



See page 2

PEOPLE AND INTERESTS



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Jessica Sanchez, director of Student Advocacy Services, joined UTA in 2018 as the assistant director for the Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and LGBTQ+ Program. Sanchez currently overlooks those two programs, along with the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Maverick Pantry programs.

‘A beautiful, messy, complex journey’: director overcomes childhood struggles

Jessica Sanchez aims to empower students through her experience

BY DANG LE

The Shorthorn editor-in-chief

Jessica Sanchez wasn’t just sad when she became a first-generation student at the predominantly-white University of Nebraska-Lincoln — she was “really angry.” Her parents, who had comforted her through the

bullies in elementary school, could no longer answer her questions and feelings. She knew it wasn’t their fault, but she couldn’t control the bubbling frustration.

“I was angry because my parents couldn’t answer any of my questions,” said Sanchez, UTA’s director of Stu-

dent Advocacy Services. “I was angry because I just felt like there was very little guidance across the board, and it was one of those feelings of, ‘Well, I wish my parents would have went to college.’”

But Sanchez turned that anger into resilience as she started leaning on forms of

support on campus. She secured scholarships and financial aid, reached out to resources and tutoring centers, then found her community in the Latina sorority Lambda Theta Nu, she said.

She had to.

SANCHEZ continues on page 7

ELECTION 2022 COVERAGE

Howdy Mavericks! *The Shorthorn* will be keeping track of the 2022 Elections online. Some races to keep an eye on include: The Texas governor’s race between incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Beto O’Rourke. The City of Arlington Proposition A, where voters can vote “for” or “against” lengthening city council terms from two years to three years. This includes city council members and the mayor. For Tarrant County Commissioners Court, Republican Andy Nguyen runs against Democrat Alisa Simmons for the commissioner’s seat in Precinct 2. Democratic candidate Deborah Peoples runs against Republican candidate Tim O’Hare for county judge.

ONLINE

Check out The Shorthorn’s newly-updated website to keep up with our election coverage.



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Preparing floats for Homecoming

Bedford resident Clyde Watts, 71, pieces together a sign for a float at Lone Star Parade Floats on Nov. 3 in Dallas. Watts said he works on multiple jobs at the shop. **Read story on page 6.**

CONSTRUCTION

3 years later, new building approaches completion

The new School of Social Work and Smart Hospital building is nearly ready for students to pour into next spring.

BY ASHLEY HUBBARD
The Shorthorn staff

Following years of development, the School of Social Work and Smart Hospital building is near completion and will be ready for classes at the beginning of spring 2023. The project, which is

located on West Mitchell Street and costs about \$76 million, will create a space to combine the Smart Hospital and the School of Social Work building, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. The UT System Board of Regents approved the funding for the building in 2019, after former UTA President Vistas Karbhari said at the 86th Texas Legislature that the current School of Social Work building would likely collapse. The new building is about

90% complete, said Braden Thomas, assistant director of capital projects with the Office of Facilities Management. He wants students moving into the building to see it as a place where they can get a world-class education.

The schools are sharing a building because of how much nursing and social work interact within the real world, Thomas said. If a child were to live in an abusive household,

BUILDING continues on page 3

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

Greek life’s community center to open in fall 2023

The million-dollar project is in the design phase, with plans for construction beginning this winter or early spring 2023.

BY AYESHA HANA SHAJI
The Shorthorn staff

In collaboration with Fraternity and Sorority Life students and alumni, UTA’s Facilities Management is planning the construction of the Community Center at the entrance of Greek Row Drive and North Davis Drive.

The Fraternity and Sorority Life Community Center will allow student groups to find themselves more identifiable and can form a community, said Yvonne Dominguez, coordinator of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

The goal is to develop more events for students to bond with one another and to build more presence and security on campus, so they can find the center as a second home, Dominguez said.

The million-dollar project’s construction will commence either this winter or early spring 2023 and is scheduled to open to students by next fall, said Troy Yoder, director of institutional construction. The project will combine renovation and new construction on an existing house, but it’s too early to say the project’s physical size.

Yoder said the center will include study spaces, activity spaces, a small kitchen and a large meeting room that can be divided into two smaller spaces for formal functions and large gatherings. There will also be staff rooms present.

The intent is to comfortably accommodate up to 100 people at a time, depending on what events there are to attend, he said. The space will serve anyone involved with Greek life on campus, whether students or alumni.

The project is being conducted in collaboration with a committee of both current students and alumni, who interact with the development and give feedback.

“The intention is really for

our students to come in and visualize what this space can look like for them,” Dominguez said.

One of the committee’s requests was to have meeting spaces to plan and host events, be it with their alumni or for social functions.

Yoder said the architecture of the building will be different from the campus’s academic buildings, reflecting a residential aesthetic with wood framing rather than an institutional one with concrete and steel.

“It’s really got more of a unique design aesthetic to kind of complement the Greek houses that are in the neighborhood, right on adjacent properties,” he said. “We’re trying to kind of highlight that aspect of campus.”

UTA has 25 Greek organizations under four councils: College Panhellenic, Interfraternity, Multicultural Greek and National Pan-Hellenic.

Dominguez said the College Panhellenic council houses sororities, which are organizations for women only. Interfraternities hold organizations for men, and Multicultural Greek and National Pan-Hellenic include culture and identity-based organizations.

Currently, there are only six houses in use at UTA, four

CENTER continues on page 3

25

number of men’s and women’s organizations

650+

members in community

2012

discussions about the Community Center began

100

number of accommodated people at once in the new center



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

The construction for the new School of Social Work and Smart Hospital building nears completion Nov. 4. The building is set to open spring 2023 for students and faculty.

Student organizations decorate downtown Arlington to prepare for Homecoming

 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS
 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS
 REVIEW OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Center

continued from page 1

belonging to the College Panhellenic councils and two to the Interfraternity councils.

