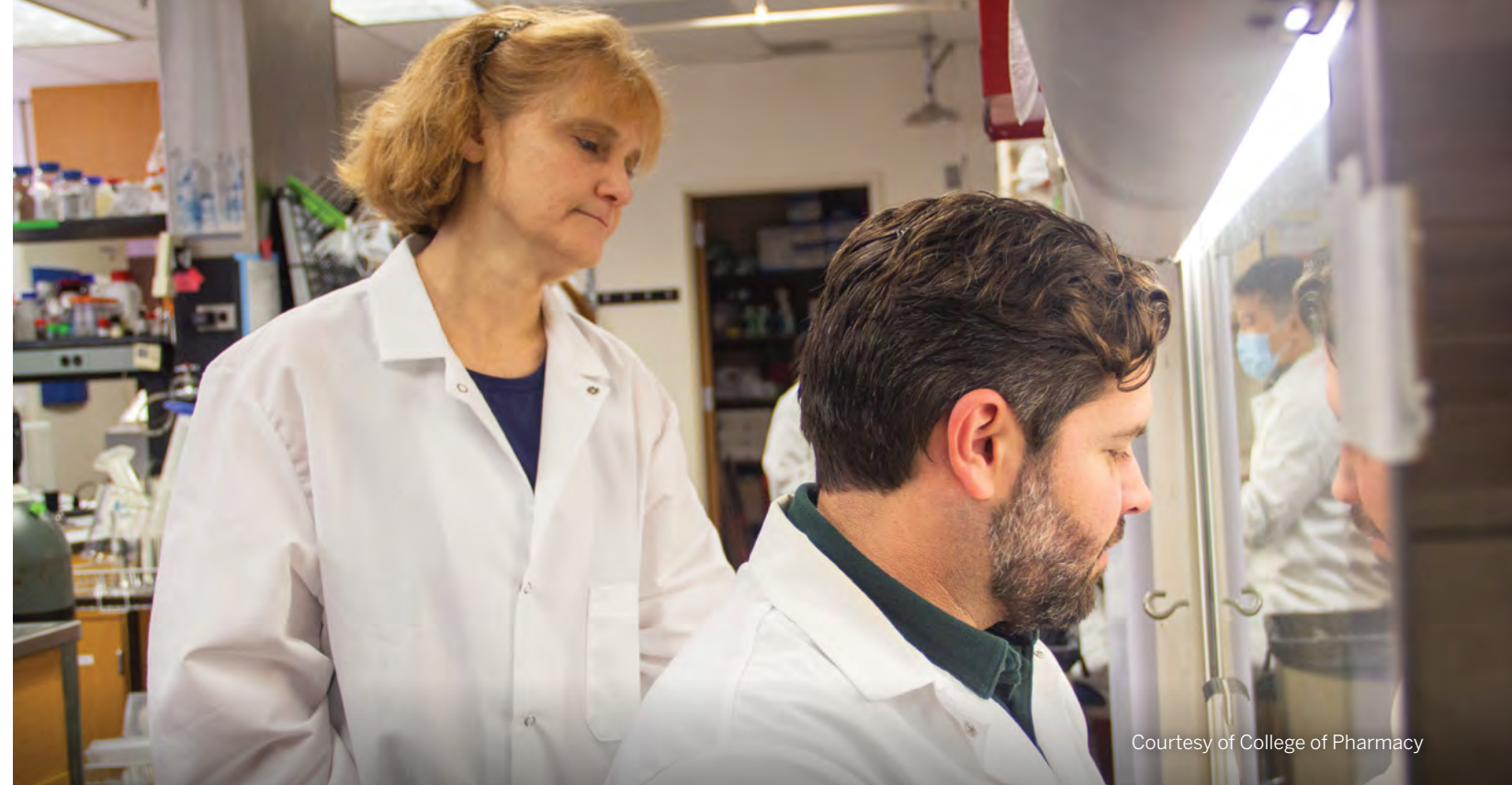
A dual U.S and U.K. citizen, Dalziel has led numerous international research efforts in Antarctica with scientists of the British Antarctic Survey, leading to discoveries that changed the way the continent is studied.

His seminal expedition to explore the "doomsday" Thwaites Glacier set off a subsequent wave of scientific research into Earth's past supercontinents. He also made a groundbreaking investigation of South Georgia, which revealed that the remote sub-Antarctic island is actually a lost fragment of the southern Andes in South America.

Dalziel also established the first GPS receiver network across West Antarctica, which led to the discovery that the continent is rapidly rising as its ice sheet melts. The system is now part of a global network for observing the polar regions.

“ *This medal is about more than just Ian's status as an exceptional scientist. It's about the spirit of exploration that Ian imprinted on the scientific community and the institute where he has worked for over 35 years.*

Demian Saffer, Director, UT Institute for Geophysics



Courtesy of College of Pharmacy

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Pharmacy Prize Advances Global Medicine Distribution

In 2024, Professor Maria A. Croyle in the College of Pharmacy received the prestigious Hill Prize in Engineering, an international award that supports research ideas with significant potential for worldwide impact.

Croyle's winning proposal outlined a simple, resource-sparing system to preserve and transport vaccines without the need for temperature control, which could facilitate rapid distribution of lifesaving medicines to the developing world.

The prize funding of \$500,000 will allow Croyle's team to advance their innovation from lab to clinic to full-scale production, ultimately releasing the technology to the marketplace and making an impact around the globe.



Courtesy of College of Liberal Arts

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Global DisInformation Lab Leads Pursuit of Truth

Kiril Avramov, assistant professor in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, co-founded UT Austin's Global DisInformation Lab (GDIL), uniting research in the liberal arts and STEM disciplines to study global circulation of disinformation and devise policy recommendations to resist and refute the phenomenon.

Avramov is committed to combating disinformation in non-Western political warfare, which has worsened with the development of artificial intelligence. In his role as GDIL co-director, he undertakes research, mentors students, and assists them in publishing work, also leading team efforts to identify and dispel disinformation and its damaging effects on global discourse.

STEVE HICKS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Initiates Master's Program in Chile



Since 2020, the Steve Hicks School of Social Work has collaborated with the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUCCh) to establish and implement the Pontificia Master's Clinical Social Work Program, a degree-granting program in South America for students of social work. The collaboration is becoming a model for the establishment of similar programs throughout South and Latin America.

This strategic arrangement allows the Steve Hicks School to embrace UT Austin's global mission and enhance academic learning experiences for faculty and students. Housed at PUCCh, the program hosts UT faculty members in Chile to teach and consult. Longhorn professors and scholars rotate on a semester-by-semester basis to engage in weeklong stints of co-instruction with Pontificia faculty for an applied clinical course featuring the master's degree curriculum.

Pontificia faculty carry primary responsibility for teaching the selected courses but also receive support from Steve Hicks faculty who specialize in clinical rotations in areas of practice that include parenting, grief and loss, risk behaviors, and diverse youth, among others. The expertise of UT Austin faculty in specific areas of clinical intervention and publication has proven to complement the skills and familiarity of Chilean faculty with local and regional social issues.

Much of the initiative has been executed by Rubén Parra-Cardona, then-associate dean for global engagement at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work. His research focuses on helping international organizations and governments select, design, evaluate, implement, monitor, and scale up parenting intervention programs to prevent maltreatment of children and enhance parent-child relationships.

Parra-Cardona's award-winning work also includes serving as a co-principal investigator to disseminate a culturally adapted parenting program in Chile, as well as serving as expert co-author on a parenting intervention handbook to be published by the World Health Organization.

Scholars from PUCCh travel reciprocally to Austin under the partnership, conducting plenary presentations with UT faculty and students as well as individual consultations. Their perspectives have proven invaluable to expanding the School of Social Work vision and engagement with global practice in the field.

The PUCCh master's program received accreditation for three years (2023-2026) by the Chilean National Commission on Accreditation, which cited collaboration with UT Austin as a salient strength of the program during the process.

“

We will continue to serve the profession of social work with excellence and bring forth evidence-based research to empower parental relationships, strengthen families, and create further human flourishing within family dynamics.

Rubén Parra-Cardona, Associate Dean for Global Engagement, Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Rubén Parra-Cardona (right) with School of Social Work faculty celebrate with Chilean scholars. Photo by Kathryn Heinecke



Dolores Huerta's Public Persona of Differential Bravery through Collaborative Egalitarianism and Courageous Optimism

Stacey Sowards, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Communication Studies
The University of Texas at Austin



MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

Professor Shares Passion for International Education

Stacey Sowards presents at FILUNI 2023

Indonesia has become a second home for award-winning communications professor Stacey Sowards. With education abroad experience spanning 25 years, both as a student and educator, Sowards serves as a campus ambassador for expanding student perspectives with global education.

Sowards was a junior in college when her father accepted a position at a coal mining operation in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, an experience that moved Sowards to apply for a Fulbright grant in graduate school, allowing her to conduct research in the country in 1999.

"That really led to this lifelong path in Indonesia," said Sowards, who has earned multiple Fulbright grants to support her work abroad.

After conducting doctoral research there for her dissertation in 2000-2001, Sowards returned in 2005 for a 10-week summer program to study the Indonesian language in North Sulawesi, thanks to a Fulbright-Hays grant.

As a professor, Sowards shares her passion for learning abroad with students. She started in 2002 by taking students to Indonesia, which then blossomed into trips to Costa Rica, Germany, and Mexico. During her time teaching at The University of Texas at El Paso (2009-2014), she also offered classes to Indonesian graduate students.

At UT Austin, Sowards' longstanding interest in Indonesia continued unabated in 2024 with yet another program she led in partnership

with Gadjah Mada University. Set in Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and major cultural and religious locations on the islands of Java and Bali, the program focused on intercultural communication and environmental matters in this hotspot of biodiversity.

"As a professor, because I really valued the [study abroad] experiences so much as part of my undergraduate and graduate education, I wanted to provide those opportunities for students," Sowards said. "I was always thinking about how students can get involved with field research or the research work that I was doing. It just became part of my career path."

“

Having these experiences when you're a young adult can be so formative for the rest of your life, and I would use myself as an example of that. I really encourage any college students to take advantage of a study abroad program because it leaves such a profound influence and life-changing impact, both personally and professionally.

Stacey Sowards, Professor,
Moody College of Communication



Prambanan Temple Ruins, East Java, Indonesia



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS ATHLETICS

Ukrainian Athlete Overcomes and Inspires

Sabina Zeynalova often reflects on her freshman season playing tennis at UT Austin. It concluded with a national championship and a blistering 23-1 singles record for the native of Kyiv, Ukraine — but that’s not what she remembers.

On February 24, 2022, while she prepared for a match against Stanford, Russia invaded Ukraine.

“There was no reason to worry about a grade in a class or losing a match on a tennis court,” she said. “It’s negligible compared to what I was worrying about: trying to figure out if my parents could safely drive from Kyiv to Poland.”

Zeynalova played and won, but her stunning record won’t reveal the toll it took on her to compete at the highest collegiate level in a new country while family and friends were in peril 6,000 miles away.

“That’s when I learned to appreciate the things in life that are important,” Zeynalova said. “Nothing else matters when your family is in danger.”

The mental and physical effects of this stress would riddle her sophomore season with doubts and injuries. Then, in 2022, Zeynalova opened up about an eating disorder she was experiencing.

She considered it a blessing to be at UT Austin during this time, as she began attending frequent therapy sessions and meeting with dietitians and specialists.

By her junior year in 2023, Zeynalova had struck a balance on and off the court that allowed her to find peace, build confidence, and become the happiest she’d ever been.

“

What’s taking me further is facing life as it is, embracing everything that happens while still being kind to myself. I am self-sufficient now. That’s something that I learned at UT. I’ve also learned that I am enough. It’s a kind of self-confidence I’ve never had before.

Sabina Zeynalova, Class of ‘25, Psychology



Sabina Zeynalova (left) celebrates Big 12 championship with team. Photos courtesy of UT Athletics

INTERNATIONAL ATHLETES

20
22
20
23

52

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ATHLETES

23 COUNTRIES

59

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ATHLETES

27 COUNTRIES

20
23
20
24

“ Global Living is all [about] the unexpected things you’ll learn from your roommate and neighbors, and building those worldwide connections.

Camila Pozo, Residential Assistant, Global Living Learning Community



UNIVERSITY HOUSING AND DINING
TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Living Learning Community Fosters International Friendships

The initial days at a university the size of UT Austin can feel daunting, especially for international students arriving from hundreds or even thousands of miles away from home.

That’s what sparked UT Austin’s Global Living Learning Community, a unique collaboration between Texas Global and University Housing and Dining, which promotes intercultural competency and communication among its residents by forming intimate communities of international and U.S. students living together.

