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CAMPUS

Shell CTO talks energy transitions, project investments

By Kevin Lokuwaduge
@Quotable_Cow

As climate change becomes an increasingly prevalent issue, the push for more environmental responsibility is coming from unexpected sources — oil and gas companies.

Yuri Sebrechts, chief technology officer and executive vice president technology for Shell, discussed the company's shift toward green energy with student moderators on Tuesday at the Avaya Auditorium.

"Our focus is on how we segue from the global energy system today to one in the future," Sebrechts said.

As part of its initiative, Shell has invested \$2 billion of research money this year to develop models for the energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. UT has received a portion of the money for projects developing energy infrastructure and storage solutions.

"What we currently have with UT are research collaborations in a number of areas that are very important for (Texas) and the world," Sebrechts said. "We continue to have a lot of technology that develops shale gas resource safely, economically and environmentally-responsibly."

Sebrechts said Shell's long-term focus is preventing drastic climate change through environmentally responsible and safe methods while also being able to satisfy global energy needs.

"I think a lot of people don't know what oil and gas companies are doing," said Karan Jerath, petroleum engineering senior and moderator. "Shell ... has taken such a drastic ... approach to wanting to be the ones to contribute to the transitioning energy environment, and they're very active in the community as well."

SHELL ▶ PAGE 2

UNIVERSITY

UT reminds students of loan debt



ANDREW CHOI | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Following state bill, the University will start notifying students of money owed every spring semester.

By Tehya Rassman
@tehyarassman

The University will begin sending debt letters to students at the end of each spring semester, allowing them to see how much debt they've accumulated as result of financial aid.

"UT-Austin strongly supports keeping college affordable and helping students graduate with as little debt as possible," communications coordinator Kendall Slagle said in an email.

In 2017, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 0887, requiring all institutions of higher education that participate in a state financial aid program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to send debt letters.

The letters will only include state financial aid, so Slagle said students should keep in

mind any aid they receive outside of state aid.

Indiana University pioneered the debt letter initiative in 2012. Six years later, the total loans decreased by about \$125 million, said James Kennedy, associate vice president of University Student Services and Systems at IU.

"Hopefully, there are no surprises," Kennedy said. "Every year, you know exactly how much you have, what the estimated payment amount is going to be, so when you get out you can start to plan earlier on."

Carly Williams, English and health and society senior, said she thinks UT debt letters would be a "double-edged sword" for students, because along with the benefit of knowing the amount they have taken out in loans comes the burden of financial stress.

Williams said UT has the resources to promote financial awareness, but they do not do enough to advertise them.

"A lot of the time students feel like they're completely on their own with money issues

and then really only reach out to financial aid if it's a dire issue, not in the build-up," Williams said.

At Indiana University, Kennedy said they do three things to create more financial awareness. These resources include an Office of Financial Literacy, where they do outreach initiatives and programming, a financial aid office, where they send debt letters and look at award letters, and an emphasis on graduating in four years.

"I think the debt letter is a good start, but I think, overall, just the counseling that we provide and information and how we can get that to students is really important," Kennedy said.

Although Kennedy is happy about the decrease IU has seen in loans, he said loans are not necessarily harmful.

"Student loans are a great way to finance your education, but the key is you don't want to have excessive student loan debt," Kennedy said.

CAMPUS

Cancer research institution funds continued efforts for tobacco-free UT



GEORGE WUNCH | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

A group of students walks past a "Tobacco-Free Campus" sign next to the F. Loren Winship Building near San Jacinto Blvd. on Tuesday afternoon.

By Cynthia Miranda
@cynthiamirandax

The University has maintained a tobacco-free campus since 2012 as a result of ongoing funding from the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas.

In 2012, the institute required all entities receiving funding to implement tobacco-free policies. The same year, UT adopted its tobacco-free

campus policy, banning the use of all forms of tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, hookahs and e-cigarettes.

Additionally, the UT community developed an increased awareness of the effects of secondhand smoke, said Nosse Oviemhada, who is in charge of informing UT about the tobacco-free policy.

"Tobacco use remains one of the number one causes of preventable deaths in the United States," said

Oviemhada, the work-life and wellness manager for UT's HealthPoint Wellness Program.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, cigarette smoking causes more than 480,000 deaths per year in the United States. More than 41,000 of those deaths are from secondhand smoke exposure.

Oviemhada said when UT implemented its tobacco-free

policy as a joint effort between the tobacco-free committee and Student Government in 2012, the plan was originally intended to last seven years.