Jordan Nash, electrical engineering senior and president of Beta Theta Pi, said he’s excited for a space on campus where the Greeks can hang out, plan and host meetings and other chapter events.

“One of the biggest benefits of being in Greek life is connections. It’s being able to talk to people from all different walks of life,” Nash said. “The community center would help with that by introducing people from the Interfraternity Council to the Panhellenic Council to the National Pan-Hellenic Council as well as Multicultural Greek Council.”

Erika Torres, criminal justice graduate student and member of Delta Alpha Sigma Multicultural Sorority Inc., said it’s important to have a space like this as they don’t have a house on campus.

One reason for staying houseless is to keep costs low. Torres said as college students, many are already on a tight budget and adding another cost creates unnecessary financial pressures.

“Our sorority has a lot of commuter students, and I feel like it would be nice for them when they join, they can also be like, ‘Hey, not only do I have sisters on campus, but I have somewhere I can go on campus,’” Torres said.

Nash said having no house on campus and the procedures to reserve rooms on campus are complicated and time-consuming. Their fraternity has had to reschedule or cancel meetings and even shift meetings to be virtual at the last minute.

Organizations that don’t have housing on campus will be able to create a space for themselves through the center and build a presence, Dominguez said.

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Building

continued from page 1

for example, social workers and health care professionals would both work together to provide the care that the child needs.

“One of the thoughts was, ‘How can we make a building that will start fostering this interaction between them while they’re still learning the skills needed to either be a social worker or in the medical profession?’” he said.

Darlene Santee, manager of office of admissions and recruitment at School of Social Work, said she’s been waiting on the new building for years, so she was probably one of the naysayers regarding its construction. She said she thought it wouldn’t happen during her time at the university as she’s about to retire.

“I’m excited because I walk over there once my day is over, whether it’s over at 6:30 or 7:30, and look,” Santee said. “I have so many pictures on my phone because I just cannot believe it.”

The design plan was curated by an architect who looked at the school and thought of four main ways people study: in public alone, in public in a group, alone in private and private in a group. Thomas said for the respective schools, this will offer extra space, storage and convenience that their buildings do not currently have.

“So what they’ve done throughout this building is provided multiple versions of those spaces throughout so that students can find the best place for them for studying,” he said.

The schools will be split by floor, with the majority of space on the first, second and fourth floors designated for the School of Social Work and general purpose classrooms. The third floor will be used for the Smart



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Workers paint and handle electrical outlets on the third floor Nov. 4 in the new School of Social Work and Smart Hospital building.

Hospital, Thomas said. However, the two schools will share some areas on all floors.

There are eight purpose education classrooms, over 100 offices, three or four enclosed private study spaces as well as many open spaces available to students.

The first floor will be the location of the home health area with a stimulated one-bedroom apartment used by the Smart Hospital and social work students.

On the second and third floors, a tiered classroom that connects the two floors will have a connecting staircase for students to make an entrance on multiple sides.

The second floor will house a virtual reality simulation room and audiovisual production rooms that both schools can use. The third floor will house the skills lab, which mimics a hospital room, and the Smart Hospital for nursing students to practice their learned skills in otherwise difficult simulations with mannequins.

Thomas said he has his favorite rooms, but the team is most proud of the whole building.

“The joy of construction is you watch this building go from a drawing on a piece of paper or lines on a piece of paper and maybe a rendering into this tangible building that peo-

ple are going to be able to occupy and interact with and go through,” he said.

Nursing sophomore Christine Park is one of the students who will attend class in the new building in fall 2023. While Pickard Hall is nice, she is excited to study at the new building and class will be more enjoyable, she said.

The project began in early 2021, but production slowed due to the pandemic’s effect on workers and accessing materials, such as glass, aluminum and steel, Thomas said.

“Obviously, when things shut down, it makes it more difficult to get some of those items,” Thomas said.

The design of the new building was consulted by a committee that included the deans and faculty representatives of both schools. They would meet for four to eight hours with the firm detailing everything they needed.


Regina Praetorius, professor for the School of Social Work, was part of the committee as a faculty representative and said the space will be conducive to learning and be comfortable for all students.

“When we don’t have to be stressed by our environment, we’re more open to learn. So that’s one, and then I also hope that it will open up and deepen their experiences of learning with all these different ways that we can make the learning more real,” she said.

Thomas says he hopes students get an appreciation for what they’re trying to do as a campus.

“We’re trying to give you these spaces that you want to be in, that you want to enjoy, that are modern, that are technologically improved,” Thomas said. “We are trying to create these spaces that people want to be in. That’s what we really want the students to get.”

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VISA

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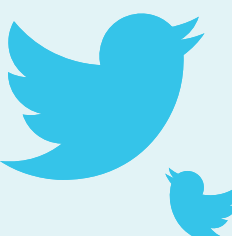
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DR. RUTH

Q: I am having a problem with achieving orgasm. I am not sure why; I try to relax, as I think I was trying too hard and getting very frustrated. It has been affecting our sex life. I am 50 years old and love having sex often, but because I have recently (last year) had this problem, it is making me feel sad.



Dr. Ruth

Send your questions to

Dr. Ruth Westheimer

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A: You’re right that the more you worry about this problem, the harder it makes having an orgasm. I have two suggestions. The first is for you and your partner to take a minivacation. It can be a weekend just a few miles away in a nice hotel, or something fancier if you can afford it. By getting out of your house and away from all the distractions, hopefully you can really find the time to make love and you’ll have an orgasm or two. Once you break the vicious cycle you are in, things should improve. I also will suggest that you use sexual fantasy to push out any negative thoughts when you are making love. You don’t have to tell your husband that you are thinking about Brad Pitt; just make sure that before you start to have sex, you have some sexual fantasies prepared that cause you to become aroused, and concentrate on them. Let me know how it works out.

