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Winter 2013

vector

GOING GLOBAL:
Engineering Around the World



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Cockrell School of Engineering

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Goodbye, Glynda

By Richard Tang

For those of you who do not know, Glynda Groth-Putnam is the founding Director of the Cockrell School Engineering Student Life Office, and she will be retiring at the end of January, 2014 after 28 years of state service, 25 of which were in the Cockrell School.

As a liaison for the Dean of the Cockrell School, Glynda oversees the eighty engineering student organizations on campus, including Vector and Student Engineering Council (SEC). Since she joined The University of Texas at Austin staff in 1987, Glynda has dedicated herself to improving the college experience for Longhorn students, especially engineers.

Focusing on skills such as teamwork, ethics, communication, and leadership, Glynda regularly organizes and promotes activities that encourage engineering students to develop well-rounded skills. Her most significant achievements include beginning annual traditions such as Gone to Engineering (which led to the inception of Gone to Texas), and the Ramshorn Retreats and Leadershape-Texas programs. She also implemented structures and procedures for student organizations that are the role model for campus.

Glynda believes that the time students spend here at UT is part of a life-long journey of learning – that the experiences that they can have on this campus can form the foundation for their lives, both personally and professionally. That being said, she encourages students to expand their hori-

“...the time students spend here at UT is part of a life-long journey of learning - that the experiences that they can have on this campus can form the foundation of their lives, both personally and professionally.”



zons, take advantage of the numerous opportunities that UT offers, and “to have fun and enjoy the ride!”

While some things have definitely changed during her tenure here at the university (most notably, the technology), Glynda believes that the hopes and dreams of Cockrell students remain the same. She is truly passionate about the students at Cockrell and at UT Austin. In her own words: “the relationships that I have had with them – sharing their lives, enabling their growth, helping them achieve their goals – that is what I cherish the most.”

When asked what she will miss most about UT Austin and the Cockrell School of Engineering, Glynda aptly responded: “The students, first and foremost. Cockrell School students are THE BEST on the UT Austin campus – what starts in ENGINEERING, changes the world!” Glynda also specifically noted that she will miss working “with Susan Higginbotham, ESL Assistant Director, who is someone I respect tremendously and have been blessed to work with for 15 years, and our student assistants. ESL has had super student assistants over the years, and Clarke Rahring and Kare Rogers, our current ones, are awesome.”

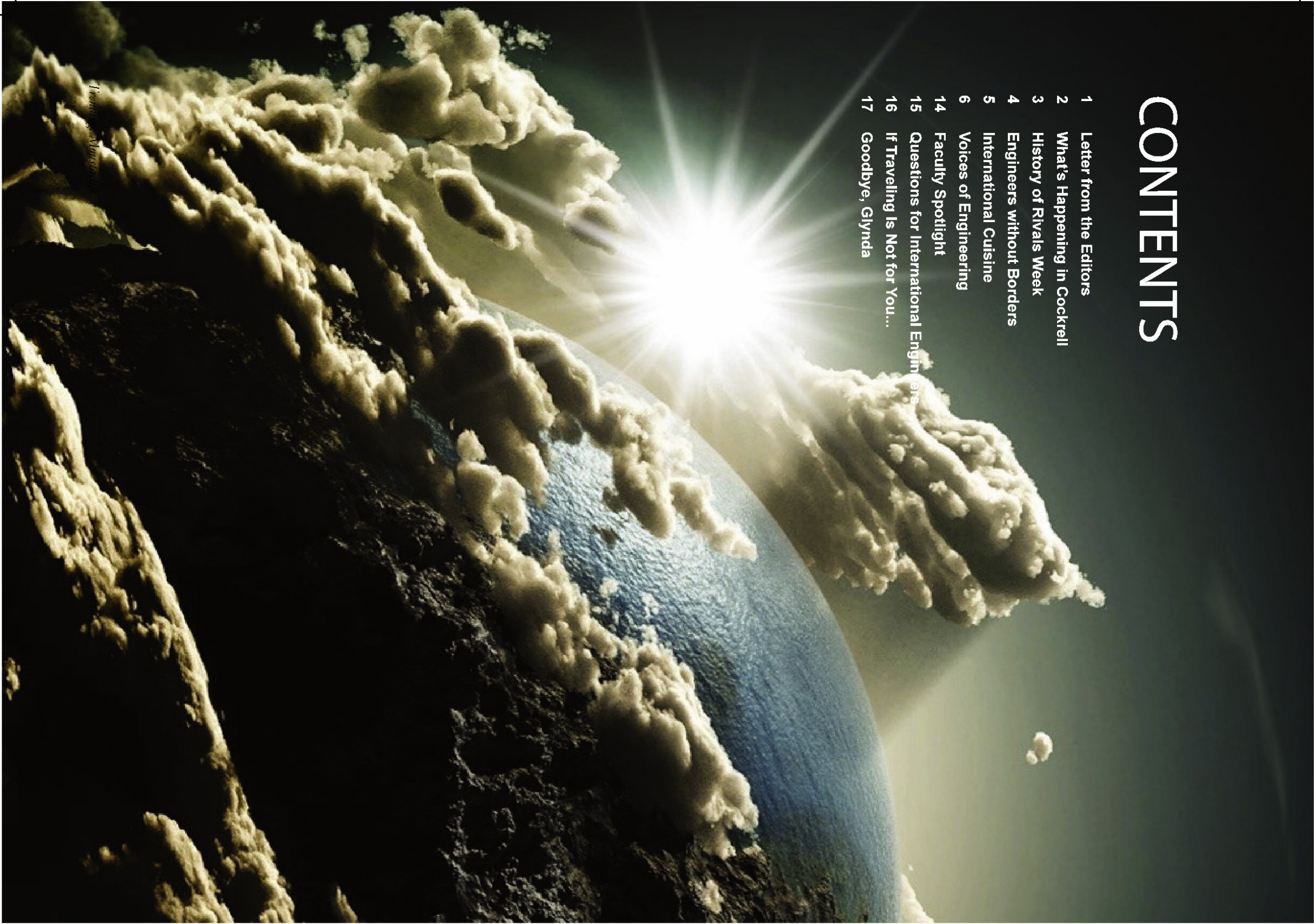
Glynda will leave us knowing that she has elevated Cockrell to a new level; she