Campbell Stuart, international program coordinator at Texas Global, said Global Living’s small, close-knit cohort of fewer than 50 students is a standout feature, especially compared to other residential options on campus.

“A smaller cohort allows these students to feel a closer sense of community and welcome when they first arrive on campus,” Stuart said.

“International students are able to experience life in the U.S. alongside domestic students who know the ins and outs, and also with fellow international students who may be having a similar experience.”

Not only are residents urged to forge connections within close quarters, but Global Living also encourages students to participate in dinners, discussions, faculty mentorships, and social events offered on campus. And to promote intercultural learning, the dorm employs a pairing system, in which international students are matched with U.S. students as roommates to further facilitate cultural exchange between peers.

These strategies offer Global Living residents many opportunities to form intimate friendships to support them in enriching residential experiences and forming global connections that last beyond the Forty Acres.

COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

First-Gen Student Pursues Education Across Europe

After experiencing study abroad in three different countries, mechanical engineering student Jacqueline Villalobos is building her career on foundations that stretch across the globe.

Villalobos’ parents emigrated from Chihuahua, Mexico, to El Paso, Texas, where she was born and grew up. Villalobos knew she wanted to study abroad, but there was plenty she didn’t know as a first-generation college student.

After submitting scholarship applications and consulting the International Engineering Education (IEE) unit at the Cockrell School of Engineering, Villalobos earned an IEE scholarship to participate in a 2019 research internship in France.

In 2022, she secured a Gilman Scholarship for an exchange semester at Delft University of Technology, a world-renowned engineering school in the Netherlands. After a successful first semester, Villalobos was determined to extend her studies there through the entire year — a commitment that won her a \$10,000 scholarship from Cockrell.

Again, she built on her success, parlaying the year at Delft into a subsequent semester at the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen.

During these experiences, Villalobos realized each new endeavor overseas made available curricula, lab experiences, and research opportunities she might not have accessed in the United States.

“At these top engineering schools with which we have exchange agreements, there are many courses not offered at UT,” said IEE director Helena Wilkins-Versalovic. “Jackie has made full use of her study abroad potential, doing what we hope many of our engineering students will do: use study abroad to enhance their UT degrees.”



“ You always learn something when you study abroad, and those things are always life-changing. You become more open, compassionate, culturally intelligent and, I think, kinder.

Jacqueline Villalobos, Class of '23, Mechanical Engineering





Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul, South Korea

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
TEXAS GLOBAL

Take the World by the Horns Launches Unforgettable Experiences for Freshmen

Take the World by the Horns is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for incoming students to launch their college careers abroad during their first semester. The 2024-2025 pilot program began with locations in Copenhagen, Denmark; Panama City, Panama; and Seoul, South Korea.

Longhorns in their first semester of college earned 12 credit hours with intensive coursework and experiential learning. Each program location engages a theme — health and well-being, energy and the environment, or technology and society — with learning opportunities provided in the classroom and during immersive cultural excursions.

Sharing the unique adventure of learning abroad galvanizes students to build meaningful relationships among their globally minded peers, with the cohort model building upon these connections throughout their time at UT Austin.

Most importantly, students develop intercultural competencies and language skills, jump-starting their academic careers and preparing them for professional success in the global marketplace.



“

I have always wanted to study abroad to broaden my perspective through hands-on experience and cultural exchange. Take the World by the Horns will enhance my academic interests beyond the classroom and my capability to tackle real-life challenges outside the country, shaping my college career with experiential learning.

Trang Tran, Class of '28, Communication and Leadership

TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Career Launch Expands Professional Knowledge

Texas Global partnered with Podium Education to offer the UT Austin Global Career Accelerator, expanding internships available in the Global Career Launch portfolio. This virtual experience equips students with marketable skills and intercultural competencies, preparing Longhorns for high-growth careers in the global economy.

Available to undergraduates from all majors and backgrounds, the program offers four innovative tracks: digital marketing, coding for web, data analytics, and coding for data. Each track satisfies six credit hours in the summer and three in the fall, combining insights from industry experts, client simulations, skills training, and synchronous lab sessions.

Students from more than 50 countries work online in small groups, collaborating to execute projects for global businesses such as Uber, Spotify, Google, Netflix, Airbnb, Shopify, and many more. Upon completion of the single-semester internship, participants gain access to a network of job and internship opportunities at leading organizations across more than 20 industries.



“

I think the most rewarding aspect has been finishing the first milestone project, since I was truly able to see where my work had gotten me. It will showcase my ability for specific, industry-relevant skills and how I can apply them to real-world projects.

Sanchit Singhal, Class of '27, Computational Engineering

FUTURE LEADERS

GRADUATE SCHOOL
SCHOOL OF LAW

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
LBJ SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master's Student Tracks Migration with Brumley Fellowship

Master's student Pedro Valdez-Castro was awarded a Brumley NextGen Fellowship by the Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. The fellowship program provides a transformative experience for UT graduate students from an array of disciplines, building professional skills and accelerating their paths toward career success.

Valdez-Castro is a second-year master's student working at the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies and a Fulbright Faculty Development grantee. During the 2023–2024 academic year, he developed a research project within the Strauss Center's

Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative.

"My research project focuses on the routes Afro-Caribbean migrants draw as they move from their home countries to South America and then to the U.S.," said Valdez-Castro. "I am particularly interested in how the policies implemented in the different transit countries impact migrant journeys and how migrants experience them subjectively."

Valdez-Castro's research interests include international migration, borders, the Caribbean, the sociology of migration, Afro-Latin America, and interculturality. He has engaged in teaching, research, policymaking,



and community development around topics including human trafficking, border management, intercultural education, and migrant integration.

Prior to coming to UT Austin in 2022, he worked as a migration studies and research analyst at the National Institute of Migration of the Dominican Republic, researching and developing policy proposals to advise the Dominican state on issues related to migration governance. Outside his academic activities, Valdez-Castro volunteers at Casa Marianella, a shelter in Austin that welcomes and assists displaced migrants.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Polish Club Founder Graduates to International Stage

Nathan Silverstein (left) with Nobel Peace Prize winner Lech Wałęsa

SCHOOL OF LAW

Egyptian Law Student Recognized for Civil Rights Advocacy



Courtesy of School of Law

Texas Law student Sondos Moursy grew up in Louisiana and Texas. But as a Muslim immigrant from Alexandria, Egypt, she often felt her family's Islamic values conflicted with the Western lifestyle. This produced an uncommon perspective on issues of human rights and fueled her determination to help marginalized communities.

These pursuits came full circle in 2023 when Moursy was named a Marshall-Motley Scholar by the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund for her work championing economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people of color.

"I'm really passionate about furthering this work in carceral justice, and the Marshall-Motley program supports that," Moursy said. "To keep growing, this work takes funding. I can just focus on doing the work because somebody else paid for it. That in itself is the biggest privilege."

Each year, 10 student applicants from around the U.S. are awarded full tuition plus funding to cover room and board. Following graduation, they complete two-year postgraduate fellowships at civil rights law organizations in the American South and attend trainings with the Legal Defense Fund and National Academy of Sciences. In return, they commit the first eight years of their practice to civil rights law on behalf of Black communities in the South.

"It was validation that I am not screaming into a void, that my work has some sort of impact, and somebody on this earth recognizes that enough to support it," said Moursy, who chose Texas Law for its number of legal clinics and pro bono projects specifically focused on carceral justice.

Longhorn Nathan Silverstein came to UT Austin from Los Angeles, but his heart beats in Poland. He remains connected with his heroic ancestors as well as the current-day Polish community fighting to secure democracy. Silverstein is the founder of UT's Polish Club, which for more than three years has brought political luminaries from Poland and Eastern Europe to speak at UT.

"I have gained a cultural, historical, and political understanding of Poland so deep that it may have surpassed my understanding of the U.S.," Silverstein said. "The time I felt most in tune with the Polish people was July 2023, when I attended a 500,000-person pro-democracy protest [and] helped parade a massive Polish flag through the streets of Warsaw. At the time, the demonstration was the largest protest in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall."

His tireless work in global engagement earned Silverstein a position as public outreach coordinator for former president of Poland Lech Wałęsa, organizing worldwide speaking events for the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

Silverstein's grandfather, a Polish partisan during World War II who spent eight years fighting, is the motivation for everything he does and lies at the core of his Polish and American identities.

"This story was central to my upbringing and is at the core of my Polish and American identities," Silverstein said. "It is the most impactful moment in my personal connection to Poland's history of sacrifice, bravery, and freedom fighting."

In 2023, Silverstein graduated Phi Beta Kappa with the distinction Cum Laude Ampla et Magna, earning a B.A. in government with a minor in Polish language.

“ I've learned that college is as much about the experiences you gain and the networks you forge as it is about academics.

Nathan Silverstein,
Class of '24, Government

McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Alum's Acumen Transforms Lives

“Our goal is to support UT's mission, reputation, and global impact: to mobilize and amplify alumni engagement, to partner with businesses for greater opportunity and impact on the education front, and to pursue leading-edge research through scholarship.”

Connie Duckworth (B.A. '76),
Chair, International Board of Advisors, UT Austin

Alum Connie Duckworth's focus on women's economic empowerment came from a career at financial giant Goldman Sachs, where she shattered barriers in the Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York offices. Named the first woman sales and trading partner in the firm's history, she ultimately retired as partner and managing director after a groundbreaking 20-year run.



Upon her retirement, a friend nominated Duckworth (B.A. '76) as business representative for the U.S. Afghan Women's Council, which was formed in 2002 after the fall of the Taliban to support Afghan women's and girls' education, health care, and economic empowerment.

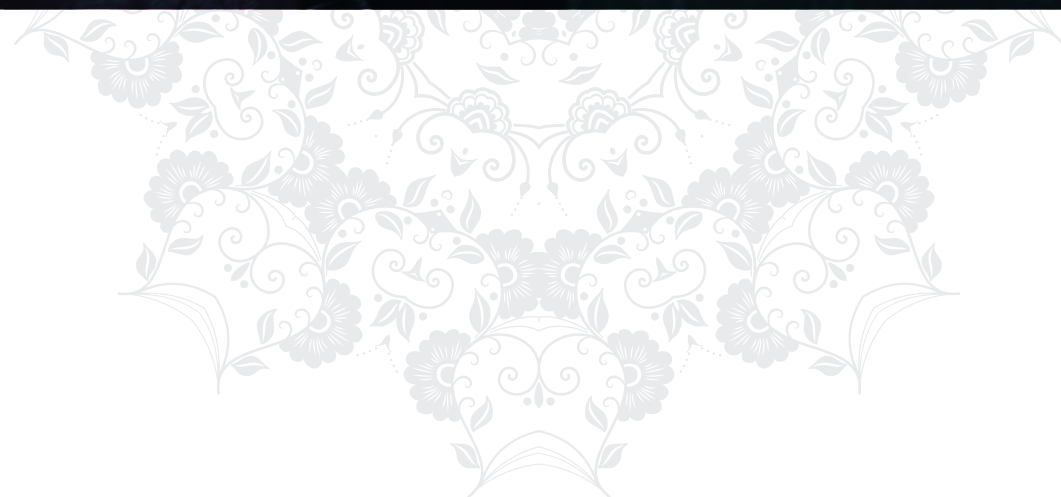
Despite knowing little about Afghanistan, Duckworth accepted the post. In 2003, she boarded a military plane for a flight to Kabul, then an active war zone. The stark scenes she saw upon arrival drove home the country's desperate need for infrastructure, stability, work, and income. She needed to somehow make change happen for women — a daunting proposition, given traditional strictures on women's activities in Afghanistan.

The answer was ARZU, Inc., which Duckworth founded to offer sustainable work, education access, and social support to women rug weavers in Afghanistan. The nonprofit operated in rural villages where English was nonexistent,

and its work was based upon an innovative social contract containing three tenets, to which each entire family was required to agree:

First, all women in a participating household must be released daily to attend literacy classes nearby. Second, children must be enrolled full-time in government-funded

schools. And third, families must allow Arzu staff to transport pregnant women to regular medical checkups. “At that time, Afghanistan had the highest maternal death rate in the world,” said Duckworth. “But we did not lose a single mother or baby in childbirth once we started the maternal health program, and that was over an 8- or 9-year period.”



Arzu paid weavers the standard local rate, covering production costs and adding a 50 percent incentive bonus for high-quality rugs woven to international standards. Participating weavers came to earn about two-thirds more than Afghanistan's average national per capita income.

“I believe that when a woman can earn a living, it changes the power relationship in the household,” Duckworth said.