Q: My fiancée and I have been together for four years and enjoy a very healthy, monogamous relationship. Although we’re still a little shy sometimes, we’re working on being open and sharing our feelings and desires about sex. One issue that’s come up lately is that I like to have sex “doggie-style,” and she enjoys it, except she says it causes her bladder to hurt and she gets an almost unbearable urge to pee, which pretty much ruins it for both of us. This happens only in this position and even if she has completely emptied her bladder beforehand. Do you have any suggestions?

A: The doggie-style or rear-entry position allows a man to thrust much deeper than in other positions, so my guess is that you are actually hitting her bladder. If you want to use this position, then my suggestion would be not to thrust all the way. If you’re careful about not thrusting so that the tip of your penis hits the end of her vagina, my guess is that she won’t feel the sensations you’ve been causing. Try that and let me know if it works.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

1 Deli loaf

4 Repeated musical theme

9 One cubic decimeter

14 Slithery fish

15 Rigel's constellation

16 La Scala offering

17 One with a limited wardrobe?

20 Dress shapes

21 Ancient moralist

22 Have a feeling

23 Gawks

25 With 33D, Yule beverage

28 Waste allowance

29 Assessed

30 German wife

31 Sternward

33 Seasonal tunes

34 One with a limited vocabulary?

38 Novelist Jong

39 Casual military address

40 Pierre's pop

41 Bohemian

43 Glaswegian

47 TV spots

48 Pulverize

49 Space Invaders company

50 Carved pole

52 Concert sites

53 One with limited engagements?

57 Walled city near Madrid

58 Unclogging product

59 Oxford fellow

60 Auctioneer

61 Autos, often

61 Composer Copland

62 Metric measure

DOWN

1 Meal

2 Disney classic, "Old ____"

3 Julia's role on "Seinfeld"

4 Actress Blakley

5 Tolkien baddies

6 Zip

7 "Inka Dinka ____"

8 Recorded

9 Wind-blown soil

10 facto

11 Moderated

12 Notable period

13 Flowed

18 Single example

19 Pay attention to

23 Hook with a handle

24 Certifies under oath

26 Guys' sweeties

27 Director van Sant

29 Brit. flyboys

30 Woodsman

32 Big constrictor

33 See 25A

34 TV horse

35 Landing site

36 Scrub up

37 Dryly humorous

38 Ecological watchdog grp.

41 You said it!

42 Holiday Inn rival

44 U.S. neighbor

45 Speechifier

46 Herbal drink

48 Greek porticos

49 Inert gas

51 European capital

52 AD word

53 Golf standard

54 Night before

55 Gun owner's grp.

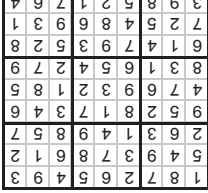
56 Fower's need

su | do | ku

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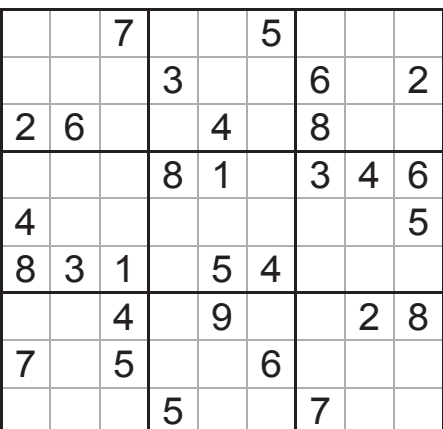
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.



Solution

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CULTURE

UTA celebrates national Native American Heritage Month

The commemoration began November 1990 and now continues to honor Indigenous groups every year. UTA's Land Acknowledgment will be completed in celebration of the month Nov. 23.

BY HANNAH EZELL
The Shorthorn opinion editor

Every November, the U.S. observes Native American Heritage Month to celebrate its Indigenous groups' culture, achievements and history.

The month first started as a national celebration when former President George H.W. Bush approved a resolution that designated November 1990 as National American Indian Heritage Month, according to the Native American Heritage Month's website.

Proclamations with differing names for the month have been consistently issued since 1994, including when President Joe Biden signed a decree this year. In it, he said he would help heal intergenerational trauma caused by past policies and ensure Native Americans have every opportunity to succeed, according to a White House statement Oct. 31.

The university opened the Land Acknowledgment Courtyard on Oct. 10, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. Members of the Native American Student Association and the local community will finish painting the words of the Land Acknowledgment in the Central Library mall



Tribe members dance during the grand entry of the 25th Annual Scholarship Benefit Powwow on Feb. 29, 2020, at the Maverick Activities Center.

Nov. 23.

A Land Acknowledgment task force convened in 2018 to discuss the land acknowledgement statement and commemorative site, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting. The committee is composed of students, faculty and staff many with Native American Ancestry.

Phyllis Nuno, Native American Student Association treasurer, said she hopes students will be able to gain knowledge from actual Indigenous people rather than hearing from non-Indigenous people speaking for her communi-

ty, which she feels has happened in the past.

"We do have our own voice, but I hope that they could find interest in knowing more about us and, hopefully, just having the respect that I feel that we deserve," Nuno said.

UTA's Indigenous community members hope the month will encourage people to look past stereotypes and understand that Native Americans are still here and part of their communities.

Stephen Silva-Brave, vice president of the Native American Student Association and member of the Land Acknowledgment

committee, said he wanted Native Americans to be treated like normal members of the community. Instead of engaging with stereotypes when speaking with an Indigenous person, he said people should get to know more about them and their background.

He said there's nothing weird or unordinary about Native Americans. For the most part, they live similar lives like everyone else.

"We're not a thing of the past, right? We're in your classes. We're succeeding. We're not the stereotypes that people think of us," Silva-Brave said.

Having a month dedicated to highlighting the heritage of Native Americans is significant for the community to reflect, share their culture and give gratitude to their ancestors, said Sampson Dewey, Native American Student Association president.

Although Dewey said there's no way to come back from the centuries of oppression and displacement Native Americans experienced, he believes opening the courtyard and the endowed scholarship are a good start.