will be remembered by the numerous successful projects she left behind, the lives she touched and the tradition of leadership and excellence that she has instilled in all engineering students. All of us here at Cockrell

“The relationships that I have had with [students] – sharing their lives, enabling their growth, helping them achieve their goals – that is what I cherish the most.”

thank her for her service and will miss her dearly!

Thanks, Glynda!

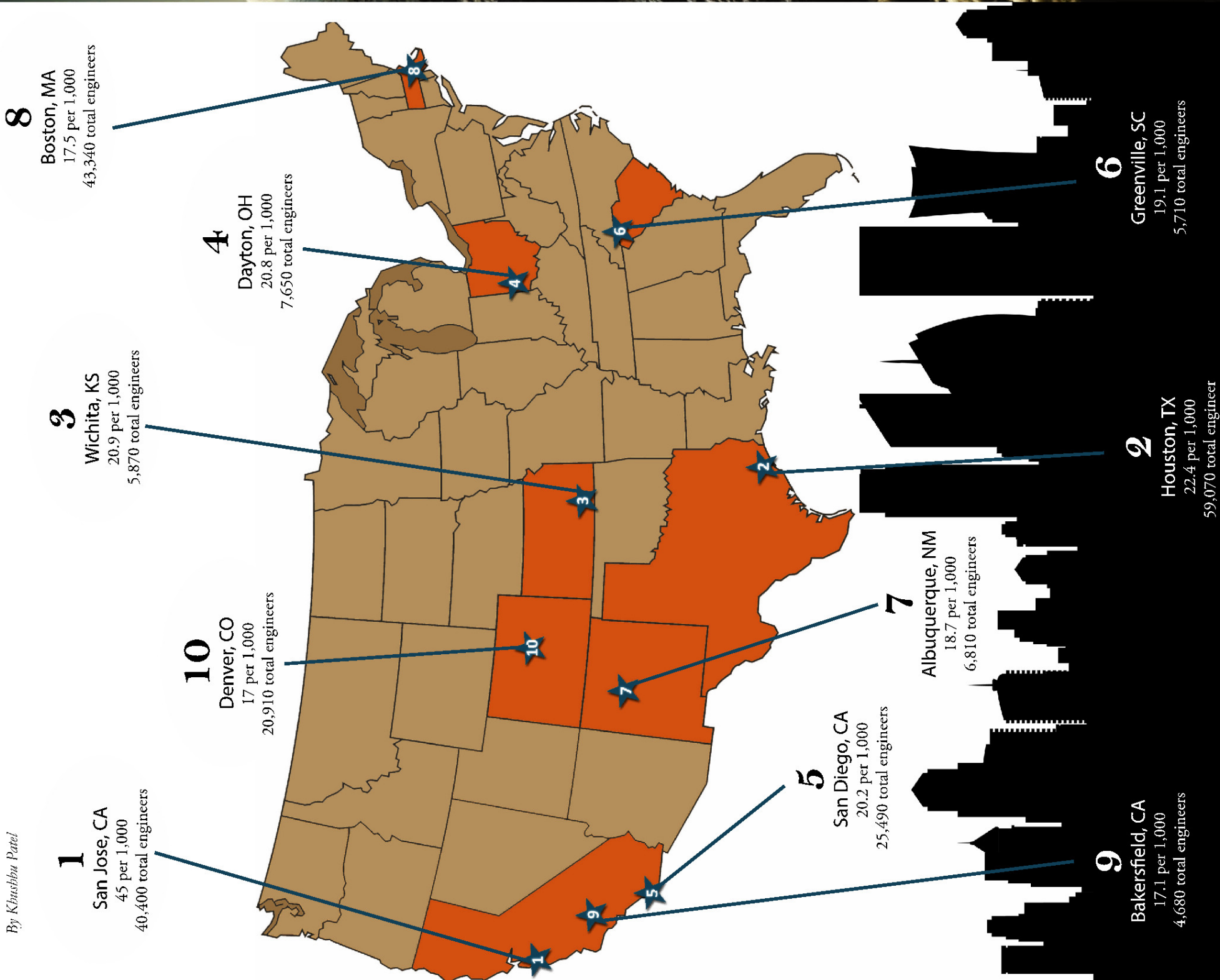


Heather Morris

If Traveling Is Not for You...