The institute's requirement made the creation of a policy easier and helped speed up the process, Oviemhada said.

"I think everybody was already in the mindset that it needed to be done because at

Community college tuition could increase

By Hayden Baggett
@hansfirm

Affordable tuition rates at Austin Community College and other state community colleges are in jeopardy after the filing of a property tax reform bill by state Sen. Paul Bettencourt, R-Houston.

Under Senate Bill 2, voter approval would be required before a taxing unit can increase its annual property tax revenue by more than 2.5 percent from the previous year. Neil Vickers, ACC's vice president of finance and administration, said this cap could result in increased tuition at ACC, which hasn't changed in more than five years.

"The property tax revenues here are very important," Vickers said.

"In fact, it's our largest revenue stream by far. Anything that impacts that negatively, whether it would be a change in the economy or, in this case, some type of change in legislation, will have a significant impact on how the college funds its programs."

Vickers said this will be a statewide problem for community colleges but will be exacerbated at urban community colleges, such as ACC, because they are more reliant on growing property values. In

the past five years, Vickers said Austin has exceeded 2.5 percent increases in property tax revenue each year.

"At this point in time, property taxes make up about 60 percent of our operating revenues, and we use that to maintain fairly low tuition rates," Vickers said.

Vickers said ACC would have received \$9 million less in 2018

“

“There’s going to be impact, and there’s just no way around it. It’s too large of a revenue stream for us for there not to be.

NEIL VICKERS
ACC VICE PRESIDENT

if the bill had been in effect. Taken at face value, Vickers said this difference in revenue is worth an extra \$12 per credit hour, or approximately \$300 extra per year for a full-time student.

"That's not just a one-time (increase)," Vickers said. "You have that same (2.5 percent) cap every year ... so, it changes the way that we fund the college long-term and how we look at our revenue streams. We would absolutely be talking about having to have regular tuition increases."

Bettencourt, who authored the property tax reform bill, did not respond to a request for comment.

Vickers said tuition hikes have implications for UT students, too. UT has a significant number of students coenrolled in ACC classes, Vickers said,

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SG aims to increase campus diversity, safety

By Hannah Ortega
@_hannahortega_

Members proposed legislation to establish allotted seats for Multicultural Engagement Center representatives and support metal detectors at the Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium in a meeting Tuesday night.

According to Assembly Bill 16, a pilot program would give every agency from the MEC, including Afrikan American Affairs, Latinx Community Affairs and Students for Equity and Diversity, two seats in the 113th Student Government assembly. The pilot would last a year, and if successful, the program will be written into the SG Constitution.

“What (the legislation) does is it establishes MEC representatives to examine so that we’re able to see how, in extending seats to people who typically haven’t been afforded them in this assembly, how that would ... affect the conversations, legislation and initiatives that come out of this body and Student Government as a whole,” said Trip Davis, deputy director of advocacy. “(We’d also look at) how can we foster better relationships between ourselves, the MEC and other organizations that further student advocacy.”

The MEC agencies listed are not “the only groups that deserve representation in this body,” but the assembly first needs to see how the pilot fairs before discussing the expansion of seats to other groups, Davis said. For the pilot, the



Student affairs chair Natalie Engel, left, and first year representative Avi Patel cheer on a guest mariachi band at the Student Government meeting on Feb. 5 where they and other members presented a resolution that is bringing collapsable metal detectors to campus. A proposal was made at the meeting to establish representative seats to MEC agencies in the next assembly.

MEC will be tasked with selecting the representatives from each agency.

“It is meant to allow the agencies to formulate their own selection process to choose an individual at the University of Texas who can best represent their ideals, values and initiatives in this body,” said Davis, a communication studies sophomore. “It specifies that before they actually start selecting people, it needs to be outlined, written and submitted to the speaker

of the assembly so that ... it’s an open and fair process, but the idea is those agencies are going to select the best person ... that they deem to advance their mission in this body.”

Additionally, members presented Assembly Resolution 14, which supports metal detectors in DKR and all other athletics stadiums.

“So basically how they’re envisioning it is these would be collapsable or moveable metal detectors that they would be able to move

stadium to stadium based on who is hosting an event that night or day, that way we don’t have to equip all stadiums with their own set of metal detectors,” student affairs chair Natalie Engel said.

Longhorn Legislative Aide Brian Chavez, who first proposed the resolution to Engel, said he was told it will be two to three years before the metal detectors are implemented. Engel said regardless of what the assembly votes, the metal detectors will be coming

to UT.