Silva-Brave echoed similar sentiments about the im-

portance of the month and said he thinks it's good for non-Natives to learn more about Indigenous history, culture and relevance and to celebrate the original inhabitants of U.S. land.

While he's generally not a fan of land acknowledgments because there's not much power in just reading them, Silva-Brave said the opening of a physical space on campus meant a lot to him.

"UTA, the school that I just happened to end up going to, is the first school that I know of that has done something like that in Texas, of all places," he said. "In this political climate that we're in, to actually take the time to put up a monument, give us a space, hold an event. It really meant a lot."

Dewey said he hopes the campus community learns about the Land Acknowledgment and its significance. To him, it's something that only takes around 30 seconds to recite and can have meaning for everybody.

For Dewey, the work the Native American Student Association does isn't for themselves but for others.

"If it wasn't for our ancestors and elders and stuff, we wouldn't be here today," he said. "They give us the support, and so we give them the support, we give them that platform and so I really just want to say thanks just to them and I look forward to seeing what we can do for the future generations."

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EDITORIAL

Book bans limit knowledge, representation

The Shorthorn Editorial Board encourages people to take personal responsibility for the material they consume

In the wake of recent controversies surrounding K-12 curriculum, book bans have swept across the state, causing hundreds of books to be removed from schools and public libraries. In Arlington, debates have occurred over banning LGBTQ+ and pornographic books in the city's public libraries, leading the Arlington Public Library Advisory Board to hold a meeting in early October where residents voiced their concerns over contested materials.

The Shorthorn Editorial Board believes book content, whether LGBTQ+ topics, faith-based or any genre, has different values for different parts of the community. Restricting any of them prevents generations from accessing knowledge and is potentially dangerous to the growth of humanity.

Some of the most frequently banned books in Texas address issues of race, sexuality and gender identity. Forty-one percent of recently banned books had LGBTQ+ themes, protagonists or prominent secondary characters of color, according to PEN America.

This data is concerning, par-

ticularly because of what this means for public school students. Public school systems are incredibly diverse settings, and the students there deserve to have access to literature that mirrors their lived experiences and validates their existence.

For years now, U.S. public school enrollment has been majority-minority, driven by growth among the Hispanic population and, to a lesser extent, the Asian American population, according to *Education Week*, a news website that covers K-12 education.

Removing representative books from public and school libraries gives the increasingly diverse student population fewer opportunities to engage with content that reflects their lived reality. These books have value to many of the groups represented in them.

Books with themes involving sexual content,

race and racism, activism and the experiences of religious minorities have also been banned, according to PEN America. Although some may feel discomfort when reading books that tackle difficult issues, the ability to have access to diverse literature should be maintained.

Not only do book bans suppress books with diverse perspectives and limit access to knowledge, they also may violate the reader's First

of what this case means for students in districts with banned books, the organization said, "Legal precedent and expert best practices demand that committee members, and principals, superintendents and school boards act with the constitutional rights of students in mind, and using established processes, cognizant of the harm in eliminating access for all based on the

concerns of any individual or faction."

Additionally, in the Supreme Court's 1982 *Island Trees School District v. Pico* decision, the court ruled that the First Amendment imposed limitations upon the discretion of school boards to remove books from junior and high school libraries. In the court's view, while school boards can claim discretion in curriculum matters, they cannot extend that into the school library or in a narrowly partisan or political manner.

The possibility of students' First Amendment rights being violated by book bans gives additional cause for concern. Freedom of expression is a vital right guaranteed to all Americans, and potential violations of it should not be accepted in

Amendment rights.

The decision issued in the historic 1969 *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* case by the U.S. Supreme Court asserted that students retain their First Amendment rights in public schools.

"It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate. This has been the unmistakable holding of this Court for almost 50 years," the court stated.

In PEN America's analysis

THE ISSUE:

Book bans are sweeping across Texas.

WE THINK:

Book bans limit knowledge and varying perspectives.

TAKE ACTION:

People should take individual responsibility for what material they consume.

modern society.

Parents concerned about the content of the books read by their children should exercise parental responsibility and ask their children not to check out books that they deem inappropriate.

Parents have almost always been able to opt their children out of reading requirements for classes if the book's content morally or religiously offends them. This is a relatively common and normal way to regulate children's content.

For example, Arlington Public Libraries will implement a parental control feature that lets parents restrict material deemed appropriate for teenagers and adults, according to *KERA News*.

However, it becomes another issue entirely when district and statewide book bans are implemented for wide swaths of people, especially for partisan or political reasons. Everyone deserves to fully exercise their First Amendment rights, and legal opinion on the issue has been settled for decades.

Although everyone has their own moral and religious be-



Illustration by Claudia Humphrey

liefs, *The Shorthorn* Editorial Board encourages the public not to advocate for banning opposing material as this will limit knowledge and perspectives that could benefit society.

The *Shorthorn Editorial Board* is made up of opinion editor Hannah Ezell; editor-in-chief Dang Le; news editor Steven Shaw; Jonathan Perriello, life and entertainment editor; design editor Claudia Humphrey; news reporters Wolf Isaly and Ayesha Shaji. Shaw was not present for this editorial decision and managing editor Mandy Huynh filled in.

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COLUMN

Historical context matters regarding displaying statues

If statues with controversial backgrounds are going to remain, they need to be displayed with greater context about their history.

As a history major, I often converse with my peers regarding how history is viewed and remembered. It is undeniably important to reflect on history, or society is doomed to repeat it. However, there is a fine line between remembrance and glorification that shouldn't be crossed.

A few years back, there was a national conversation over whether to take down Confederate statues. Some have argued that they represent our past and who we came from and should stay up as they are. Others have argued that the statues are rooted in historical racism and still perpetuate that racism today, and therefore should be destroyed.

If racist statues are going to remain, greater context about their history needs to be provided. Historical artifacts should be surrounded by artifacts of the same history and era so viewers can truly understand their impact and legacy. For instance, rather than a statue of Robert E. Lee standing alone in the middle of a park, said statue needs to be surrounded by other artifacts telling the full story of the general and the Confederacy.