Top Engineering Cities in the U.S.

By Khushbu Patel



Source: Forbes

Expanding our Borders Engineering around the World

Engineering is a global profession. Regardless of your specific major, particular interests, or skill sets, there will always be a place in the world for you. While our careers may take us all over the world, we are very lucky to build and solidify our foundations at The University of Texas at Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering.

This winter issue of Vector revolves around the theme of a global engineer. Although we may come from many different places, we share a common bond of which we can be proud. Whether you are an avid fan of traveling or an individual who prefers the security of home, there will always be great career opportunities open in both the international and domestic markets. As a student, there are also excellent chances to explore your options overseas, whether it be through a study abroad program or an international internship. By experiencing as much as you can before graduation, you can maximize your chances of finding something that you truly enjoy; something that you will be proud to call your career.

In the spirit of celebrating the diversity within engineering, this issue includes interviews with various international students who have come from far and wide to study at the Cockrell School, professional input from a traveling engineer, and the various international opportunities available to students at UT Austin.

All that aside, it is important to remember that the skill set of an engineer is a commodity that can be marketed, utilized, and respected all over the world. The fact that students come from around the globe to study at the Cockrell School speaks volumes about the quality of UT Austin's engineering program. It is this quality that allows us to go everywhere with the highest level of professional respect and pride.

What starts in the Cockrell School can and will change the world.

Enjoy.

Richard Fang & Anvita Jain
Editors-in-Chief
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Editorial Apology

As humans, we all make mistakes, and the staff here at Vector is no exception. We also acknowledge these mistakes as soon as possible and put measures in place to avoid them in the future. It has come to our attention that some sources were not properly cited in our last issue, and we sincerely apologize for the mistake. We have taken actions to ensure that it will not happen in the future, and we will work hard to continue to provide you, our readers, with the highest quality work.

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Vector is the student engineering magazine on campus. Published by the Student Engineering Council, Vector is completely written, managed, and designed by students for students. With issues dating back to 1971, the magazine has a long-standing tradition of serving as the voice for engineering students at the University of Texas at Austin. The Vector staff publishes two issues per semester.

For more information regarding the Vector magazine, please contact us at vector@sec.engr.utexas.edu.



What’s Happening in the Cockrell School

By Kristen Siegle

The Engineering-Science Building (ENS) has been targeted as a major renovation project for the past three years. The UT System Board of Regents gave final approval to the Cockrell School of Engineering to progress their plans for a new \$310 million Engineering Education and Research Center (EERC). This new building, scheduled to be completed by Fall 2017, would be 430,000 square-feet and would provide all the necessary tools for engineering students and faculty for many years to come.

The blueprints for the building comprise spacious classrooms and state-of-the-art teaching laboratories, bold technological attachments and comfortable learning quarters. It will be one of the largest buildings constructed on the UT Austin campus. A project of this size will promote engineering students’ discipline

and collaboration, which will in turn effectively “redefine engineering for the 21st century.”

Beyond the classroom, the EERC will be home to the Center for Innovation—the school’s first established resource for entrepreneurship and commercialized programming. This space will be a tool for fostering partnerships and strengthening networks across the business market. The Engineering Advising Board (EAB) has orchestrated a Master Plan of Facilities, outlining the major plans for the EERC, which will be the first building in this multiphase plan. The EERC will be a lasting milestone for The University of Texas at Austin, and serves as a reminder that innovation, endurance, and consistently striving towards one’s goals will yield great success.

Questions for an

International Engineer

William Walters, Ph.D, Aspen Technology
Byron Nguyen

What school did you attend, what was your major, where do you work currently and what do you enjoy about it?

Education: B.S. Chemical Engineering from University of Florida and M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University. Currently working for Aspen Technology. My job requires a combination of broad and deep skills as I work with a very diversified set of customers. Every assignment is different.

“Always work hard and have a good attitude and good team skills. You never know where your career will go.”

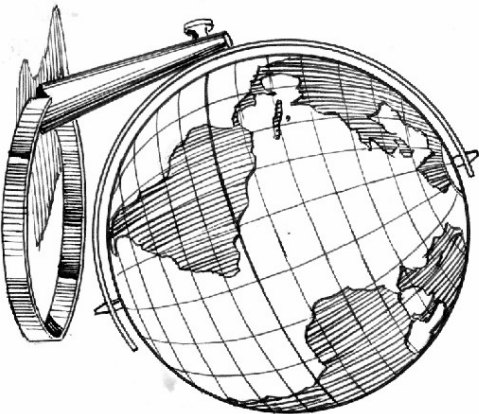
What’s the difference in responsibilities between an engineer who mostly stays put and one who travels, and what inspired you to pursue a career that allowed you to travel?

An engineer who is in a static location typically has responsibilities that are set by their direct manager and may lack interaction with issues people face. An engineer who travels extensively has some responsibilities

that are tied back to the office, but must be able to make their top responsibility the customer’s satisfaction. Being in the field, you have to be able to quickly make correct decisions with limited input. Sometimes it is high risk and high reward. If you are right, everybody is happy and you look great. When things go wrong, you are the focal point and people want resolution immediately. As it turns out, I didn’t start out in a traveling position. I evolved into it. It was a combination of being able to solve diverse challenging problems and the ability to listen to what people were saying and respond appropriately.