Duckworth now uses her resourceful, global perspective and veteran private-sector skills to guide the UT International Board of Advisors (IBA) in leveraging the University's significant power, mobilizing alumni engagement internationally, and cultivating business partnerships to support leading-edge research.

Alum and Family Build Hospital in Nigeria



Years before Longhorn football star Sam Acho (BBA '10) became an NFL player, philanthropist, author, public speaker, and sports analyst, his family's annual Christmas trips to his parents' village in Nigeria broadened his perspective.

Acho's parents returned to Nigeria every summer to work alongside area doctors and nurses, treating thousands of desperate people who lined up outside their makeshift hospital. Dr. Sonny Acho, Sam's father and the founder of Living Hope Christian Ministries, envisioned building a permanent hospital to meet the overwhelming demand.

With his eyes opened by these service-work trips, Acho enrolled in 2007 at UT's McCombs School of Business, entering the honors program and later gaining traction in college football with a starting role on Texas' 2009 squad. Four years later, he departed as one of the University's most-decorated Longhorns, both as a student and an athlete.

Acho's subsequent NFL Draft selection was followed by a successful nine-year professional football career in Arizona, Chicago, and Tampa. In 2022, honoring his extensive résumé and global impact, Acho was inducted into Texas Athletics' prestigious Hall of Honor.

Meanwhile, after working for years in an abandoned building-turned-hospital, Acho's father began implementing his plan to build the permanent medical facility that would provide the community year-round medical care and create jobs for Nigerian medical professionals.

As Acho's pro football career progressed, he continued making annual trips to Nigeria, bringing his coaches and fellow players to see his family's work. Support came from teammates, the National Football League, and the UT Austin community; former Texas football head coach Mack Brown even spoke at charity events to raise money for the foundation.

"My teammates from Texas and the NFL would come on these trips and say, 'I want to help. How can I help?'" recalled Acho.

Left: Sam Acho on annual visit to Nigeria with Living Hope Christian Ministries

“

It's just been amazing to see. You talk about UT Austin's slogan, What starts here changes the world? Well, one person's dream — or one person's faith, or one person's belief and action — can, in fact, change not only your community, but the entire world.

Sam Acho (BBA '10), McCombs School of Business

In 2016, just after his family took a leap of faith and started building, Acho received the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year Award, which recognizes a player for civic and on-field achievement, bestowing an award of \$50,000. A year later, Acho earned the award again, totaling \$100,000 in donations toward the hospital's construction.

In 2017, the Acho family again returned to Nigeria, this time not only to provide care but also to celebrate the completion of the Living Hope Medical Center. The facility remains open year-round, allowing health care workers to accommodate the community's needs while sharing knowledge, building relationships, and bringing to life what was once just a dream.



Courtesy of UT Athletics



Nadia Laabs gathers with Startup Madeira in Portugal

COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Alum's Path Leads to Impact Entrepreneurship

Nadia Laabs (B.S. '08) had lived in 10 countries when she landed in Texas at age 13. For college, she chose UT over an Ivy League school, knowing that it ranked among the nation's top engineering universities.

The Cockrell School's recruiting program helped Procter & Gamble hire Laabs upon graduation. There, she worked on entrepreneurial projects focusing on sustainability, eventually redirecting her efforts toward "impact entrepreneurship."

In 2015, Laabs and partners in London co-founded the Impact Collective, working to

sustainably solve problems with businesses and communities. She has advised industries from commercial fishing to soil control and climate stability.

Remaining connected with the University, she's served on recruiting committees and joined London's UT alumni association. She hopes to expand her network with other Longhorn alumni in her industry.

"There [are] really smart people and a lot of great efforts happening now in impact entrepreneurship within UT," said Laabs.

“I was fortunate with the fact that I went to UT and did engineering, which opened many doors for me in terms of opportunities and jobs. I actually had the luxury of choosing where I wanted to work.

Nadia Laabs (B.S. '08), Cockrell School of Engineering

COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Engineering Alum Bridges Universities in Mexico and U.S.



“I'd like to reiterate the importance of working together as two countries, and I think our universities are uniquely well positioned to make significant change through educating people who eventually will implement public policy in that direction. We need to bring our societies much closer together.

Sergio Alcocer (Ph.D. '91), Cockrell School of Engineering

Sergio Alcocer planned to work in hydraulics. But in 1985, while he pursued an engineering degree at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), an 8.1-magnitude earthquake destroyed and damaged thousands of buildings in Mexico City.

After seeing his professors respond by devising safety improvements, Alcocer switched to structural engineering. Soon, he was offered an opportunity to study at UT Austin in a program facilitating common research among Mexican and American scholars.

"The earthquake changed my professional life," Alcocer said. "Because of the earthquake, I had the chance to go to UT."

Alcocer obtained his Ph.D. at UT's Cockrell School of Engineering in 1991, then built a career spanning the fields of engineering, public policy, and international education. The unifying factor, he explained, is an understanding that although countries are shaped by different elements, they face the same essential challenges and hold similar goals for their citizens' quality of life.

Alcocer's efforts have borne out his collaborative perspective, whether at UNAM's Institute of Engineering, on the advisory board for UT Austin's Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, or in multiple positions in Mexico's federal government. Alcocer also found government service an ideal position from which to advocate for global education.

"Since I had studied at UT, it was obvious that I should partner with other universities around the world," said Alcocer.

As Mexico's undersecretary for North America, he sent students to U.S. universities for the summer to learn English. Each time students came back, he said, they returned as different people.

"They all wanted to go back to the States because, they told us, 'We want to learn more. [In the U.S.] they have great libraries. We know we can bring that knowledge back to our communities to improve the quality of life.'"



“

I believe international exchanges are so valuable to making the world a more connected, safer place. I hope my story can inspire prospective and current UT students to pursue international education opportunities.

Sebastian De Beurs (B.A. '19), Government

UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE

Schwarzman Scholar Studies in Beijing

Alum Sebastian De Beurs (B.A. '19) is earning a master's degree in global affairs, thanks to a prestigious yearlong graduate fellowship fully funded by the Schwarzman Scholars program at Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

Chosen from a pool of more than 4,000 applicants, the 2024 cohort of Schwarzman Scholars encompasses 150 students from 43 countries and 114 universities worldwide.

"UT sparked my American dream," said De Beurs, a Plan II honors graduate from the Netherlands. "I found a warm entrepreneurial community at UT. Above all, the Forty Acres taught me that we can shape our future. I'm excited to take that with me to China as a Schwarzman Scholar."

The program offers cultural immersion and expansive learning opportunities across China, and De Beurs — who founded a neurotherapeutics company after graduating — plans to use his further experiences as a scholar to bring a greater global perspective to the development of medicine.



UT Austin Korean Alumni Association and Texas Global host alumni event in Seoul, South Korea

McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Lights, Camera, Advocacy: A Journey from Texas to Seoul

Sam Chi (BBA '91, MPA '93) has spent decades carving out his legacy in Seoul and Hollywood as a notable producer of K-pop groups, TV dramas, and successful films. Yet the Longhorn for Life still finds ways to honor his alma mater.

"I spent a lot of my time at UT learning about Texas — and learning about the Korean community, as well," he said. "They really opened my eyes in terms of what I could do."

As a leader of the UT Austin Korean Alumni Association, Chi tirelessly advocates for the benefits that attending UT can offer to Koreans, as well as the innumerable ways that Korean students enhance the Forty Acres.

With more than 3,000 Longhorns, the alumni community in Seoul comprises the largest collection of UT graduates outside the U.S., also uniting Longhorns of Korean heritage living all over the world. Renewed collaborations with Texas Global are yielding promising results for connecting Korean alumni with prospective and current students, University personnel, and each other.

Seoul now serves as one of three host locations worldwide for UT Austin's new first-semester-abroad program, Take the World by the Horns. And the alumni association is working toward opening a formal Texas Exes chapter in Korea.

"UT alumni association members are among the most diverse, most successful people in the world, who give back to the community," Chi said, noting that he believes deeply in the University's impressive global graduates and legacy of international education.

Thirty years after his graduation, Chi is pleased with the vibrant international community at UT, proclaiming, "The diversity at the school is quite unique. That's something we're very, very proud of."

Chi originally chose UT for its stellar academics, exceptional athletics, and large Korean community, which helped him contextualize his heritage globally and envision the possibilities for his future.



“

It's important to use your position to give back. When I got to be older, I always wanted to ... help other people, if I can, in different places of the world.

Sam Chi (BBA '91, MPA '93), McCombs School of Business



Donor Raymond Brimble and Deirdre Mendez, Director, Center for Global Business. Courtesy of McCombs School of Business

McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Gift to McCombs Enhances Global Business Education

A \$2.5 million gift made to the McCombs School's Center for Global Business will enhance cutting-edge international coursework and global resources for UT students, preparing tomorrow's leaders to enter a multicultural and interconnected workforce.

Donor, alum, and Austin business owner Raymond Brimble, who also serves as emeritus chair of the center's advisory board, hopes the Brimble Global Impact Endowment will remove financial barriers to global business education for students in the McCombs School and across campus.

Initiative goals include new and updated international business courses; expanded study abroad scholarships; enhanced advising services; and broader outreach to alumni who could serve as speakers, mentors and employers.

“Texas is a global player, and its future professionals need to be ready. It's our dream that we can support new and enriched programs that will make an international business education available to more students. Rapid global change calls for the leadership that a UT education provides.”

Raymond Brimble, Emeritus Chair, Center for Global Business Advisory Board

TEXAS GLOBAL

Donors Mobilize During 40 Hours for the Forty Acres

April 2024 marked the 10th anniversary of 40 Hours for the Forty Acres, UT's annual day of giving, during which thousands of generous Longhorns donate to support the campus pursuits that matter the most to them.

Many alumni and friends donate to Texas Global's efforts, including international student scholarships that help abate financial obstacles and attract global talent to the University. To bolster UT's No. 2 national ranking for study abroad participation, Education Abroad scholarships provide access for students with financial constraints to study in more than 100 countries.

Donations also help fund the President's Award for Global Learning, a program that empowers students and faculty to

address worldwide challenges, both inside the classroom and outside the U.S.

“We are so grateful for the generosity and commitment of the Longhorn community,” said Fiona Mazurenko, director of Global Initiatives and Alumni Relations. “Funding contributed during 40 for Forty allows Texas Global to open doors that help international students thrive at UT and contribute valuable insight to the academic discourse on campus. It empowers Longhorns to study, research, and intern across the globe, further growing UT's community of global leaders and changemakers.”

“ I hope more alumni, especially those who had a positive experience in global engagement while at UT, will become — and remain — regularly recurring donors.”

Mandy Lai (B.S. '04, M.S. '06), Cockrell School of Engineering



Photo by Octavio Kano-Galván

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
TEXAS GLOBAL

Freeman Scholarship Empowers Career Exploration in Asia

In 2023, biochemistry major Elizabeth Suh received a prestigious Freeman Scholarship for Internships in Asia, allowing her to dedicate an entire summer to working at an internship with the CET Taiwan program in Taipei.

Suh also took a daily language class in Mandarin to increase fluency for her Chinese language minor and explored Taiwan with multinational friends and co-workers, which connected her more deeply with her family's Taiwanese culture.

The Freeman Foundation fosters economic and cultural exchange between the United States and East Asia. In partnership with UT, the foundation funds undergraduate and graduate internships across a variety of industries in 11 countries.

Since 2012, more than 345 students across 12 colleges and schools at UT have received support from the Freeman Foundation, gaining a deeper understanding of the region's cultural and geopolitical nuances, as well as other skills critical to success in a global workforce.

For her internship, Suh researched information about millet production in various countries and created infographics for the organization's website. She said the internship helped her gain the confidence to communicate in Mandarin about work responsibilities.

"One of my major takeaways from this summer internship is that I have to take initiative, even in an environment where I am uncertain of myself," said Suh. "I was able to learn how to operate in a Taiwanese work environment by not being afraid to ask questions."

“

Thanks to the support from the Freeman Scholarship, I was able not only to learn about environmental activism in Taiwan and meet my language improvement goals, but also take the opportunity to integrate myself into Taiwanese culture.

Elizabeth Suh, Class of '25, Biochemistry



TEXAS GLOBAL

African Leadership Bridge Supports Generational Change

UT Austin alum Rick Reeder co-created the African Leadership Bridge (ALB) in 2007 with Kenyan student John Kidenda after a family illness jeopardized Kidenda's finances, forcing him to face the possibility of returning to Kenya before completing his program. The two wanted to offer financial and community support to African students in similar situations. Together, they created the nonprofit to champion the next generation of African leaders at UT Austin.