In the American South, many Confederate statues are still glorified. However, we refuse to erect statues of King George III, Adolf Hitler and Osama bin Laden. Confederate heroes are no different.

Confederate statues should still exist but only in museums where they



Cristina
2021

"YOU MAY NOW TOUCH THE STATUE AS IT HAS LOST SOME OF ITS VALUE BACK IN 2020."

Illustration by Cristina Del Coro Trio

can be presented in their historical context. This ensures that the history and impact of the Confederacy can still be remembered but not glorified.

This should be the case for all statues, not just Confederate ones. While placing statues in public places glorifies the people depicted for better or worse, moving statues into museums, where they can be surrounded by artifacts from similar events and time periods, allows them to be truly understood and remembered. This would allow viewing audiences to obtain the full story around those depicted in statues should they want to, rather than subjecting everyone to the glorification of those depicted every time they walk by.

A few exceptions can be made if

said statue is in a place where its historical context is already given, such as the Nolan Ryan statue in Globe Life Field. Rather than museum artifacts, the locations of the statues provide the context for their existence. In these cases, the legacies of the people depicted by statues can be remembered just as much as the people themselves.

Statues, whether of inherently racist figures or not, require historical context to be truly understood and respected. This is why I call for context to be given to all — not just Confederate — statues. With the right context, viewers can understand who the subject was and why they were important enough to deserve a statue. Without context, statues are stone figures to be glorified no matter

their story or who they belonged to.

Historical glorification goes well beyond statues, as can be seen with holidays. Take the case of Columbus Day. While undoubtedly influential, to call Christopher Columbus controversial would be an understatement, and there has been a growing push to rename the holiday "Indigenous Peoples Day." This is important because the name change highlights and celebrates the people who originally inhabited modern-day America rather than the faces of their colonizers. As such, the greater historical context has been presented.

Streaming service Disney+ still streams older content with racist undertones but first shares a disclaimer about the historical racism their con-

JUNO MURRAY



Murray is a history junior and community voices columnist for *The Shorthorn*.

Join the discussion by commenting online at thesorthorn.com.

tent contains. This presents the history and allows people to engage in it, but it instructs audiences not to glorify what they are going to watch.

In my history classes, whatever I am learning is presented in its entirety rather than through the lens of one side or narrative. This way, history is remembered as it should be — impartial and full, not glorified and incomplete. The greater public may view their history however they'd like through this lens.

Whether it be statues, holidays, sports, media or otherwise, it is important to present history and its greater historical context without glorifying it. Context tells a full story and allows people to formulate educated opinions on the topic. Without it, presenting a statue to glorify a subject shoves a biased view down the collective throat of the public. An impartial view of history for those seeking it is much better than a biased view of it glorified in broad daylight.

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HOMECOMING

How UTA's Homecoming parade floats have evolved over time



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Decorative supplies fill the shop at Lone Star Parade Floats on Nov. 3 in Dallas. The company has been in business for almost 40 years and has built floats and sold supplies to the university for decades.

The celebration began with decorated golf carts in 2009 and transitioned to large themed floats in 2012 following the opening of the College Park Center

BY JONATHAN PERRIELLO

The Shorthorn life and entertainment editor

In the days leading up to UTA's Homecoming celebration, a small, family-owned company works to customize floats for the university's parade as students and faculty hustle to prepare for the weeklong festivities.

But it wasn't always this way. Like many aspects of Homecoming, the parade has evolved throughout the years, and there was a time when floats weren't used, and there wasn't a parade at all.

Typically, the university uses around five floats for its parade, each themed around the groups riding them, said Seth Ressler, senior director for involvement and engagement. This year, there are floats for the Homecoming Court, veterans affairs, spirit groups and Student Government.

UTA started the Homecoming parade in 2009 when then-Mr. UTA Tim Brown and other students advocated for one, Ressler said. But back then, it consisted of golf carts following a path through the campus' interior malls and was usually held on a weekday in between classes.

Student organizations would decorate the golf carts and drive them through areas like the Central Library and University Center mall, Student Activities director PK Kelly said.

"I think they really enjoyed it," Kelly said. "It was really fun because it was something new and different."

When the College Park Center opened in 2012, UTA tweaked the parade model and transitioned to large floats, he said.

The university then expanded the 15-25 entries to 65, which included the floats and other student organizations participating in the parade. The number of people watching has also increased, Kelly said. What normally was viewed by passersby has evolved into crowds of over 2,000.

"Those first golf carts, your audience was the people walking from the library to the UC to get lunch, and then it became more something you came out to watch," he said.

The university wanted to connect with the new district, Ressler said. The parade moved to Saturday, so that it could tie into the street festival and lead to the pep rally, basketball game and coronation. This created something that looks and feels more like a traditional parade, with people watching and waving along the curb as the floats go by.

UTA had a history of participating in Arlington's Fourth of July and Holiday Lights parades and had already used floats for a few years, Kelly said.

The university owned a few trailers that it would build floats on and decorate for the parades, Ressler said. Over the years, UTA bought float supplies from Lone Star Parade Floats



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

The UTA float holds stars and ribbons at Lone Star Parade Floats on Nov. 3 in Dallas. The float showcases the school's colors: blue, orange and white.

and eventually hired the company to start building them entirely.

Lone Star Parade Floats, a family-owned business, has built, rented and sold parade floats and displays for almost 40 years, said Roby Watts, who has run the business since his parents slowly took on less work. His father's parents started the company in North Carolina around the '80s, and it has since made a name for itself in the Metroplex.

The floats are built around farm wagons, with wheels in the front and back that the company can only find in Iowa or Canada, Watts said. Some companies use utility trailers with wheels only in the back, so the level depends on the vehicle pulling them, whereas the farm wagons are always balanced.

The company has amassed 32 floats and cycles them through different events, although the floats must be rebuilt about every decade, he said.