What are the benefits and cons of traveling abroad?

The biggest benefit to traveling abroad is seeing places and meeting people that you would probably never be able to visit or interact with on your own. You learn a lot about other places and cultures, plus you learn that many people abroad are interested in learning about the USA. Some of the cons include erratic sleeping and eating patterns, not getting the same number of days off as office staff, missing family holidays, and eating a lot of meals alone.



What was the most interesting project you had the chance to work on while you were abroad? And what was the craziest experience that happened while you were working?

The most interesting project was a new coal gasification project in South Korea. It was totally new technology and there were non-stop problems. Creative and innovative thinking was required at all turns. Virtually nothing in a textbook or university class would prepare you for that job. The craziest experience was being stranded in Saudi Arabia and making my way to the Bahrain border by a combination of drivers, taxis, and buses. Needless to say, I had to negotiate really well. Once I got to the airport in Bahrain, the security officer barked out “... this is Bahrain, no Dammam, go away!”

If an aspiring engineer wants to travel in his/her future career, what steps/recommendations can he/she take?

The first thing to realize is that few jobs start with lots of travel. Typically you have to distinguish yourself technically for years to be on the radar. Also, you have to work for a company where there are international opportunities. Many companies are international, but don’t always send employees between regions. Fewer companies truly do global work based from one location. Also, always be looking to improve your skills. If you have skills that are needed elsewhere, you are likely going to be the person to go. As a final item, make sure you have impeccable manners and behavior. When you work abroad, you are an ambassador for your company. People will look at the way you act, talk, dress, etc. International business consists of a lot of relationships, and being able to build and maintain them.



Faculty Spotlight

Ramesh Yerraballi, Ph.D, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

By Anita Jain

What is your favorite thing about teaching at UT Austin?

My favorite thing about teaching at UT Austin is definitely the opportunity to teach undergraduate students. Undergraduates are very impressionable; you can actually get them excited about subjects. I like teaching freshmen the most because they come with a lot of expectations, and they want to get excited about things.

Describe one of your best life experiences.

There was a person who taught me mathematics when I was fourteen. He was a brilliant guy who went to one of the top schools in India. He changed my life because everything from that point onwards was based on how he made math so easy to understand and to apply. He showed me how calculus actually works in daily life. I have never lost that sense of wonder for math as an engineer.

Which engineering discipline do you think holds the most potential for the future and why?

Biomedical engineering is where most of the promise is for future growth. It is more untapped, and there is always new research pertaining to drug discovery, new medical devices, and instrumentation; however, engineering as a whole always has growth potential. For example, in electrical engineering, there are always companies doing new research on many topics.

What interests you most about engineering?

I am a very hands-on guy and like to build things. In my non academic life, I have even designed and built my own house. In engineering, you can not only imagine but can actually build. Even with software, you can actually see it working. What you do is what you see; there are no surprises. In other walks of life, this is not always the case.

What advice do you have for engineering students?

At UT, an hour's lecture costs around \$0.50 per minute, which amounts to \$30 per hour of lecture. People demand more from things that they pay much less than this. Say you order a Taco which costs 99 cents and your order is messed up, you demand another or even demand to see the manager if you are unhappy with the service. I tell my students to bring the same attitude and demands to their education. I encourage students to demand more of themselves, more of their teachers and the university. Class is not about reading a book; the professor has to do more than just force students to read the textbook. They should facilitate and enhance the students' understanding of the material. Too many students give up too quickly and don't demand enough of their classes.

What is one of your current projects?

One of the new things that I have been

working on (with Dr. Jon Valvano) is a massive online open course (MOOC) on EdX, which will launch in January. I am looking forward to it because this class that we are producing is accessible to the entire world at no cost. Education should always be free. Additionally, a single MOOC can have anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 students. This allows me to reach numerous students with one class.

Why did you move away from research?

I love research; that is why I completed a PhD. However, I did not enjoy the politics of research. It involves a lot of networking, not just producing quality work. In publishing papers just for the sake of publishing, I found myself writing papers of a quality that I was not proud of, even though my peers told me I was doing well. Instead I decided to focus completely on teaching; I was too passionate about teaching to let that suffer because of other things.

What have been your most successful endeavors during your career so far?

One of my biggest successes is the sheer number of students that I have taught. During the six or seven years I have been at UT, I have taught 2,500 students. Another success was the growth of the UT Arlington graduate program from 50 students to 100 students while I was its program coordinator for several years.