"There are all of these brilliant, driven students from the continent of Africa who are either not getting the opportunity to come to the U.S. for college or getting to the U.S. and not being able to finish because they can't afford the fees,"

said Kidenda, now an ALB board member. "The foundation's goal is to get as many of these students through college as possible. Providing them with the potential to be leaders is the highest-impact thing we can do to influence Africa's development trajectory."

Sixteen years later, Texas Global partnered with the ALB to create an endowment for UT Austin students who completed part or all of their preparatory education in Africa. The first endowed scholarship was awarded in 2023 to Nigerian student Usomine Omamegbe.

Omamegbe, who grew up in Lagos, studies finance and accounting at the McCombs School. After graduation, she plans to return

to Nigeria to help expand the country's financial institutions by creating affordable options for the many citizens who do not have access to financial advising.

"I worked two jobs last year, and I always had reservations on how I would balance that with organizations and classwork," Omamegbe said. "The scholarship has helped me cut down on my working hours, so there's a sense of relief. Now I can put more time into the African organizations that I'm a part of — and through that, give back to the community."



Rick Reeder and John Kidenda with ALB board members and scholarship recipients. Courtesy of African Leadership Bridge

“

Whenever you're on campus and away from home, it's easy to forget that you have a tribe. ALB is created to be that tribe that says, 'Hey, I know what you're passionate about, and I want to support you in creating change.'

Diana Ayoub, Board Member, African Leadership Bridge

SUPPORTING GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

23 Texas Global **ENDOWMENTS** totaling **\$8.2 MILLION** in support of student and faculty **GLOBAL ACTIVITIES**

\$1.8 MILLION in **SCHOLARSHIPS** provided by Texas Global to

604 **INTERNATIONAL** and **EDUCATION ABROAD STUDENTS**

Expanding Global Impact

From the research conducted in our libraries and laboratories to the lessons presented in the classroom and the field, the academic pursuits of The University of Texas embody our commitment to global collaboration, curiosity, and creativity. The resulting advances in science, humanities, medicine, and the arts leave a lasting mark on the daily lives of people around the world.



COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

Energy Institute Pursues Sustainability Research

UT Austin's Energy Institute is collaborating with global oil companies on the Strategic Energy Seed Grant initiative, which funds sustainable energy research aimed at mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of the 2023 Strategic Energy Seed Grant Program, oil companies Chevron, Shell, SLB, and longtime UT Austin supporters ExxonMobil and ConocoPhillips each contributed up to \$100,000 in grants to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to spark innovation in climate security and decarbonization.

This arrangement allocates funds toward critical areas of research and supports opportunities for energy community members to engage directly with UT Austin students. In 2022, the Energy Institute awarded 17 interdisciplinary research teams more than \$1 million to kick-start their projects and attract federal funding for initiatives focused on emerging energy technologies designed to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions.

"This funding will help accelerate the scientific, engineering, technological, economic, and policy innovations necessary to ensure that all

people have access to the energy they need as global energy demand continues to rise," says Energy Institute Director Brian Korgel. "It continues the momentum of initiatives aimed at dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and harmful environmental impacts."

Research proposals in 2023 centered on industrial decarbonization, carbon capture and storage, water use and conservation, and low- and zero-carbon fuels. Twenty-one students and fellows representing nine teams from the Cockrell School of Engineering and the Jackson

School of Geosciences received awards, chosen from among 46 proposals.

The program directly addresses Energy and Environment, one of the key topical pillars of research designated by UT President Jay Hartzell as an integral part of UT's strategic plan, Korgel said.

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This funding will help accelerate the scientific, engineering, technological, economic, and policy innovations necessary to ensure that all people have access to the energy they need as global energy demand continues to rise.

Brian Korgel, Director, Energy Institute



Patagonia researchers from the Jackson School and partner institutions. Courtesy of Jackson School of Geosciences

JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

Fossils Reveal Patagonia Biodiversity

A study led by UT Austin provides a glimpse into the biodiversity of dinosaur and bird populations in South America's Patagonia region during the Late Cretaceous period.

The fossils represent the first record of theropods — a dinosaur group comprising modern birds and their closest dinosaur relatives — from Chilean Patagonia.

“The fauna of Patagonia, leading up to the mass extinction, was really diverse,” said lead author Sarah Davis, who completed this work during her doctoral studies with Professor Julia Clarke in the UT Jackson School of Geosciences. “Large theropod carnivores and smaller carnivores, as well as bird groups coexisting alongside other reptiles and small mammals.”

Since 2017, students in Clarke's lab have collaborated with Chilean scientists in Patagonia to collect fossils and build a record of the plant and animal life present before an asteroid strike triggered the mass extinction that killed off most dinosaurs.



Artist's interpretation of Patagonia during the Late Cretaceous. Image by Mauricio Alvarez and Gabriel Diaz

“We still need to know how life made its way in that apocalyptic scenario and gave rise to our southern environments in South America, New Zealand, and Australia,” said Marcelo Leppe, director of the Antarctic Institute of Chile. “Here, theropods are still present — no longer

as dinosaurs as imposing as megaraptorids — but as the diverse array of birds found in the forests, swamps, and marshes of Patagonia, and in Antarctica and Australia.”

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Climate Change Impacts Arctic Food Webs

Warming temperatures have changed the food sources Arctic animals rely on, resulting in greater dependence on fungal food sources and imposing potential implications for Arctic food webs and ecosystems, researchers found in 2024.

A team including UT Austin and the USDA Forest Service described evidence that climate change significantly affects animals' diets in the Arctic tundra and boreal forests. Animals adapted to survive frigid temperatures now consume different food types than they did 30 years ago.

“Small mammals like shrews and voles that were historically supported by 'green' plant-based food webs now acquire almost all their energy from 'brown' fungal food webs,” said Philip Manlick, research scientist with

the USDA Forest Service. “When we looked at experimentally warmed spiders from the Arctic tundra, we saw the exact same pattern in a controlled environment. This tells us that warming has a consistent 'browning' effect on food webs across species and ecosystems, and that museums and monitoring programs can be used to track changes in food webs.”

As rapid warming reshapes high-latitude ecosystems, these findings provide crucial insights into the interplay of carbon flow, food web structure, and nutrient cycling. Understanding these shifts is vital for discerning how sensitive environments respond to climate change.

“Animals are increasingly being recognized for the ways in which they influence critical ecosystem functions. These findings point to an under-studied pathway by which climate change alters animal impacts on ecosystems.”

Amanda Koltz, Assistant Professor, College of Natural Sciences

Amanda Koltz (left) and research assistant Kiki Contreras examine a plot in the Alaskan Arctic. Courtesy of College of Natural Sciences

COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL

Brain-Computer Interface Advances Machine Learning

Researchers at Dell Medical School have developed a brain-computer interface (BCI) that transforms cerebral activity into physical action, enabling users to move computer cursors — and even their own digits — using only conscious thought.

Lead researcher José del R. Millán, who holds positions in the Cockrell School of Engineering, Dell Medical School, and Texas Robotics, hopes this neurotechnology will improve the lives of patients suffering from strokes, cerebral accidents, or spinal cord injuries resulting in severe motor deficits.

Users wear an electrode-laden cap connected to a computer, measuring electrical signals from the brain. A decoder then translates that information into action. Typically, painstaking

individual calibration has presented the major hurdle to mainstream adoption of BCI devices.

What sets the Dell Med research apart is the incorporation of machine-learning capabilities that quickly understand a user's needs and self-calibrate through repetition, meaning multiple patients could use a device without lengthy calibration.

"This technology will make it so we won't need a specialized team to do the calibration process, which is long and tedious," said graduate researcher Satyam Kumar. "It will be much faster to move from patient to patient."

The team is also working to incorporate similar BCI technology into a wheelchair.

“

The point of this technology is to help people ... in their everyday lives. We'll continue down this path wherever it takes us in the pursuit of helping people.

José del R. Millán, Professor, Dell Medical School



SCHOOL OF NURSING

Researchers Explore LGBTQIA Health Care Disparities

Julie Zuniga, associate professor in the School of Nursing, partnered with graduate researcher Oscar Franco-Rocha to interrogate numerous health disparities experienced by the LGBTQIA community in Latin America. Specifically examining social determinants of health for transgender communities, their work emphasized systemic impact and collective solutions.

The research began with identifying multiple social determinants of health in transgender communities but then transcended standard research limitations by proposing solutions to the disparities it found.

Zuniga and Franco-Rocha posited that human-level clinical interventions could provide the key to redressing several lapses in care commonly perpetrated upon trans populations — such as stigmatizing, misgendering, or deadnaming patients — in a health care system that was originally built to heal.

"We focus on health care disparities for the LGBTQ community, which is a healing problem in Latin America," said Franco-Rocha. "Bringing attention to those issues ... I think, will broaden perspectives and change ways of thinking."

Left: Hussein Alawieh (left), graduate student in José del R. Millán's lab, demonstrates BCI to a FILUNI participant

Oscar Franco-Rocha (left) and Julie Zuniga



“

To have our partners be able to work not just with us but also within our greater network, it keeps people more connected. These global solutions can be used effectively in so many different settings to really improve people's health outcomes for shared problems that occur all over the world.

Julie Zuniga, School of Nursing



Longhorns on safari at the Masai Mara. Courtesy of School of Nursing

DELL MEDICAL SCHOOL
SCHOOL OF NURSING
TEXAS GLOBAL

AMPATH Expands Global Health Care Access in Kenya, Mexico, and Beyond

For remote communities without access to hospitals and medical research facilities, partners are crucial for maintaining public health. UT Austin's School of Nursing, Dell Medical School, and Texas Global share resources and knowledge across the international health care community via the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) initiative.

AMPATH is a global health partnership model designed to advance health equity and address the root causes of health disparities for communities around the world, utilizing clinical care, education, and research. The originating partnership expanded in 2001 to become the AMPATH Consortium, a network of 14 academic health centers coordinating medical trainee exchanges worldwide.

“

Learning about global health is an important step toward eliminating health disparities. This program not only helps both Dell Med and Moi University students understand their role in patient care, but also the role of health systems, culture, socioeconomic, and many other factors that span national boundaries in our increasingly globalized world.

Tim Mercer, Chief of the Division of Global Health, Dell Medical School

AMPATH Kenya

UT Austin joined the consortium in 2018 to participate in AMPATH Kenya, a bilateral exchange providing medical students and residents with hands-on experience at Moi University Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Collaborations between the two institutions continue today. In 2023, a project for UT's interdisciplinary President's Award for Global Learning took 13 Longhorn undergrads to Kenya as part of the consortium's global collaboration. While there, the students embarked on a comprehensive wound care project with local medical students and residents.

Later that year, UT's School of Nursing and Division of Global Health welcomed two Kenyan students to Austin for a six-week exchange. The visitors joined Dell Med students for clinical rotations in pediatrics, cardiology, and more. They observed simulation labs, visited UT's Family Wellness Center, and presented findings from the wound care project to the Global Health Conference at the UT Medical Branch in Galveston.



UT Austin team at Moi University. Courtesy of School of Nursing

AMPATH México

In 2022, UT's Global Health Program — a collaboration between Texas Global and the Department of Population Health at Dell Med — spearheaded the AMPATH México initiative in partnership with its longtime allies in the Puebla region: Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla and the State of Puebla Ministry of Health.

Launched with the objective of replicating the tenets and results of the Kenya program, AMPATH México established a focus on addressing shared challenges, expanding research infrastructure, and promoting health care access for vulnerable communities in both Texas and Mexico.

In 2023, a comprehensive health outreach event in Puebla officially established the program's clinical care pillar, providing a crucial link between providers and community members by hosting patient consultations, health promotion talks, clinical consultations, physical therapy sessions, and more. Having served more than 1,600 people to date, the program's eventual aim is to improve health care access and prevention efforts for the state's population of 6.2 million.



Tim Mercer (left) and Ricardo Ainslie present at FILUNI 2023



Texas Robotics program holds a robot parade on campus. Photos by Marsha Miller

COCKRELL SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
GRADUATE SCHOOL

COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
TEXAS ADVANCED COMPUTING CENTER

Year of AI Unveils Unprecedented Commitment to Tech Future

UT designated 2024 as the “Year of AI” in response to the University’s mission of propelling the leading edge of technological research across the world. The University directed intense strategic focus and investment toward a commitment that began more than 50 years ago: responsibly leading artificial intelligence research, developing innovations, and educating future leaders to navigate the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Placing itself at the forefront of emerging AI technologies, the University recruited new

faculty, launched innovative partnerships, and sought congressional support for public artificial intelligence research and workforce initiatives throughout the year.