After UTA switched from the golf carts, one of the first Homecoming floats that Lone Star made for the university featured a rendition of the Maverick horse logo, Watts said.

It has also provided floats for the last Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl win, Dallas Mavericks Championships, HEB, Facebook, T-Mobile, Samsung and Gov. Greg Abbott's 2015 inauguration, Watts said. More recently, it built UTA's float entry in the Dallas Día de los Muertos Parade & Festival in October.

Lone Star has contracts with 15 UTA departments and showcases something on campus every month between floats and foam displays, he said. By the end of the month, the company will be creating and delivering a foam class ring display for UTA's Ring Ceremony on Dec. 1.

Watts said he enjoys talking to customers and bringing their vision to life.

"There's definitely a lot of inventing in this business because you got Home Depot and stuff for houses, but there is no parade depot for floats," he said.

The floats are built about two weeks before Homecoming begins and are delivered the morning of the parade, Watts said.

Kelly said he was glad to come to a university that didn't have a giant parade already

established because he and the students involved have been able to help create and shape UTA's parade into what it is today. Every year, someone adds something to this experience. Whether choosing a theme or something else, it has student fingerprints all over it.

One year when the golf carts were still being used, students decorated a golf cart in a Flintstones theme and dressed up in Flintstones costumes, he said.

From golf carts to proper floats, the students involved have always found a way to enjoy the Homecoming experience.

"It's just really fun, and I love both. I love both memories," Kelly said.

The next step is to look at the size of the parade and perhaps expand the route beyond the campus ground and into the city, he said.

"When the parade starts coming down the street, and I get to just go and see that, it is a great experience. You just feel this sense of accomplishment and sense of pride," Kelly said.

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HOMECOMING 2022



University Housing

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Sanchez

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Sanchez was struggling academically, navigating a system that she said was essentially never designed for her to be there. If she were on academic probation, that would have been one of the greatest disappointments for her father.

“I would never, ever want to see that disappointment in his face,” she said.

With her go-getter attitude, Sanchez got involved with student organizations and took up space in all the areas that she occupied.

And that’s what she’s been striving to provide for the LGBTQ+ community since joining UTA in November 2018.

Besides teaching a course about the community on campus and her new career as an online sex therapist, she is in charge of four campus programs: the LGBTQ+ Program, the Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention program, the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Maverick Pantry.

“It was, of course, a beautiful, messy, complex journey, but I wouldn’t change it because I really, really love who I am and what I stand for today,” she said.

Her efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. She was recently announced as one of four North Texas recipients of the 2022 Mujeres Legendarias Award, which honors Hispanic women improving their communities through four pillars: leadership, environmental and human sustainability, community and innovation.

“Because I work in education, it means so much to me when I am able to connect with other students of color or students that possibly look like me, that share the same identities as me,” Sanchez said. “Because it will never get old when I hear students say, ‘You are my first Latina professor that I’ve ever had.’”

Michele Bobadilla, senior associate vice president for outreach and community engagement and assistant provost for Hispanic student success, nominated Sanchez for the award. Bobadilla, who has worked in educa-



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

Jessica Sanchez, director of Student Advocacy Services, gives a speech Nov. 8 in the Rio Grande Ballroom. Sanchez grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she experienced bullying growing up because of identity.

tion for over 40 years, said she sees a spark in Sanchez’s commitment and passion for her advocacy work.

What makes Sanchez unique is that she’s “an empowered woman who wants to empower others,” Bobadilla said. When she raises concerns or brings an issue to the forefront, she sees it through the lens of equity and of someone younger with a different experience than others.

“I see a spark in her that is going to make things change for many others through the work that she is doing,” she said. “It’s through her passion for and commitment to be inclusive, to be a catalyst for change.”

As the only student of color at her elementary school, Sanchez said she experienced bullying growing up because of her thick black hair, caramel skin, unibrow and accent. She, along with her family, was not unfamiliar with the concept of assimilation in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she was born and raised.

Over 620 miles from the UTA campus, Lincoln, Nebraska, has almost 300,000 people, 84% of whom identify as white, according to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2021.

Her father, born in Dallas, was migrating to Nebraska with his family looking for opportunities and ended up owning one of the first Mexican restaurants in Lincoln at the time, El Ranchito. Her mother, who is white, would go out on Sundays with her family to enjoy menudo at the restaurant and eventually became a waitress there.

Sanchez remembers coming home from elementary school crying to her parents, she said. It was then that her father couldn’t stand to see his daughter feeling upset anymore, so he banned her from speaking Spanish at home.

“I don’t even claim now that I can speak Spanish fluently,” she said. “I think imposter syndrome really creeps in for me a lot. It takes a lot of vulnerability for me to feel comfortable to speak Spanish around other individuals.”

But everything she does every single day, she does for her parents, Sanchez said.

Her father raised her to be a strong woman, she said. He allowed her to be emotional, frustrated and cry, but then she had to get back to work and be strong. And her mother would always be there to reaffirm how beau-

tiful her hair and skin were and to assure her that things would get better.

But that didn’t completely stop Sanchez from feeling insecure about her identity in high school, where she didn’t feel brown enough to be with her Mexican pals but wasn’t white enough to be with the white folks either. This identity crisis lasted all the way until her undergraduate years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she majored in international studies.

When her goal to work with the U.N. didn’t work out, she went back to school to pursue a master’s degree and a doctoral degree in human sexuality to fulfill her passion for normalizing conversations around human sexuality, sex, pleasure, consent and healthy relationships, especially for Mexican American women and women of color.

The young Sanchez who didn’t want to disappoint her father now had to tell him she wanted to be a sex therapist. While he initially did not talk to her for two months, he has now seen how much human sexuality intertwines with consent, healthy relationships and the LGBTQ+ community at UTA, she said.