History of Rivals Week



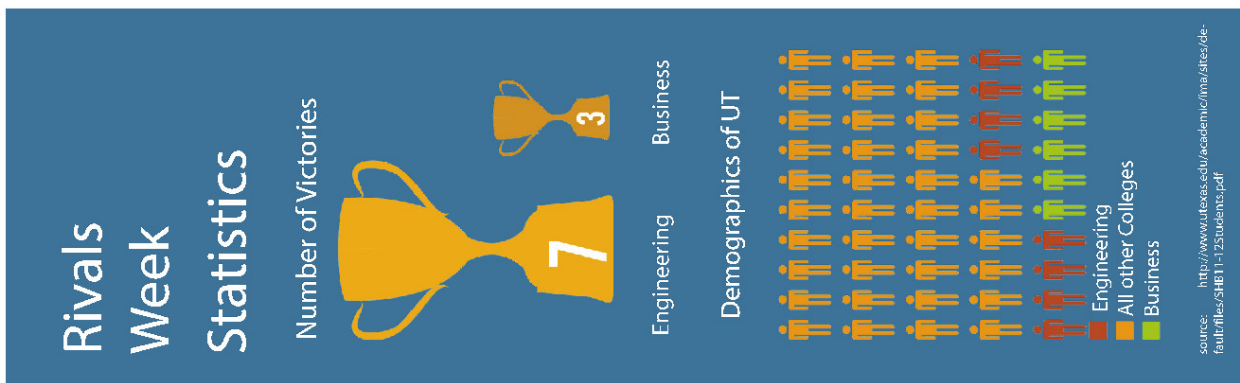
By Fitzgerald Joy

The Cockrell School of Engineering and the McCombs School of Business are both very reputable academic colleges of The University of Texas at Austin. As a result, the students from each college are naturally determined to prove that their college is superior to the other, and there needs to be an unbiased way for this to be determined. A business student may say that McCombs is better because US News ranks McCombs School's program as #8 out of all the nation's undergraduate business programs, whereas Cockrell's program is ranked #10 out of all the nation's undergraduate engineering programs. This argument is clearly flawed since it is not an apples-to-apples comparison; the ranking applies to two different sets of programs. An engineering student may make the argument that Cockrell is better because Cockrell graduates earn comparatively higher starting salaries than do McCombs graduates. This also is a flawed argument since this statement holds true at virtually all universities that offer degrees in both areas. So how can we settle this feud between Cockrell and McCombs?

A valid method to settle the ongoing dispute is Rivals Week. Rivals Week, also called Engineering vs. Business Week or EvB week, is a week-long event filled with fun activities held to foster a relationship between engineering and business students while increasing students' pride in their respective colleges. The tradition started in 2004 and is held every year by the Cockrell School's student Student Engineering Council (SEC) and the McCombs School's Undergraduate Business Council.

Rivals Week has become increasingly popular both inside and outside of UT Austin. The National Association of Engineering Student Councils (NAESC) even presented Rivals Week with the "Best School Spirit Event" Award at the 2012 NAESC National Conference. Rivals Week undoubtedly deserved this award, as the event genuinely portrays the college spirit of over 13,000 brilliant Longhorn students.

Dodgeball on the final day of Rivals Week 2013



Engineers Without Borders

Bringing the Big Picture

By Anvita Jain

As college students, we have all wondered at one point, “How does all of this matter in the real world?” It is very easy to get caught up in all the everyday details from classes and forget to look at the bigger picture--why are you dedicating several years of your life to school in the first place?

With more than 13,000 volunteers worldwide, EWB-USA has been able to improve the quality of life for over 2.5 million people around the world in 47 different countries.

Organizations such as the Greater Austin Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) keep the passion for making a

difference alive in their members. EWB is a community service organization that engineers sustainable solutions for underserved communities around the world. One of the unique aspects of EWB's work is their emphasis on sustainability. They do not just seek to provide the solution but to also teach locals how to maintain that solution.

Currently, the two major projects that EWB is working on are the Panama Project and the Climate Adaptation in Mountain Basis in the Andean Region (CAMBLAR) project in Peru. Both projects focus on water-related issues; the Panama project seeks to provide the small village of Sleykin, Panama with clean water using household bio-sand filters and increasing health education. On the other hand, CAMBLAR focuses on providing the Ancash region of Peru with an improved water irrigation system and facilitating activities focusing on health education and water conservation.

EWB serves as a platform for dedicated individuals to make a truly global impact, and all students are welcome to join. “EWB speaks to me and to most of its members because it enables you to really make a difference to people who need it most,” says Outreach Subgroup Co-Lead Michelle Arjvad. Beyond giving students a global perspective, EWB also provides them with the opportunity to develop teamwork, problem solving, and networking skills.

“EWB...enables you to really make a difference to people who need it most.”

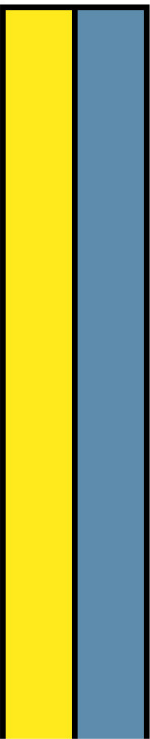
With more than 13,000 volunteers worldwide EWB-USA has been able to improve the quality of life for over 2.5 million people around the world in 47 different countries.



Kazakhstan

Dias Kazbekuly

Chemical Engineering



What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

When did you come to America? When did you come to the University of Texas?

I'm a junior in chemical engineering.

First came to New York City in 2010. I came to UT in 2011.

What are your future aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

What do you like most about living and going to school in Austin?

I don't have an exact dream job, but the job needs to be as beneficial to society as possible.

I like that it is not a small campus town, and that there are many places to hang out.

How are things different here than where you are from? What do you miss most about home?

What is one interesting and little known fact about your home-country that you would like our readers to know?