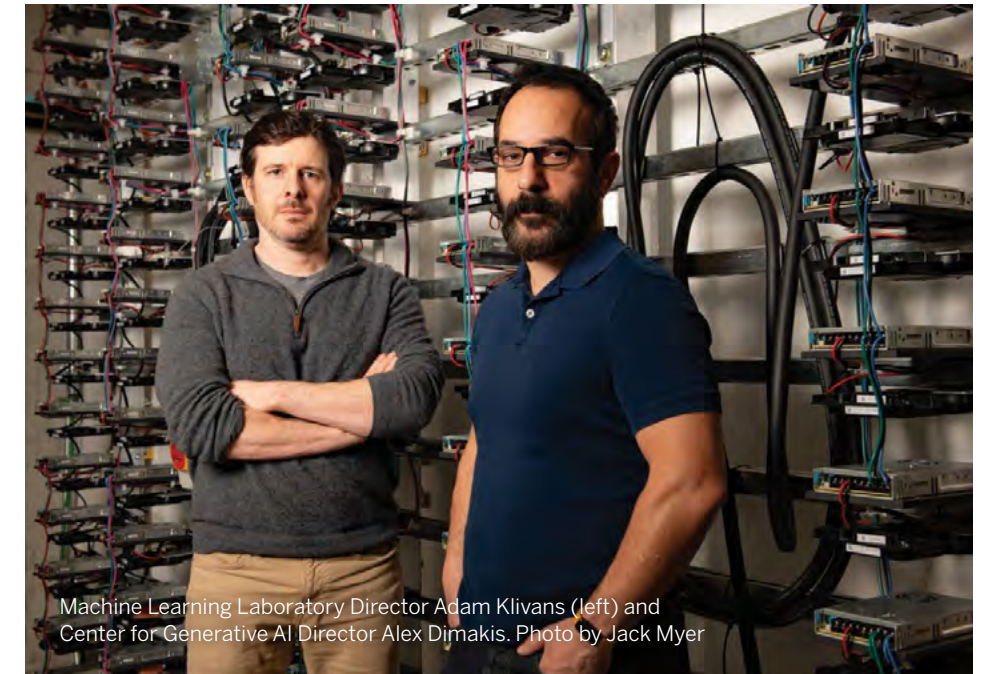
“We are in the midst of an incredible time in artificial intelligence, and the wide-ranging applications are encouraging us to expand our notions of how we can change the world,” said Dan Jaffe, UT’s vice president for research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. “At UT, we are exploring the boundaries in every realm of AI.”

The prioritization of AI research and education presented UT the opportunity to place its collective leadership and expertise on full display throughout 2024 with additional initiatives such as the Artificial Intelligence Lab, Machine Learning Laboratory, Machine Learning Research Group, and panel discussions and conferences.

The University introduced an inventive online master’s program in AI — carrying with it the potential to bring thousands of new students into the field — which arrived just as artificial

intelligence and machine learning became the skill sets in highest demand across the global workforce. UT also launched the Center for Generative AI, powered by a new graphics processing unit computing cluster that is among the largest in academia.

By creating one of the most powerful AI hubs in the academic world, UT has showcased its groundbreaking research capabilities and interdisciplinary approach to education while creating world-class AI infrastructure with a range of global partners. Using the impetus of this year’s advancements, the University will continue making technological strides, pursuing bold and creative solutions to address our world’s most pressing needs.

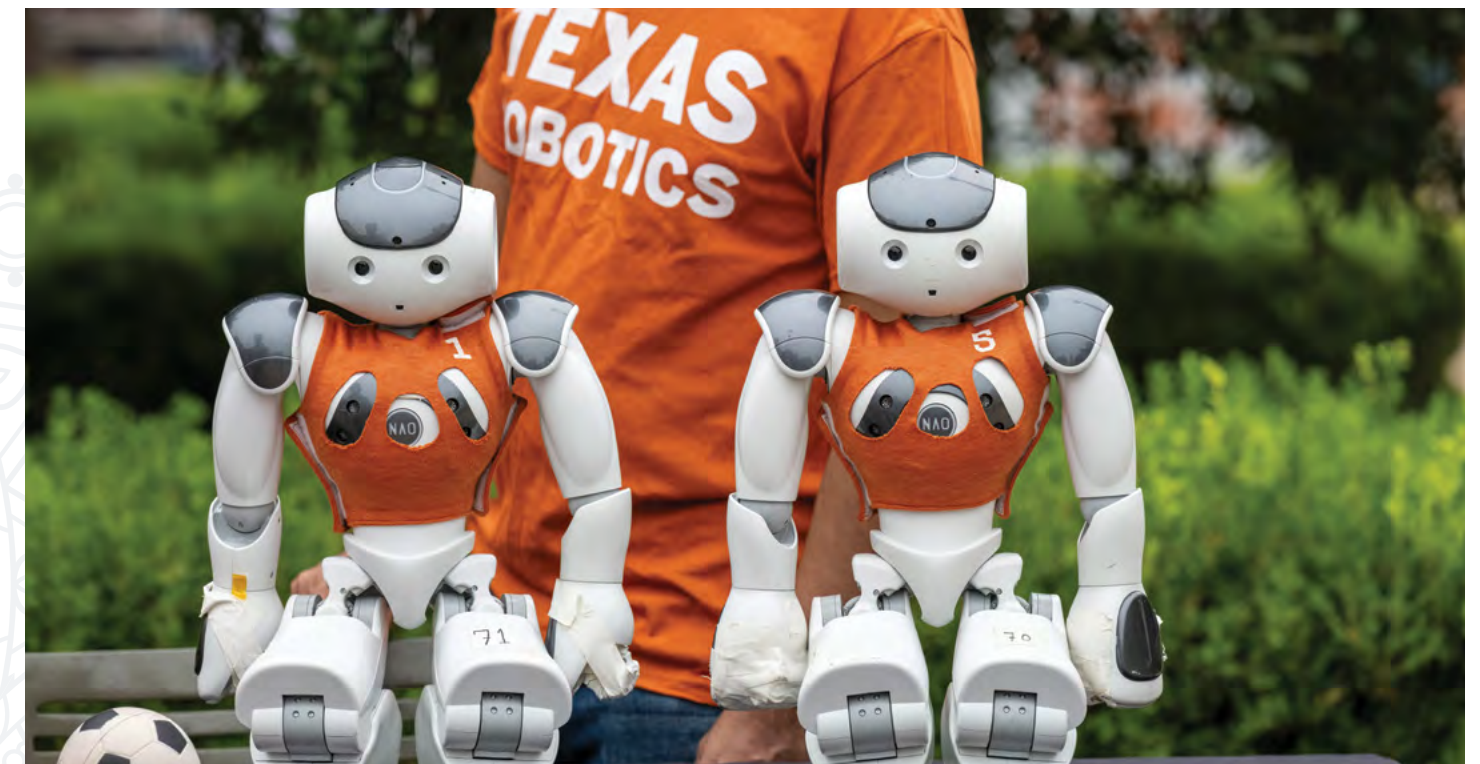


Machine Learning Laboratory Director Adam Klivans (left) and Center for Generative AI Director Alex Dimakis. Photo by Jack Myer

“

Artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing our world, and this investment comes at the right time to help UT shape the future through our teaching and research. World-class computing power combined with our breadth of AI research expertise will uniquely position UT to speed advances in health care, drug development, materials, and other industries that could have a profound impact on people and society.

Jay Hartzell, President, The University of Texas at Austin





SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Architecture Scholar Collaborates to Build Safe Passage for Jaguars



The premise of this exercise, and of this research at large, is that the Jaguar Corridor might offer us ... a rich framework through which to consider urbanization processes and their connection with environmental breakdown and biodiversity loss in a time of deep ecological change.

Juana Salcedo, Assistant Professor of Practice, School of Architecture

Assistant Professor of Practice Juana Salcedo pays close attention to how urban life affects humans and other living beings.

Working at the intersection of architecture and urbanism, Salcedo joined UT's School of Architecture in 2022, leading explorations into urbanization and the socioenvironmental struggles facing conservation efforts for the jaguar, the largest feline in the Americas.

Researchers regard the jaguar as an "umbrella species," using its presence as a marker for ecosystem health. This is why the conservation organization Panthera designed the Jaguar

Corridor Initiative, envisioning a continuous habitat covering 4.5 million square kilometers from northern Argentina to the southern United States.

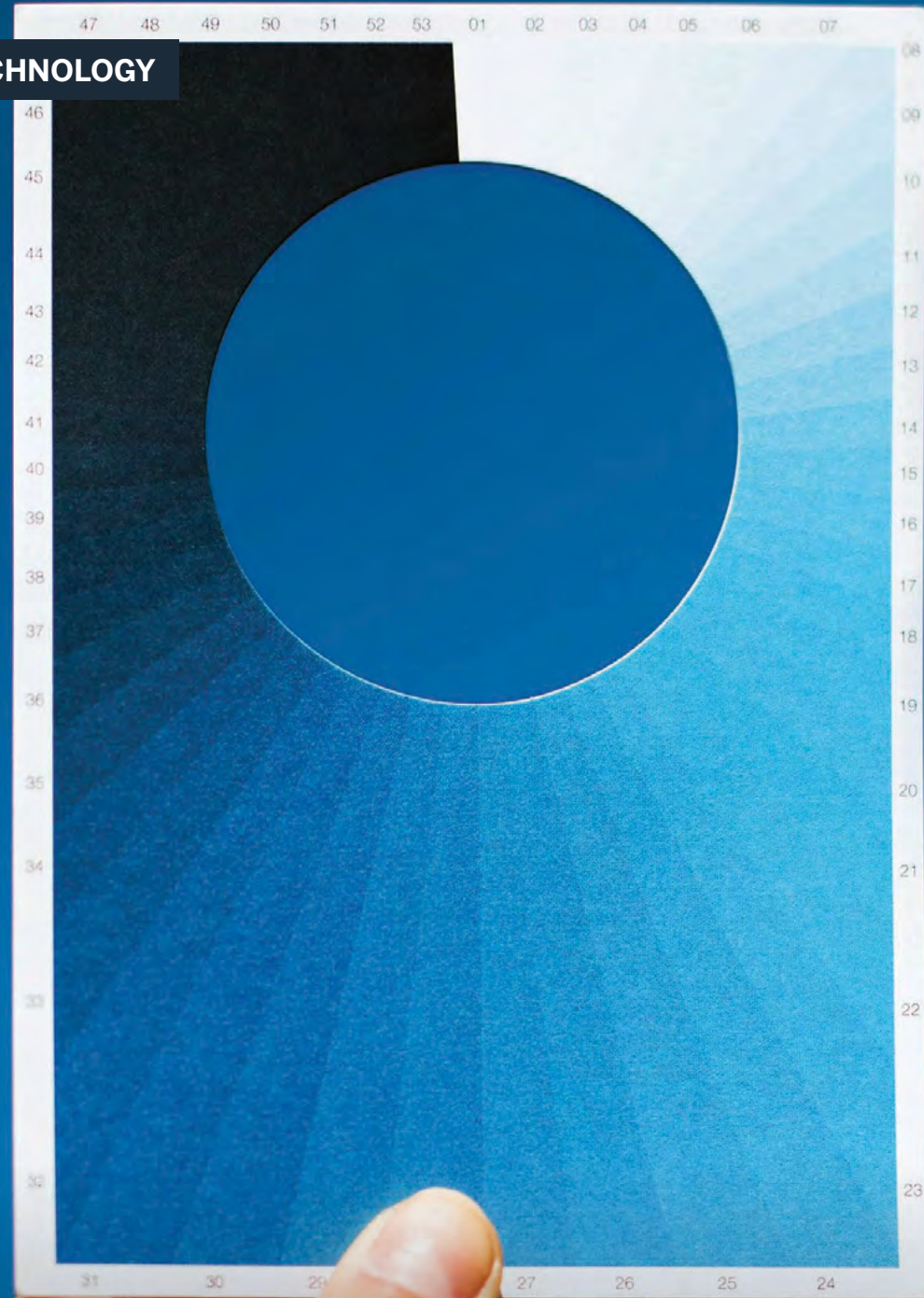
Salcedo had secured support in 2020 from the Graham Foundation to map the Jaguar Corridor, informing a subsequent seminar taught at UT Austin and la Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. In 2024, the same foundation funded Salcedo's exhibition, "Jaguar Lens," considering urban-driven biodiversity loss and humans' inability to cohabitate with other species.