“Now, he is so proud of me. And every time I go back home or someone asks, ‘Tell me what your daughters do?’ He will say, ‘Well, my one daughter is a dentist, and my one daughter is a chiropractor, but my one daughter, she talks about sex and she’s a sex therapist,’” Sanchez laughed. “And now he can’t stop talking about it, right, and he loves that I have a doctorate in human sexuality.”

For the longest time, Sanchez said she had to say “no” to offers other than work and school to earn her degrees, as she would work nine to 10 hours a day, then go home and open up a second laptop to work for another four to five hours. On the weekend, she worked on her dissertation.

Now that she has more free time after graduation, Sanchez started saying “yes,” and one of them was agreeing to become the assistant director for the Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and LGBTQ+ Program at UTA.

Then came the questions. Why did UTA not have an efficient system for students to go by their chosen name? Why were they not allowed to have their chosen

name on their degree? Why would they not receive a new Mav ID for free once they’d updated their names in the system?

From then on, Sanchez began efforts to increase LGBTQ+ representation on campus, from building

“I’m so happy, and I’m honored to have done everything that I have done in the past wherever I’m at in my years here at UTA, but we still have a lot to do.”

Jessica Sanchez

director of Student Advocacy Services

the suite in Ransom Hall and creating the Residential Learning Community for members of the community to partnering with other campus resources such as Counseling and Psychological Services. Sanchez led her team to five-star recognition from the Campus Pride Index earlier this semester.

“If we’re gonna go back to truly making sure students know who we are and that LGBTQ+ students know that they have community, even faculty and staff, that they know they have community, I need more than five days. I want a whole month,” she said about her effort to push the weeklong Pride celebration to the full month of October when she began working at UTA.

To celebrate the month this year, the program hosted multiple events, including the National Coming Out Day Festival, a Drag Show in Rosebud Theater and inviting comedian Irene Tu to campus.

But the celebration looked different two years ago. Amid the pandemic, Sanchez put Pride flags on campus to celebrate Pride Month. When she went to campus one day at 6:30 a.m., all of her flags were vandalized and torn down, she said.

She now hangs them out

of the window on the third floor of Ransom Hall so no one can touch them.

“There’s people that don’t love the same way that I do at the end of the day,” Sanchez said. “But they’re not going to take away from the energy that I put out onto this campus and how much I care about these students.”

Most of the offered services from the program happen because Sanchez listens to the community and makes sure those things become a reality, LGBTQ+ Program Coordinator Joshua Mackrill said.

“She is one of the hardest working people I know from being a faculty member to a director and is constantly putting in 110%,” Mackrill said. “And I know that that’s something that impresses me every day, and it makes me know that anything I would do, my director is willing to do.”

Once the Relationship Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention office and the LGBTQ+ Program started growing in popularity, the conversation for Sanchez to become a director began. Sanchez agreed to take responsibility for the Emergency Assistance Fund and the Maverick Pantry programs with support from Heather Snow, associate vice president for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and Charity Stutzman, assistant Dean of Students. She then became the director of the Student Advocacy Services department.

Mackrill said that Sanchez not only supports marginalized communities on campus, but also works to support her staff working under intense situations, such as helping students facing food insecurity and coming to terms with their sexuality.

Sanchez always checks in with her staff to ensure that she can be there if they need her and that they can create great initiatives for students, he said.

Bobadilla said she’s proud of Sanchez, calling her an emerging Latina leader in the Metroplex and an “incredible contributor” to UTA — a Hispanic-serving institution.

“She’s going to be a key factor as we continue to grow,” she said.

It’s been over a year and a half since Sanchez took her current director role. Sanchez said she didn’t think that she was going to take charge of so many responsibilities when she grew up, but she believes she’s grown into a woman today with the ability to lead and challenge the people and the system.

And she’s satisfied with what she has accomplished thus far at UTA.

“If I don’t say that, then I’m not giving myself the credit,” Sanchez said. “If I say ‘no,’ then I don’t think I would give myself the credit, and I am not good about doing that.”

But the work continues. The programs under her department deserve their own director and assistant director, she said. Creating marketing for those programs to reach more people and a mentorship program to bridge graduate LGBTQ+ students and undergraduates are all among Sanchez’s dreams.

“I’m so happy, and I’m honored to have done everything that I have done in the past wherever I’m at in my years here at UTA,” she said. “But we still have a lot to do.”



Photo courtesy of Jessica Sanchez

Jessica Sanchez, director of Student Advocacy Services, is one of four North Texas recipients for the 2022 Mujeres Legendarias Award.

BASKETBALL

Mavericks basketball: new teams, new seasons, new opportunities



File Photo / Nicholas Badeaux

Junior forward Starr Jacobs dribbles the ball during a game against Texas State University on Jan. 20 at College Park Center.

Shereka Wright, reigning Sun Belt Coach of the Year, leads the team into a new conference with high expectations

BY ISAAC APPELT
The Shorthorn sports editor

As last season came to a close and the seconds ticked off the clock in Ames, Iowa, the hope of a historic NCAA upset began to fade.

The Lady Mavericks were looking to become the first No. 14-seed to win a game in NCAA women's tournament history. They led for 27 of the 40 minutes and looked poised to pull off the improbable.

But in the end, Iowa State University squeaked out a seven-point victory, ending UTA's season. That loss still motivates red-shirt senior Starr Jacobs for the upcoming season.

"For me, that feeling of losing a game knowing that we should have won it, I think it kind of made me think, 'OK, I have another year to do it again,'" Jacobs said.

She had a breakout season last year in her first season at the Division I level. She won Sun Belt Player of the Year and Sun Belt Tournament Most Valuable Player, as well as set a program record for points per game in a season at 21.

Following the season, the Lady Mavericks lost five seniors to the transfer portal and graduation. Head coach Shereka Wright is moving forward and recruiting players for the upcoming season, but she credits last season's successes to the players who welcomed her with open arms when she took over the program in 2020.

Wright, who signed a contract extension that locked her in through the 2027 season, said she's excited to work with the players she recruited and implement her play style.