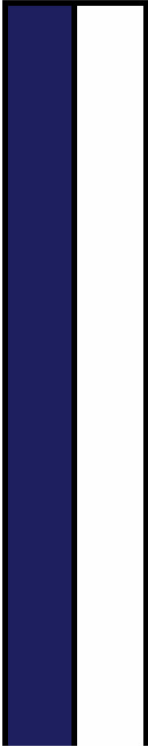
People are very different. In my home country, people are collectivists rather than individualists. Also, here people require more personal space and try to keep their distance. Therefore, to us they seem cold and unfriendly.

Besides the fact that the most beautiful girls in the world live there, martial arts are very popular there. Almost every father considers it his duty to ensure his son learns martial arts.



A panoramic view of Astana.

Scotland



Elif Kece

Civil Engineering

What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

I am a junior majoring in civil engineering. My favorite aspect of this degree is the fact that everything we do has real world applications. I love being able to look at a bridge and understand the physics behind it.

What are your aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

Something involving travel and helping the environment. I feel like I'm in a position to make people's lives better by reducing our use of non-renewable resources.

What do you like most about living and studying in Austin?

Austin as a city is really cool. The weather is amazing here – much nicer than in Edinburgh. On top of that, there is always so much going on here, although engineering does not give you much time to do any of it.

How are things different here than in Edinburgh? What do you miss most about home?

Initially, the hardest thing was leaving my close friends. But Americans are really friendly and open to starting a conversation, which made it easy to find people to hang out with. There are so many differences between America and home. The number of fast food chains here is crazy, and I'm still getting used to the huge portion sizes.

What is one interesting fact about Scotland?

We speak English! And our national animal is the unicorn.



Glasgow Tower is a free-standing tower located on the south bank of the River Clyde in Glasgow, Scotland and forms part of Glasgow Science Centre complex. It holds a Guinness World Record for being the tallest tower in the world in which the whole structure is capable of rotating 360 degrees

International Cuisine

The best eats from around the world, right here in Austin

Annie Xue, Jenny Ding, Richard Fang

Sao Paulo's Brazilian Restaurante (Brazilian)
Address: 2809 San Jacinto Blvd.

Price: \$\$

Description: Known as Austin's award-winning Brazilian restaurant, Sao Paulo brings in authentic flavors along with sensual music to provide a unique atmosphere in which to eat. The light and cheery atmosphere along with the recessed lighting promotes a genuine Brazilian dining experience.

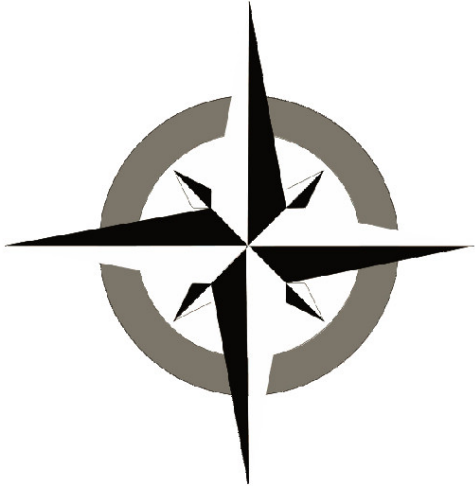
Recommended Dishes: Their Moqueca Bahiana, a fish fillet sautéed with tomatoes, onions, and peppers in a coconut cream sauce, served with the traditional yucca porridge, must be tried. In addition, the Estrogonofe do Sul beef sirloin cooked with tomatoes, cilantro, onions, and mushrooms in a Brazilian cream sauce is a delicacy as well.

Kerbey Lane Cafe (American)
Address: 2606 Guadalupe St.

Price: \$

Description: The ubiquitous Kerbey Lane Cafe is well-known for its classic American diner fare. Casual, close to campus, and open 24/7, Kerbey Lane is always available whenever one has a sudden craving for a random breakfast. The restaurant also boasts seasonal menus (i.e. pumpkin mousse pie in the fall). Numerous vegan and gluten-free menu items also make Kerbey Lane a viable option for all diners.

Recommended Dishes: The Kerbey Queso is a must have; if you haven't dipped tortilla chips in this guacamole-queso goodness, you haven't enjoyed tortilla chips properly. Kerbey's signature pancakes come in various delicious flavors for pancake enthusiasts, but the gingerbread pancakes are particularly delicious.



Manna Korean Restaurant (Korean)
Address: 6808 North Lamar

Price: \$

Description: Manna Korean Restaurant's prices are reasonable, and the menu has a substantial variety of delicious MSG-free, nicely-portioned dishes to choose from. Without fail, always try a Korean restaurant's bibimbap; it serves as the indicator of how the food fares overall. Manna's did not disappoint! The service is a lot better here than at most Korean restaurants, which is always a plus. If your meal is under \$10, you need to pay in cash, so have some on hand if you're planning on only getting 1 dish; most dishes are under \$10 after tax.

Recommended Dishes: The bibimbap, japchae, and bulgogi.