"I have developed a cartography of interconnection that makes visible the entanglements and frictions between the processes of urbanization and the Jaguar Corridor," Salcedo wrote. "This has involved correlating the corridor with public data about the transformations and socioenvironmental struggles symptomatic of urbanization processes."

She also acknowledged the corridor's interactions with human life, noting that many towns and cities overlapping with the corridor have yet to acknowledge its needs in public policy, despite roughly 87 million people living

within 60 kilometers of the designated area. "The corridor is both a stronghold against urbanization and a deeply contested territory where Indigenous communities and other marginalized populations have struggled for environmental justice and their right to live in these territories," Salcedo wrote. "These areas of friction can also be potential opportunities to reformulate the terms of cohabitation and to cultivate landscapes for the sustenance of human and non-human lives."





COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

International Artworks Address Relationships with AI

In the exhibition “A Well-trained Eye” at UT Austin’s Visual Arts Center, the diverse range of artworks — spanning photography, drawing, video, and installation — shared one aspect in common: Each examined how technical systems mediate our relationship with ourselves, the environment, and one another, fundamentally shaping the way we see.

The bold artworks also conversely explored how the human urge to categorize informs the development of AI technologies, teaching machines how to see the world.

“We have a tendency to organize and compartmentalize so much of our experiences as a means of tricking ourselves into believing

we understand — and in turn, control — the world around us,” said curator María Emilia Fernández.

The exhibition, which coincided with UT’s Year of AI, featured contemporary works by 13 artists from the Americas and Europe.

Macarena Ruiz-Tagle, ‘Cyanometer Postcard.’ Photo by Franziska Strauss

Assistant Professor Appointed to International AI Panel

Communication Studies Assistant Professor Samatha Shorey won an essay competition in 2023 that landed her a seat on the AI100 study panel, an international roster of AI researchers with expertise in computer science, sociology, ethics, and economics.

Administered by the Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, the panel is charged with writing a report every five years that explores the state and future of artificial intelligence and its influences on society.

Besting more than 50 applicants from 18 countries, Shorey’s essay addressed the complexity of integrating AI into the workplace.

“This is an incredible honor, to be working alongside so many scholars whom I have read and looked to their research for so long,” Shorey said. “The folks on the committee are people I would be honored to be on a call with for 10 minutes, and now I get to work alongside them. They are titans in their field.”

“Essential workers are dually impacted by AI. They are the people most likely to be tasked with managing AI’s initial inadequacies and most likely to be displaced when AI’s capabilities are fully realized.”

Samatha Shorey, Assistant Professor, Moody College of Communication



COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

South African Dance Company Explores Grief Onstage

Texas Performing Arts presented the Texas debut of South Africa's Vuyani Dance Theatre in April 2023 at Bass Concert Hall. The critically acclaimed dancework "Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero" was created by Soweto-born Gregory Maqoma, the dance company's executive and artistic director.

"I saw a production of 'Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero' before the pandemic and have wanted to bring it to Austin ever since," said Texas Performing Arts Executive and Artistic Director Bob Bursey. "It is a spectacular and unforgettable work of art that incorporates dance, theater, opera, and vocal elements to transport the viewer to another world."

After reading "Ways of Dying" and "Cion" by South African novelist and playwright Zakes Mda, Maqoma — himself an internationally

renowned dancer and choreographer — created his own celebrated work on the topic. The novel's character Toloki appears onstage, a professional mourner weaving his way through a cemetery, leading dancers and spectators alike through the catharsis of universal grief.

"When I created the work, so many innocent people were dying in my country," said Maqoma. "'Cion' was born out of that: a lament, a requiem to remember those who continue to die."

Instead of a full orchestra for the piece, four vocalists made use of *isicathamiya*, an a cappella singing style that originated in migrant South African Zulu communities. The dancers provided percussion and vocal additions.

French composer Maurice Ravel's 1928 work "Bolero" was not originally created as a requiem — its title references the Spanish dance and musical form — but when Maqoma heard the repetitive melody and insistent swells, he envisioned a funeral procession.

"Everyone has experienced death in one way or another; there's no one way of dealing with death," said Maqoma. "My hope is that everyone can find some form of healing by experiencing their own grief while watching it."

“

For as long as we continue to experience war... we need reminders to awaken the sense of humanity to prevail over everything.

Gregory Maqoma, Executive and Artistic Director, Vuyani Dance Theatre

Vuyani Dance Theatre performs 'Cion: Requiem of Ravel's Bolero.' Photo by John Hogg



BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

Blanton Museum Spotlights Latino Art

On the heels of a groundbreaking artwork acquisition, UT Austin's Blanton Museum of Art welcomed Claudia Zapata as the museum's first associate curator of Latino art.

During a 2023 initiative to highlight Latino art, the Blanton acquired more than 5,000 works from the Gilberto Cárdenas and Dolores García Collection, one of the largest private

collections of Chicano and Latino art in the world.

The collection's significance for the Blanton cannot be overstated, said Zapata. This effort was organized in part to celebrate Austin's growing Latino community, which makes up nearly one-third of the city's population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Besides developing educational and exhibition programming, Zapata began training the next generation of historians of Chicano and Latino art. The initiative also supported the creation of the associate curator position, which is fundamental to research and presentation at the museum.

“The Blanton is leading the charge for museums with their new permanent Latino art galleries, demanding space for this significant contribution to American art. We aim to make this institution the preeminent site for Latino art study and appreciation, serving local to international communities.

Claudia Zapata, Associate Curator of Latino Art, Blanton Museum of Art

HARRY RANSOM CENTER

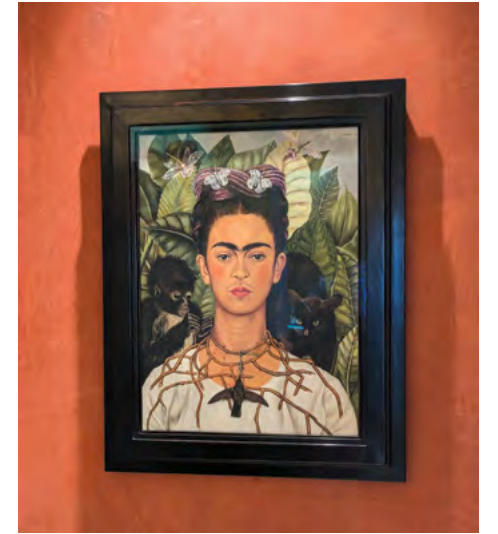
Kahlo Self-Portrait Comes Home from Abroad

Frida Kahlo's painting "Self-Portrait with Thorn Necklace and Hummingbird" returned home in March 2023 to the Harry Ransom Center. The Mexican artist's revered artwork had been on loan for the previous five months at an art museum in South Africa.

UT Austin acquired the celebrated self-portrait in 1965 from the collection of photographer Nickolas Muray, Kahlo's friend and lover who purchased the painting to help Kahlo during a difficult financial period.

"When it was offered [to UT Austin], the main selling point of the collection was not Frida Kahlo at all," explained Ransom Center curator Tracy Bonfitto. "She was a little-known artist at the time."

Exhibited previously in countless museums in the United States as well as other countries including Australia, Canada, France, Spain, and Italy, the self-portrait will hang in the Ransom Center's lobby for the foreseeable future.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Iñapari Unveiled: Documenting an Endangered Language

Fourth-year Ph.D. student Barrett Hamp has conducted fieldwork since 2018 in Sabaluyoc, a village that sits on a bend in the Las Piedras River in the heart of the Peruvian jungle. Supported by the Department of Linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts, he is determined to preserve the unique and disappearing language of Iñapari.

Hamp visited the remote settlement on multiple occasions between 2018 and 2023, working to document and describe the endangered local language. His collaborators are two of only four individuals in the entire world who still speak the language. Outcomes of the work will support their pursuit of recognition as a distinctive Indigenous entity by the Peruvian government.

As few academic efforts have addressed the area and its people, Hamp's research likely represents the last hope of preserving Iñapari's linguistic nuances and cultural tapestry.



Barrett Hamp (right) with Iñapari speakers.

“Before I began working with the Iñapari speakers, there were only two academic papers, published in the '90s, describing pretty preliminary observations about the language. So every time I work with them, I am recording and documenting phenomena that have never been written down before.

Barrett Hamp, Ph.D. Candidate, Linguistics



Gioconda Belli speaks at the Benson Latin American Collection. Photo by Travis Willmann

BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LIBRARIES

Benson Acquires Archives of Latin American Political, Poetic, Literary Voices

The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection has expanded its holdings of archival materials and rare books related to Latin American cultural history. The addition of numerous archives belonging to renowned writers has significantly enhanced the collection, making it an invaluable resource for research.

The archives of Nicaraguan literary giant Gioconda Belli came to the Benson in 2023. Due to her vocal activism, Belli was among hundreds of Nicaraguan citizens stripped of citizenship and exiled from the country. During a public lecture at the Benson in 2024, she spoke about the heartache of leaving her homeland, unsure when and if she would return, as well as details of seeking safe passage for her archives to Texas.

By opening access to Belli's work interrogating the Nicaraguan political and cultural landscape, the Benson provided an opportunity to view her many novels, memoir, essays, and poetry collections alongside other works at risk in their countries of origin.

The Benson acquired the archives of two more giants of Latin American literature in 2024: groundbreaking Peruvian poet César Vallejo and Paraguayan giant of the "Latin American Boom," Augusto Roa Bastos.

Vallejo's work expresses universal themes through his painful experiences as a prison inmate, witness of the Spanish Civil War, and expatriate political activist. Works by Vallejo were included in the Benson's 2024 exhibition, "Poems, Magazines & Manifestos: Exploring

Literary Vanguardism in Early 20th-Century Latin America," which delved into the artistic movement that produced some of Latin America's most celebrated writers.

Augusto Roa Bastos is Paraguay's most celebrated author, writing in a wide variety of genres, including poetry, short prose, essays, and screenplays. He spent more than four decades in exile to escape the dictatorships of Higinio Morínigo and Alfredo Stroessner. Nonetheless, he celebrated themes of bilingualism (Spanish and Guaraní) and collective memory in his life and creative work.

MOODY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

Photo Gallery Features Scenes from the Border

Moody College unveiled its new Photojournalism Gallery in 2023 with an exhibition featuring David Bacon, renowned photo documentarian of labor and immigration issues on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In the exhibition "More than a Wall," stirring photos portrayed social movements in factories and fields. Working with the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations and Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, Bacon captured stark images of deportees and Indigenous groups forming unions to demand better pay.

"These are incredibly impactful photos that allow you to feel the feelings of the people and get a sense of the place, fostering a sense of empathy, which is journalism at its best," said Journalism Associate Professor Donna DeCesare.

The exhibition, displayed at the new gallery in the G.B. Dealey Center for New Media, illustrated the school's commitment to a distinguished photojournalism program, with work spanning generations and borders to make a global impact.



Photo from 'More than a Wall / Más que un Muro' collection by David Bacon

Advancing Global Partnerships

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to creating and strengthening strategic connections across the globe. By leveraging partnerships with almost 200 institutions, governments, and organizations in nearly 50 countries, we cultivate entrepreneurship, foster transnational collaboration, and bridge cultural barriers. Our global connections amplify our mutual impact as we exchange ideas and conduct research that has the power to change the world.





TEXAS GLOBAL

Grants Deepen University's Global Engagement

To advance the University's academic mission and propel faculty career journeys, Texas Global supports faculty engaged in international research, teaching, publishing, and event collaborations. Since 2020, nearly 125 faculty members across 17 colleges and schools have received more than \$1.3 million for global engagement initiatives.