"One of our goals is to really just trust the process," sophomore forward Jordyn Turner said. "Because we have a whole new team, and we have our ups and downs, but really just to trust each other and anything that goes on, we have each other's back."

Now, as the team prepares for its first season in the Western Athletic Conference after spending nine years in the Sun Belt, Wright is excited about something new.

"I like new because that's how you grow as a coach. That's how you grow as a team," she said. "I've always talked about parity in the women's game. I've always been a very big advocate of saying, 'We need parity in our game.' And so I like the fact that we get to go to a different conference, from top to bottom."

The WAC released a preseason poll Oct. 17, where media and coaches voted on which school they expected to win the conference, as well as which athletes would

win awards.

Both the media and coaches picked UTA to finish second, behind Stephen F. Austin State University. The teams will play each other twice this season: once Jan. 21 in Nacogdoches and again to close the regular season on March 2 in Arlington.

Turner said the team is using the second-place ranking to give them a competitive edge this season. The team wants to show the world who the Lady Mavericks are and that they're coming for the WAC title this year.

The media voted Jacobs as Player of the Year. The coaches did not. Jacobs noticed.

"I think that gave me the motivation," she said. "Like, the media picked me, but the coaches as a whole don't think I could. That's kind of how I took that."

Before the team can focus on conference play and the hopes of getting back to the NCAA tournament, UTA has to play its non-conference schedule first, and Wright has not given her team many easy games.

Eight of the Lady Mavericks' twelve non-conference games will be against opponents who competed in the postseason last season. Five advanced to the NCAA Tournament, while three competed in the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

The final non-conference game will perhaps be the biggest, with the University of Arizona at 3 p.m. Dec. 21 in College Park Center. Arizona was the national runner-up in the 2021 season, coming one point shy of winning it all.

"It's big for our kids to be able to get the exposure and play against really, really great teams," Wright said. "They need that, and they deserve that."

The team's motto, "two feet in," encompasses that. For Jacobs, "two feet in" means letting everything outside of basketball go when you step on the court while also knowing there will be days when you can't put two feet in the circle.

For Turner, it's about giving 110% each drill and lifting your teammates up if they're having a hard time. She said having a leader like Wright, who can lead by example, helps immensely.

"She's very transparent on how to get us together to be one," Turner said. "She doesn't sugarcoat it and I feel like that helps us in the long run. It helps us come together and focus."

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The men's basketball team is looking ahead with a new team and has its eyes on the Western Athletic Conference

BY NICKLAUS UTSEY AND ISAAC APPELT
The Shorthorn staff

There is something new about the men's basketball team as it looks to rebuild its roster this season.

The Mavericks lost guard David Azore. Last season, Azore was a member of the 2022 Sun Belt Conference First Team and led the team in scoring with 20 points per game.

The team also lost its starting center Kaodirichi Akobundu-Ehiogu. At the end of last season, he ranked third on the team's all-time blocks list with 134 rejections in 47 games.

In total, only four players from last year's team are on the current roster, forcing the Mavericks to rebuild over the summer. Head coach Greg Young said they spent most of spring and summer recruiting players for this season's team.

"It's been a fast and furious and very busy, busy time for sure," Young said.

The transfer portal treated UTA well, as Young recruited players from all around the country. Senior guard Aaron Cash joins the Mavericks after one year each at Texas A&M University and Grayson College, while junior guard Marion Humphrey jumped aboard following two seasons at the University of San Diego.

Humphrey turned heads at Mav Madness Oct. 20, eliciting ooh's and ah's from the fans as he competed in the dunk contest and emerged victorious, according to previous *Shorthorn* reporting.

Young also recruited players straight out of high schools, such as freshman guard Chendall Weaver. Weaver joined UTA after a decorated high school career at Mansfield Timberview, averaging 17 points and 10.5 rebounds at the state tournament. He was also voted for district 8-5A Most Valuable Player.

Weaver said college basketball is faster than high school, but he's ready to make the adjustment to achieve his dreams of being a professional basketball player.

"I want to come in and make an immediate impact for the team," he said.

The Mavericks are expected to enter this season near the bottom of the conference, according to a preseason Western Athletic Conference media and coaches poll. The coaches slotted UTA at 11th, and the media slotted them at 10th.

One of last year's returners is sophomore forward Montez Young Jr. He said the difference between this year's and last year's team is it's more athletic and fast-paced.

With the team losing many of its key pieces, Montez Young Jr. had to step into a leadership role as an underclassman.

"Last year, I was the only freshman so people [were] getting on me a lot, I was messing up a lot, and everybody knew what they were doing, but I was kind of lost," he said. "I can't do that this year because [the freshmen] need some guidance. So, I gotta lock in and make sure that I can not only help myself but help them as well."

As UTA prepares to return to the WAC, Greg Young reflected on some of his fondest memories from the 2012-2013 season. He said when the Mavericks were last in the conference, he recalled the championship game in Las Vegas, losing to New Mexico State in a close game.

"We're trying to get back to that point of where we were at that time and some years after," he said. "It would mean a lot for us to have the kind of season where we make a run into a tournament, and we put ourselves in a position to win a championship."

Young said he's been working to get the freshmen acclimated to his system by having practice and hosting a couple of closed-door scrimmages.

These opportunities have given the three athletes a chance to see what Division I basketball looks like. He said he expects the freshmen to have an opportunity to play and help the team this season.

"It just provides a clean slate that you're the first coach at this level to coach them," Young said. "So they're going to be bought into what you're saying and your culture. And obviously, they're going to play with some excitement and some enthusiasm because they're first-year players."

With the season coming soon, the attitude around the locker room is clear.

"They're ready to put on the uniforms and play in front of fans, and we're all excited," Young said.

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The Shorthorn: Alessandra Sara

Freshman forward Montez Young Jr. high-fives the bench during a game against the University of Arkansas at Little Rock on Feb. 17 at College Park Center.