Tour Les Jour (Korean)
Address: 6808 North Lamar

Price: \$

Description: Tour Les Jour is a South Korean bakery chain with locations in Asia and the United States. It offers an impressive selection of breads, pastries, and cakes that are as scrumptious as they are visually appealing. From sweet breads with Asian fillings such as red bean, taro, and sweet potato to macarons and savory

croquettes, Tour Les Jour can satisfy any baked-goods craving. They also serve hot teas, coffee, and bubble tea--the perfect accompaniment to any treat in the store.

Recommended Dishes: One of the most popular items sold is the patbingsu, a shaved ice dessert with condensed milk and fruit or sweetened azuki bean toppings. You could close your eyes and pick anything from the bakery. Bon appétit!

El Meson Mexican Restaurant (Mexican)
Address: 2038 S Lamar Blvd.

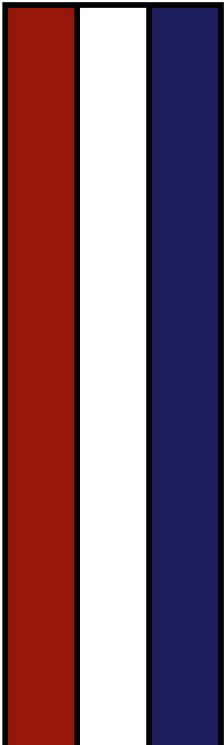
Price: \$\$

Description: This Mexican restaurant boasts its homemade authentic regional Mexican taste at reasonable prices. Decorated in a lovely Mexican style and with pleasant ambient lighting, this restaurant is the perfect dinner date place or a casual meeting destination for dinner with friends. The menu is simple and concise, with many different menu choices as well as an ever-changing dessert special of the day.

Recommended Dishes: Trying their unique Chile con queso appetizer dish is a must. In addition, their dishes of Mole Rojo and Mole Verde, which consist mainly of shredded chicken in various sauces, are the most popular sellers at the restaurant.



Australia



David Conrad Civil Engineering

What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

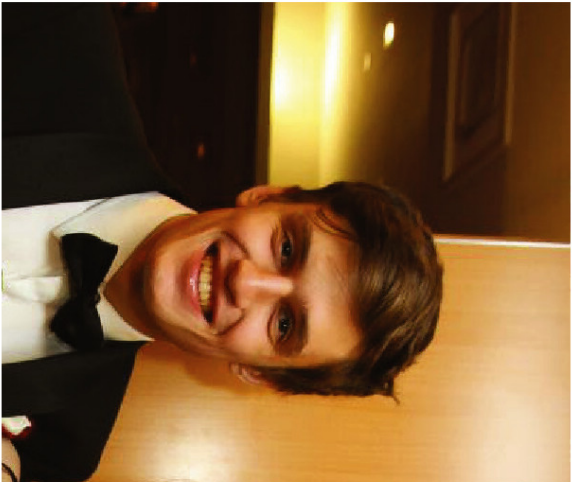
I am a junior studying civil engineering. I love the problem solving aspects of engineering and the fact that with Civil you really get to see how the world works.

What are your aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

After graduation, I would love to work in management consulting either in America or back home in Australia. I could also see myself working in an engineering design firm.

What do you like most about living and going to school in Austin?

It has to be the music scene. Austin is an amazing city to study in as a fan of live music. It feels like there is a headline act playing here every week.



How are things different here than where you are from?

America and Australia have a lot in common, but there are some definite differences. The college lifestyle and school spirit is a big one. There is just such a sense of community at UT. At home we would be lucky to get a hundred people to a rugby game, and you would never see anyone wearing University of Queensland clothes. It makes coming to college in America such a unique experience.

What is one interesting and little known fact about your home country you would like our readers to know?

We don't ride kangaroos everywhere. They are reserved for special occasions.

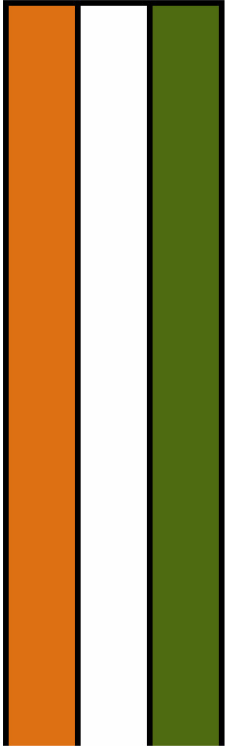
The Sydney Opera House is a multi-venue performing arts centre in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Though its name suggests a single venue, the project comprises multiple performance venues which together are among the busiest performing arts centres in the world — hosting over 1,500 performances each year attended by some 1.2 million people.



VOICES OF ENGINEER



India



Eishaan Gakhar

Aerospace Engineering

Where are you from?

I'm from India but was born and brought up in Qatar.

What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

I'm a sophomore in aerospace engineering. I wanted to do something different so aerospace engineering gave me the opportunity to do so.

What are your future aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

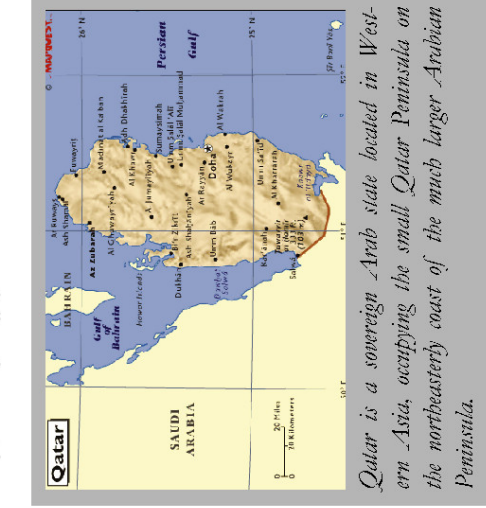
I plan to become a part of NASA and aid them in exploring the universe and hopefully find ET! My dream job is to work with a space agency that makes space travel possible for common middle-class people.