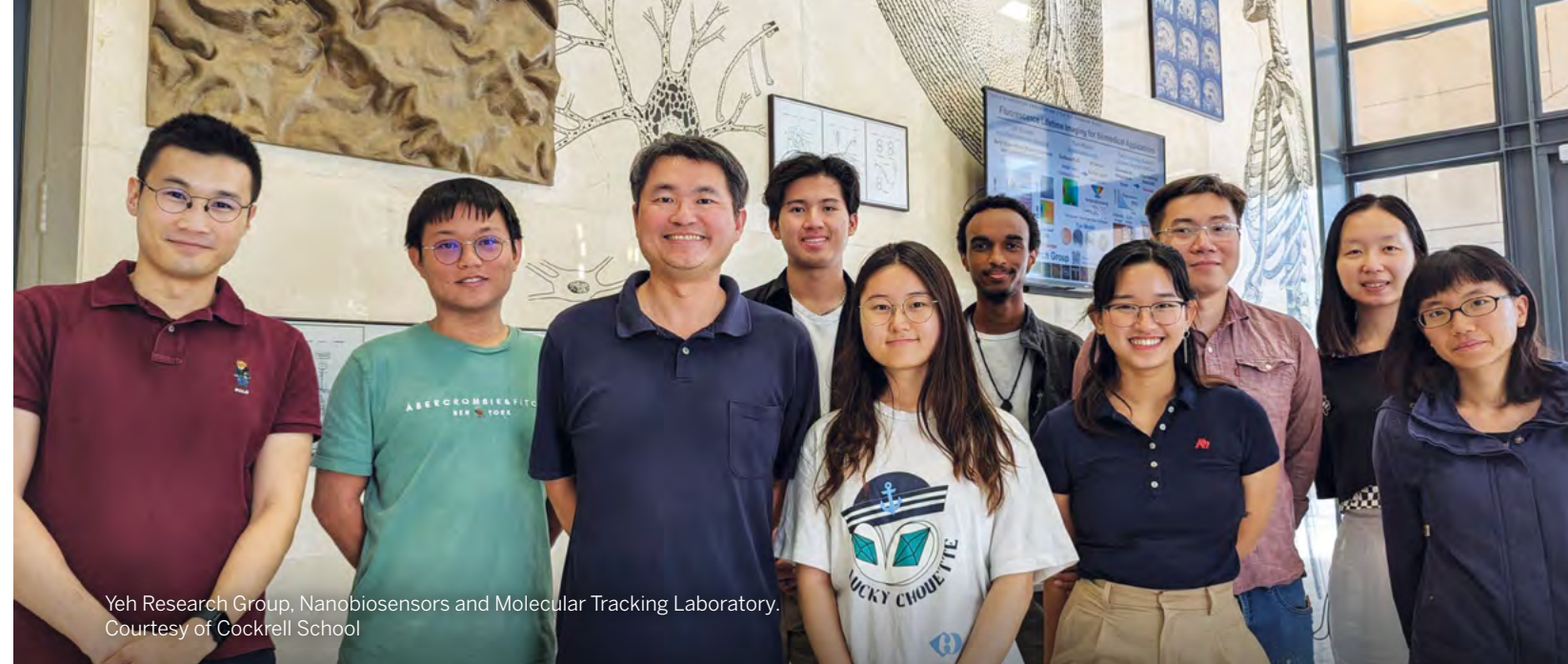
Furthering the University's pursuit of becoming the highest-impact public research university in the world, Texas Global offers Faculty Research Seed Grants that encourage UT faculty to work with international partners on exploring new ways to address global challenges. To further support these multinational collaborations, Travel Planning Grants assist faculty in seeking further funding opportunities to establish interdisciplinary connections abroad.

Honoring the University's commitment to cultivate future leaders who can solve problems in a dynamic world, Global Career Launch allows faculty to lead students in high-impact internship and research experiences abroad. Global Virtual Exchange assists the co-creation of innovative Collaborative Online International Learning courses with faculty peers worldwide to foster virtual international experiences for students.



Luisa Gil Fandino. Courtesy of College of Natural Sciences

Left: Particles of Color exhibition at the Texas Science & Natural History Museum



Yeh Research Group, Nanobiosensors and Molecular Tracking Laboratory. Courtesy of Cockrell School

Texas Global grants also facilitate scholarly pursuits and foster awareness of UT's vast international connections on the Forty Acres. The Internationalization Event Fund bolsters high-impact, globally oriented events reaching broad, diverse audiences on campus. The Publication Fund encourages dissemination of knowledge for multinational audiences through publications in languages besides English, equipping the UT community with the greater intercultural understanding necessary for making a positive impact around the globe.

"These grant opportunities support UT faculty, deepen existing linkages, and create new partnerships, thereby expanding our global reach while providing pathways for our faculty to advance their teaching and research," said Sonia Feigenbaum, senior vice provost for global engagement.



Mary Jo Kirisits. Courtesy of Cockrell School

TEXAS GLOBAL GRANT FUNDING (2020-2024)

\$1.67
MILLION AWARDED

165
FACULTY MEMBERS

17 COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

230 GRANT-FUNDED INITIATIVES

60 PARTNER COUNTRIES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Career Launch Forges Connections Abroad

When anthropology and government double major Joe Eduard Rucker worked with Professor Michael Mosser at UT's Global Disinformation Lab, Mosser invited the student to join his 2023 project in Frankfurt (Oder), Germany, offered through the Global Career Launch: Faculty-Driven Internship program.

Global Career Launch is an international internship framework funded by Texas Global that allows faculty to lead students in high-impact work and research experiences abroad.

Mosser's research asked: How can we access responsibly sourced and accurate information, communication, and speech when

disinformation floods the internet? Input from key collaborator Jürgen Neyer, the pioneering artificial intelligence researcher, enhanced the project.

Neyer is the founding director of the European New School of Digital Studies, an international teaching and research institution uniting the University of Viadrina in Germany and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland. Rucker benefited from Neyer's expertise in the ethics, creation, and implementation of AI, also absorbing knowledge via cultural exchange, such as European and global approaches to information and emerging technologies.



The Altstadt in Frankfurt, Germany



Photo composite of the cities of Daejeon and Austin

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Virtual Exchange Shares Knowledge with Korean University

Texas Global is committed to providing a pathway for all Longhorns to experience transformative international education opportunities. In some cases, when a student is unable to travel, a Global Virtual Exchange (GVE) is the answer.

For example, thanks to a GVE grant, Professor Alice McCoy-Bae in the Center for East Asian Studies taught an online language course in Third-Year Korean. UT students learned alongside counterparts from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in Daejeon, South Korea. Both groups attended virtual classes together during the Fall 2022 semester, exploring the Korean and English languages in discussions about culture and campus life.

GVE course development grants support faculty members at UT Austin and partner institutions in envisioning and implementing exchanges, thus furthering the University's collaborative efforts around the world. Grant recipients receive instructional assistance via workshops, faculty learning communities, and networking events.

“ *With the exchange, [students'] understanding is not limited to the textbook knowledge. It goes beyond what's written in the textbook by interacting with students from the authentic culture and expanding their worldview.*

*Alice McCoy-Bae, Assistant Professor of Instruction,
College of Liberal Arts*



TEXAS GLOBAL
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS PRESS

Historic Delegation Cultivates International Partnerships

The largest international delegation in UT Austin history traveled to Mexico City in 2023 to participate in La Feria Internacional del Libro de las Universitarias y los Universitarios, known widely as FILUNI.

UT Austin was invited as the first university from the United States to co-host the annual book festival and conference, which featured university presses from across the Americas and Europe. The six-day event attracted 42,000 attendees to the host campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

The delegation of Longhorns included more than 140 faculty members, students, performers, campus leaders, staff members,

and alumni representing 23 colleges, schools, and units. The University led and participated in 54 roundtable discussions, research symposia, live podcast recordings, musical performances, film screenings, and exhibitions.

“The myriad activities at FILUNI showcased the work of our faculty researchers, authors, and artists across Mexico and the United States,” said Sonia Feigenbaum, UT’s senior vice provost for global engagement. “FILUNI represented a bolstering of historical ties and shared cultural influences between our countries. UT Austin’s engagement with UNAM and Mexico spans decades of collaborations, and we’re deeply honored to be the first U.S. institution to partner on this impactful project.”

UT Austin’s participation served as a dynamic platform to broaden the scope and strengthen the robust relationship between UT Austin and UNAM as well as other institutions of higher education and university presses in the region. While in Mexico City, deans and other leaders met with colleagues from across the Americas to exchange perspectives and assess potential collaborations.

“I was pleased to be part of the largest contingent of UT Austin faculty, staff, and students ever to travel abroad together,” said Celeste González de Bustamante, then-associate dean for global initiatives in the Moody College of Communication. “As someone who has a longstanding relationship with academics in various parts of Mexico,



Alumni event at Museo Nacional de Antropología

“

We are on a journey to move past our own opinions and learning, and seek a broader vision. Each of us wants to change the world, to make it a better place, and this conference is an excellent place to work toward that goal together.

Jay Hartzell, President, The University of Texas at Austin



Participants enjoy presentations at FILUNI 2023



Nathaniel Brickens (foreground right) with UT Trombone Choir

STRATEGIC COLLABORATIONS



UT Press with university librarians



Miró Quartet performs at FILUNI 2023



Sean Gulick (right) presents at FILUNI 2023

I hope that UT's participation in FILUNI will inspire even deeper and broader collaborations across both universities."

FILUNI 2023 programming was developed around the research pillars of UT's 10-year strategic plan. Change Starts Here. Themes included society and technology; health and well-being; energy and the environment; and culture and the arts.

Formal sessions and informal conversations among delegation participants promoted many strategic plan objectives. From research and faculty partnerships to master classes and student exchanges, FILUNI set the stage for new and enriched academic connections across disciplines and beyond borders. The momentum precipitated by these historic connections between UT Austin and UNAM will yield continued tangible outcomes in Mexico and the region for years to come.

"FILUNI is a testament to the robust collaborations we have with peers in Mexico and Latin America," said then-Executive Vice President and Provost Sharon Wood. "Partnerships are essential to meeting our collective goals. Working together leads to critical research connections and transformative student experiences, and opens the doors of our University to talented scholars, students, and experts from around the world."



Deans from UT Austin's colleges and schools

“

As we continue to advance the global reach of the University, Mexico is crucial as our neighbor, friend, and partner. We share a border, history, language, culture, and community, and we never cease the exchange of people and knowledge.

Sonia Feigenbaum, Senior Vice Provost for Global Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin

FILUNI BY THE NUMBERS

42,000
ATTENDEES

92 UT AUSTIN PRESENTERS
WITH **95 PEERS** FROM LATIN
AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

100,000
BOOKS FOR
PURCHASE

140 UT AUSTIN PARTICIPANTS
FROM **23 COLLEGES,**
SCHOOLS, AND UNITS

“ This program provides truly a 360-degree view of being an entrepreneur. Global interconnectivity is crucial in learning where we can all complement each other. I look forward to taking this message to Saudi.

Safiah Labani, Saudi Women Entrepreneurs Initiative



Texas Global staff (left) with Safiah Labani, Noor Andejani, and Sara Alattas

TEXAS GLOBAL

Saudi Women Entrepreneurs Thrive in Austin as Network Ambassadors

Three entrepreneurs from across Saudi Arabia — Sara Alattas from Jeddah, Noor Andejani from Dhahran, and Safiah Labani from Riyadh — made their first trip to Texas after being named network ambassadors for Texas Global’s Saudi Women Entrepreneurs Networking and Mentorship Initiative. The three were selected to visit UT Austin in May 2024 and continued promoting women’s entrepreneurship in Saudi Arabia thereafter.

Facilitated by the University’s Global Innovation Lab (GIL) in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah and Blossom Accelerator, the program generates business opportunities throughout Saudi Arabia

while tethering new Saudi hubs to global entrepreneurship networks.

The ambassadors traveled to Texas to take advantage of exclusive weeklong programming, join entrepreneurial training sessions, and engage in networking opportunities with Austin industry experts and mentors.

“The objectives of the program are to support and foster connection among women entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia, as women have a seat at the table now to venture into business opportunities they have not had before,” said Aimee Reed, GIL assistant program manager.

Reed was confident that the ambassadors would continue to serve as catalysts for change in their country, building upon and engaging with the 300-member group already established throughout Saudi Arabia by the networking initiative.

She added, “The goal for Texas Global is to provide women entrepreneurs a network of like-minded women where they feel supported. Building a sense of community has been essential so the women do not feel they have to travel the entrepreneurial road alone.”

TEXAS GLOBAL

ATX+Singapore Optimizes Robotics Company

Ajmal Thahseen wants everyone to have robots — and he wants his company, Doozy Robotics, to build them. With the help of an entrepreneurship program at UT Austin, the robotics firm began to achieve that dream.

Launched in 2022 and funded by the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, the ATX+Singapore Entrepreneurship program supports emerging business leaders with training, insight, and best practices.

For Thahseen, it was exactly the type of opportunity Doozy needed. Based in Singapore with a branch in India, the company operated in countries across South and Southeast Asia, supplying robots to the hospitality, logistics, manufacturing, and health care industries.

Doozy first joined Singapore’s Pollinate incubator, the in-country implementation partner working with Texas Global’s

ATX+Singapore program. Pollinate encouraged Thahseen to apply to the UT Austin program.

Selected from among 40 applications for the program, 10 startups attended a workshop in Singapore, then enrolled in the Texas Global Innovation Readiness® training program for online mentoring with business experts in Austin. Nine modules addressed topics including market validation, assessing competition, and pitching innovations, as well as marketing, protecting intellectual property, and more.