When did you come to America? When did you come to the University of Texas?

which was my VAPA course. It was really interesting to learn about art from a professor who had traveled to so many places, and about how art revealed the growth of architecture and engineering over time.

Qatar is the host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, so see you guys there!!

What is one interesting and little known fact about your home-country that you would like our readers to know?



Qatar is a sovereign Arab state located in Western Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeastern coast of the much larger Arabian Peninsula.

What do you like most about living and going to school in Austin?

Austin is a great city - everyone is so friendly. One of the best things about Austin is that everyone is ready to help you, no matter who you are or where you come from. One of the many things I enjoy in Austin is food. Salsa is one of my favorite snacks ever since coming to Texas; I'm sad I wasn't introduced to it earlier. Also, going to school in Austin allows me to play cricket, my favorite sport, which I was unable to play in high school. Studying at UT Austin is a different experience altogether. The professors are also really helpful and some of the classes are especially interesting. My favorite class so far has been Art History, the most.

How are things different here than where you are from? What do you miss most about home?

Life is very different from the Middle East in the States. Whereas Qatar has a conservative society, the United States is much more open. Also, the food back home is much different from the food here. Climate is one of the biggest differences. While back home temperatures soar to 120 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, Austin can have summer, winter and monsoon season within the span of a week, if not in a day itself. I miss my family and my mom's food the most.

RING

UT Austin is one of the best places in the world to develop a foundation of knowledge that will lead to a successful future. To understand what draws students in from all over the world, our writers interviewed a few of the Cockrell School's international students.

China



Yuhang

Mechanical Engineering



What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

I am a first-year graduate student at the Cockrell School of Engineering. My major is mechanical engineering and I am specifically on the Manufacturing and Design track. I found interest in this major because it is very interesting to create things yourself. There was one project we had to complete and the goal was to make a music box and use a motor to control six cams, which changed the motion of the links. Before I came to UT Austin, I knew about a professor who was researching the angle design for the leaf of a windmill to generate more power. I think these kinds of projects are really cool.

What are your future aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

I hope to create a career out of building a plant to manufacture data and equipment and facilities for people or schools and factories in the long-term. My father was in the market of buying automobile parts from another vendor and selling them to factories. I believe it is better and more profitable to manufacture these parts ourselves. My dream job is actually to not have to work at all but to travel around the world.

What do you like most about living and going to school in Austin?

I really like how the nice weather and lack of rain. I love the relaxed atmosphere of the city and enjoy simply walking around Austin. I enjoy the people here because they are exciting, and I also enjoy the food-

ball games. I think it is cool how many girls play sports here and that there are a lot of recreational facilities nearby.

How are things different here than where you are from? What do you miss most about home?

I believe things are really different here from where I am from. The people are extremely different, but there are also other differences that stand out to me. In America, there are a lot of regulations and legalities that are not present in China. When I apply for a credit card, there are pages and pages of small print that I am not used to. Secondly, the public transportation here is not as convenient as it is in China. You can go anywhere on the subway in Shanghai, but in Austin you need a car to drive everywhere. Lastly, many people create small businesses and sell food and other products

Indonesia



Michelle Francisca Arjsad

Mechanical Engineering

What is your classification? What's your major, and what do you like about it?

I'm a sophomore studying chemical engineering. I love how the field is so diverse. I have the potential to work in a variety of business models, and in doing so, am able to make a difference in so many sectors of industry.

What are your future aspirations after you graduate? What is your dream job?

I am interested in pursuing a career in consulting. As to which specific type of consulting, I am planning to find out in the next two and a half years!

What is one interesting and little known fact about your home country that you would like our readers to know?

Karniss Everdeen's wedding dress in Catching Fire is designed by an Indonesian designer, Ilex Savento, who has also dressed Lady Gaga and Kim Kardashian.

Indonesian engineer Tjokorda Sukawati is the inventor of a modern road construction technique called "Sosrobahu" that



economically and quickly erects flyovers. This is being used in multiple countries, including Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, and the US.

What do you like most about living and going to school in Austin?

I like how sincerely nice everyone is. That is a very generic response, but really, things could have gone badly if everyone here wasn't as nice as they are.

What is one interesting and little known fact about your home-country that you would like our readers to know?

I believe if I am going to talk about a unique aspect of China, I would have to talk about the food. Chinese food is probably more complicated than any other food in the world, and Chinese people probably spend the most time on and attention to on their food. They change the flavor of the food and adjust it for different occasions to keep it interesting.



Istiqbal Mosque, in Jakarta, Indonesia is the largest mosque in Southeast Asia and has the highest capacity. This national mosque of Indonesia was built to commemorate Indonesian independence and named "Istiqbal", an Arabic word for "independence". The mosque was opened to the public on 22 February 1978.