After completing the program’s “Shark Tank”-style competition, Doozy Robotics was selected to participate in the March 2023 SXSW Interactive Conference, offering Thahseen an opportunity to introduce his company to Austin’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

He arrived in Texas with a clear goal in mind: networking. Accompanied by Texas Global staff, he visited potential investors and sites around the area. When Thahseen met with Sisu Robotics, the conversation bloomed with potential. Noting that Sisu’s applications range from cinematic projects to industrial automation to building components, Thahseen said, “They’re basically the service integrator we’re looking for.”

Thahseen continued to work with ATX+Singapore during subsequent months, cultivating the relationships initiated at UT Austin and SXSW, and developing plans to address Doozy Robotics’ needs as the company progresses and grows.



Courtesy of Doozy Robotics

McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
TEXAS GLOBAL

Young Entrepreneurs Find Empowerment on the Forty Acres

Hundreds of emerging entrepreneurs from around the world bring optimism, innovation, and unique perspectives to campus every summer for region-specific Young Leaders initiatives sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The Global Programs and Innovation unit at Texas Global partners with international education organizations and government agencies to design immersive training programs, challenging new business leaders to enhance their entrepreneurial skills, broaden their perspectives, and expand their networks.

MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP
YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE

I applied for the entrepreneurship program because I realized that while I possessed technical skills, I needed to sharpen my business prowess. I also appreciated the fact that the opportunity would open doors to interaction with other African leaders in business and afford me the chance to make business connections in the United States and beyond.

Leslie Wellington Sirora,
Tech Consultancy Entrepreneur, Zimbabwe



YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE
PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

UT Austin is a safe space for creative, innovative, and impactful ideas that you can converse with your mentors and peers. It is within those circles of the Longhorn community that these ideas are incubated and eventually implemented to [become] something that can truly change the world.

Allesandra Michaela P. Gutierrez, Co-Founder/
Operations Director, REPAMANA, Philippines



YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE

I learned about growing my self-esteem and being confident in the value of my work. The professors and supporting team were amazing. I think the network we created will help me get through every goal in my business.

Shams Selouma, Creator,
The Feminist Incubator, Argentina

YOUNG SOUTHEAST ASIAN LEADERS INITIATIVE
ACADEMIC PROGRAM

I was drawn to the program's hands-on approach and the opportunity to work on real-world business challenges, especially receiving feedback for my currently running social enterprise. The prospect of collaborating with diverse international fellows and learning from successful entrepreneurs in Austin was highly appealing.

Prisa Senduangdeth, COO, Cofarm Agritech,
Lao People's Democratic Republic



TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Innovation Lab Facilitates Multimillion-Dollar Biomed Commitment

The Global Innovation Lab (GIL) at The University of Texas at Austin orchestrated a United States joint venture company agreement that stands to raise \$35 million for an innovative new product, which would mark the largest financial commitment achieved in the lab's decades-long history.

The agreement, facilitated by GIL at Texas Global and signed by Medicos Biotech and Rokline Health Concepts, surrounds Medicos' breakthrough biosynthetic spider silk protein-based wound healing patches that were developed to efficiently treat open wounds, pressure ulcers, and severe burns.

Medicos, a health care startup from South Korea, and Rokline, a Houston medical company, signed the agreement in Seoul in

June 2024, officially creating the joint venture MediRok, which will be located in Houston.

"It is certainly gratifying to be part of the largest initial upfront deal and investment commitment in the 24-year history of the Global Innovation Lab," said John O'Neill, GIL program manager. "But, much more importantly, no financial return can ever be as fulfilling as being part of the development and introduction of a lifesaving technology. GIL is proud to contribute to and be part of UT Austin's slogan: What starts here changes the world."

This deal was facilitated by GIL in partnership with a longtime partner, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST). Through the GlobalUP Program, established

in 2010, Texas Global and KAIST recruit and evaluate high-impact startups. Selected startups then visit UT Austin as GIL and KAIST build relationships with them in the U.S. and other global markets, performing market research and international business development services.

"Texas Global efficiently developed the business side of the spider silk protein wound-healing patches," said Sooncheol Daniel Kim, president of Medicos Biotech. "They sought and identified possible candidates for our product. I was introduced to a few companies, but Medicos and Rokline felt instinctual. We talked for more than one year, and UT Austin helped us through each development from the first meeting."

“

The primary benefit that we provide in all of the countries we work in is the training and education of any country's most valuable resource — its people — then, directing them toward the development or improvement of their region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

John O'Neill, Program Manager, Global Innovation Lab



Partners from Medicos Biotech (left) and Rokline Health Concepts

TEXAS GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS (2020-2024)

20 PROGRAMS

313 ENTREPRENEURS

66 COUNTRIES



TEXAS GLOBAL

Symposium Expands Perspectives on Careers in Asia

Texas Global hosted more than 125 participants of the Global Professional Training: East and Southeast Asia Symposium, designed to equip students with resources for seeking an international career. The one-day symposium in January 2023 featured workshops, an information fair, and interactive panels with experts leading discussions on Asia's geopolitical and socioeconomic trends.

"It is absolutely eye-opening to see how much potential there is in the global market," student participant Ivy Fan said. "As a biology major, I will definitely look into minors and special programs where I can utilize more global perspectives and intercultural skills."

Texas Global focused symposium goals around expanding perspectives and helping students

access a stronger cultural and historical knowledge of East and Southeast Asia. The programming aimed to build an understanding of the professional skills necessary to succeed in new cultural settings, as well as strategies for identifying emerging industries and professional opportunities across the region. Participants were encouraged to begin building a network among the attending peers, professionals, and academics who shared interests in the region.

In celebration of the imminent Lunar New Year, guests enjoyed a performance by the Texas Southern Sea Dragon and Lion Dance Crew, which was founded in 2022 to preserve and spread the art of traditional dragon and lion dance across Austin.

Texas Global hosted faculty and students from Hiroshima University, who were on campus for the Global Innovation Lab's Austin Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Enrichment Experience.

"I loved getting to talk to visitors from Hiroshima University and learning about entrepreneurship in Japan," senior Sabrina Chuan said.

The GPT East and Southeast Asia program, which was also held in 2024, continues its ongoing pursuit of helping students to develop marketable skills; explore relevant program, coursework, and career options; and identify professional opportunities in the East and Southeast Asia region.



Participants and staff at GPT East and Southeast Asia

“ Before this event, I looked at the differences and distance between Asia and the U.S. as barriers and obstacles. However, after the conference, I now recognize them as opportunities ... These challenges can be solved with creative entrepreneurship and global leaders.

Ivy Fan, Class of '26, Biology



Texas Southern Sea Dragon and Lion Dance Crew



TEXAS GLOBAL

Global Summer Institute Flourishes with International Faculty

In 2024, the Texas Global English Language Center (ELC) launched the Global Summer Institute (GSI), an innovative pilot program focused on experiential learning and cultural exploration.

Demonstrating the University's commitment to hands-on learning and cross-cultural dialogue, GSI offers a rigorous four-week academic session with course options taught by UT Austin and visiting faculty members from around the world.

In addition to students from the United States, the GSI welcomed 155 international students from 57 institutions in China, England, Mexico, Thailand, and Taiwan to the Forty Acres. Participants enrolled in courses taught by seven UT Austin professors, four faculty

members from nearby universities, and four visiting faculty from universities in Mexico and Argentina. This faculty cohort provided diverse academic and cultural insights that deeply enriched the program.

Program participants select two from among 14 content courses across the fields of business, history, communications, engineering, computer science, and psychology. Additional English language courses, taught by ELC instructors, hone language skills including oral communication, reading, vocabulary development, note-taking, and academic writing.

Students gain hands-on experience in their selected fields of study by networking with faculty members and industry experts,

immersing themselves in the U.S. academic language and culture and receiving instruction on the country's university admissions process. Participants also attain opportunities to explore UT Austin's world-class research facilities via campus tours.

GSI visiting faculty benefit from their own participation as well, experiencing hands-on engagement with the U.S. higher education system and academic culture. They teach courses in their academic specialties while networking with UT Austin and fellow international scholars and enjoy access to the University's world-renowned research facilities and campus libraries.

“

In the inaugural year of the Global Summer Institute, we were thrilled to witness students and professors connecting intellectually, culturally, and individually. GSI truly exemplifies UT's slogan: What starts here changes the world.

Michael Smith, Director, English Language Center

Colombian Scholar Embraces Career and Culture

After completing undergraduate studies in computer science and software engineering in South America, Colombian graduate student Maria (they/them, first name only by request) wanted to pursue a master's degree in the United States, but the process felt daunting, and culture shock seemed a certainty.

Fortunately, they learned about UT Austin's resources to help international students and scholars navigate the U.S. higher education system, including the Academic English

Program (AEP) run by UT Austin's English Language Center (ELC). The center offers numerous English language programs and social events to help international students and scholars reach desired proficiency levels and find community across campus.

The Academic English Program is a full-time, intensive track designed to enhance students' academic vocabulary. Besides English reading, writing, speaking, and grammar, students learn essential skills for achieving success in

graduate school, such as formatting scholarly papers and giving technical presentations.

After finishing the AEP course, Maria enrolled in the ELC's advanced-level English Language Program, which focuses on preparing students for work and daily life in the United States. They subsequently enrolled in UT Austin's School of Information and are currently working on a master's degree in data science.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER BY THE NUMBERS (2020-2024)

1,467
PARTICIPANTS

55
COUNTRIES

17
AVERAGE TEACHER
TENURE (YEARS)

SOUTH CONGRESS



McCOMBS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
TEXAS GLOBAL

Japanese Student Discovers Passion for the English Language

In 2022, Hinako Nakayama and nine other Japanese students participated in a 13-week collaboration between Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) and UT Austin's English Language Center (ELC). In Austin, they took English classes, audited University courses, and worked at internships with campus and community organizations.

As Nakayama took English classes in speaking, listening, writing, and grammar, she appreciated the hands-on ways the ELC taught vocabulary through context. When the class finished a unit on law, for example, the professor took students to a courthouse to watch a trial in action. These methods struck a chord for her.

Internship placements offered an avenue for APU students to build relationships, experience a taste of U.S. work life, and

develop their language and cultural skills on the job. Nakayama began to understand American workplace norms while working with the University's event planning department.

Social interactions provided further context and community. When Nakayama introduced herself to the class in her audited course, an American student learning Japanese offered to help her with the classwork. They began meeting to study outside of class.

“ *It is my team's job to make [visiting students] feel at home through these experiences ... The more they get comfortable with that during the semester, the more I see them develop in other ways. They come out of their shell.*

Rachelle Bumgardner, Special Programs Coordinator, English Language Center

Students Embrace Service-Learning in Puerto Rico

For a group of eight Saudi Arabian students, a week in Puerto Rico helping rebuild a community devastated by a hurricane became the highlight of a year of cultural immersion and academic exploration. The lessons they learned on the island made it the most transformative time of their lives.

“It was one of the most beautiful places on Earth,” said participant Abdulmalik Al Qahtani. “I loved that trip to Puerto Rico because it showed us how this culture works and how our help could change the lives of the Puerto Ricans affected by the storms.”

The SABIC Foundation Year Program provides scholarships for high-achieving recent high school graduates in Saudi Arabia to study at a university in the United States for 10 months, gaining skills that support college preparedness, leadership, and public service. The students then complete bachelor's degree programs in the U.S. before returning home to

work for five years at Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), one of the world's largest petrochemical manufacturers.

UT Austin has been a key partner for SABIC since 2010, via the University's English Language Center. During the 2022-2023 academic year, coursework focused on STEM topics taught by UT Austin professors, as well as college readiness practices and English language learning, augmented by the service-learning project in Puerto Rico.

“ *Being in a group where everybody does their job collectively has a big impact on the lives of others.*

Abdulmalik Al Qahtani, Participant, SABIC Foundation Year Program



ELC faculty and SABIC students in Puerto Rico

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Design Note: Mandalas

Mandalas express symbolic and meditative meanings for societies worldwide, as in the forms of Celtic knotwork, Native American medicine wheels, European labyrinths, Mayan calendars, Tibetan Buddhist sand mandalas, and myriad others. Often understood to represent the journey toward unity within opposition or the individual within the universe, the mandala is a fitting visual symbol to represent the interconnected complexity of global education portrayed in this report.

Photo by Octavio Kano-Galván



Texas Global

Texas Global advances UT Austin's academic mission by leading, supporting, and coordinating the University's international engagement efforts, fostering strategic partnerships on campus and abroad, supporting a vibrant community of international students and scholars, and creating opportunities for students, faculty, and alumni to engage with peers and institutions around the world.

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