“What this legislation is really just trying to accomplish is to establish support for bringing metal detectors to the University,” student body president Colton Becker said. “All the logistics and stuff like that will be figured out. There will undoubtedly be challenges and stuff like that that arise from this, as there always is. Really all this is about, again, is just establishing support for the idea of bringing these metal detectors to UT.”



Yuri Sebregts, global chief technology officer and executive vice president technology of Shell Energy, speaks with an attendee of his fireside chat. Sebregts discussed how Shell is planning to shift toward green energy.

SHELL

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

A variety of new technologies would have to be employed to keep the global average temperature change within the two degree targets set by the Paris Climate Accord, Sebregts said.

Specifically, research models have shown carbon sequestration — which is the process of removing carbon from the air and placing it underground — is necessary to meet the two degree target, said Todd Davidson, a research associate at the UT Energy Institute.

However, Sebregts said the solution to climate change would not come from green energy alone.

“The sun isn’t always shining, the wind isn’t always blowing, plus there’s geography where you have relatively little sun or wind,” Sebregts said. “Gas will continue to be very important as a transition fuel for at least half a century, because it backs up wind and solar power very well.”

Another solution is consumer efficiency, which can also significantly reduce humans’ carbon footprint, Sebregts said.

“Using oil components to make materials that you use for a long time is pretty much the most sustainable way of using oil,” Sebregts said. “If you use it as a mineral material and it goes into a plastic that lasts a long time, that’s not a bad way to use it.”

Oil products can appear in places most people may not consider, such as plastics.

“We can deliver just as high a quality of life by choosing products that will last your whole life rather than choosing products that are throw-away products,” Davidson said.

Sebregts said the energy industry provides an opportunity for people to make an impact on the world.

“The world needs to make a lot of progress,” Sebregts said. “In order to be impactful, I think you need to have a broad understanding of all the aspects that go into the energy system.”

SMOKE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

that time already in 2012, there were at least 800 institutions nationally that had already gone fully tobacco-free,” Oviennhada said.

Oviennhada said the University believes tobacco-free enforcement is everyone’s responsibility. She said students can help through direct action, which requires students to voice their concerns and tell people who are smoking on campus about UT’s policy. Students can also report smoking incidents on campus through the tobacco-free campus website, which collects data including the location and time of policy violation.

“That data is used to evaluate need for additional signage in specific areas, but it’s very valuable,” Oviennhada said.

Biology freshman Mariam Khwaja said she was not aware of the policy and suggested more enforcement.

“I think more signs and also educating people about the risks of tobacco and how it affects your health, so maybe like an orientation or something like that (would help),” Khwaja said.

Physics junior Fohn Ferradd said he does not think smoking is a problem on campus.

“To each his own,” Ferradd said. “To me, it’s not a big deal, but to others, it might be.”



TUITION

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 1

and tuition increases would affect them as well.

“There’s going to be impact, and there’s just no way around it,” Vickers said. “It’s too large of a revenue stream for us for there not to be. But the college will turn over every stone to minimize the impacts for both the service levels and cost

of tuition.”

ACC sophomore Cyrus Bogard is preparing to transfer into UT. Bogard said paying more tuition at ACC would lead him to make some financial sacrifices, but it wouldn’t hinder his plans to attend the University.

“UT’s tuition already costs a good deal more,” Bogard said. “(ACC) raising tuition wouldn’t deter me, but it would be an inconvenience.”

Dance sophomore Andreina Hurtado said she takes core classes at Lone Star Community in Houston. Hurtado said she pays for some of her classes, so increased tuition at other community colleges would negatively affect her.

“I would potentially have to take out more loans or work more, which would just make me more tired and less focused on my dance degree,” Hurtado said.

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RESEARCH

UT finds alcoholism cause

By Lauren Rahman
@RahmanLauren

A new study, co-authored by researchers from UT, has revealed the genetic factors that can cause alcoholism.

The research used various scientific tools, such as genetics-based approaches, to better understand the molecular mechanisms underlying alcoholism, said Dayne Mayfield, a UT research scientist at the Waggoner Center for Alcohol and Addiction Research.

Mayfield, a co-author of the paper, said the molecular mechanisms associated with alcoholism are very difficult to work out because so many genes are involved.

“Each individual gene contributes a very small amount to the overall problem, requiring us to examine changes in all known genes at the same time,” Mayfield said.

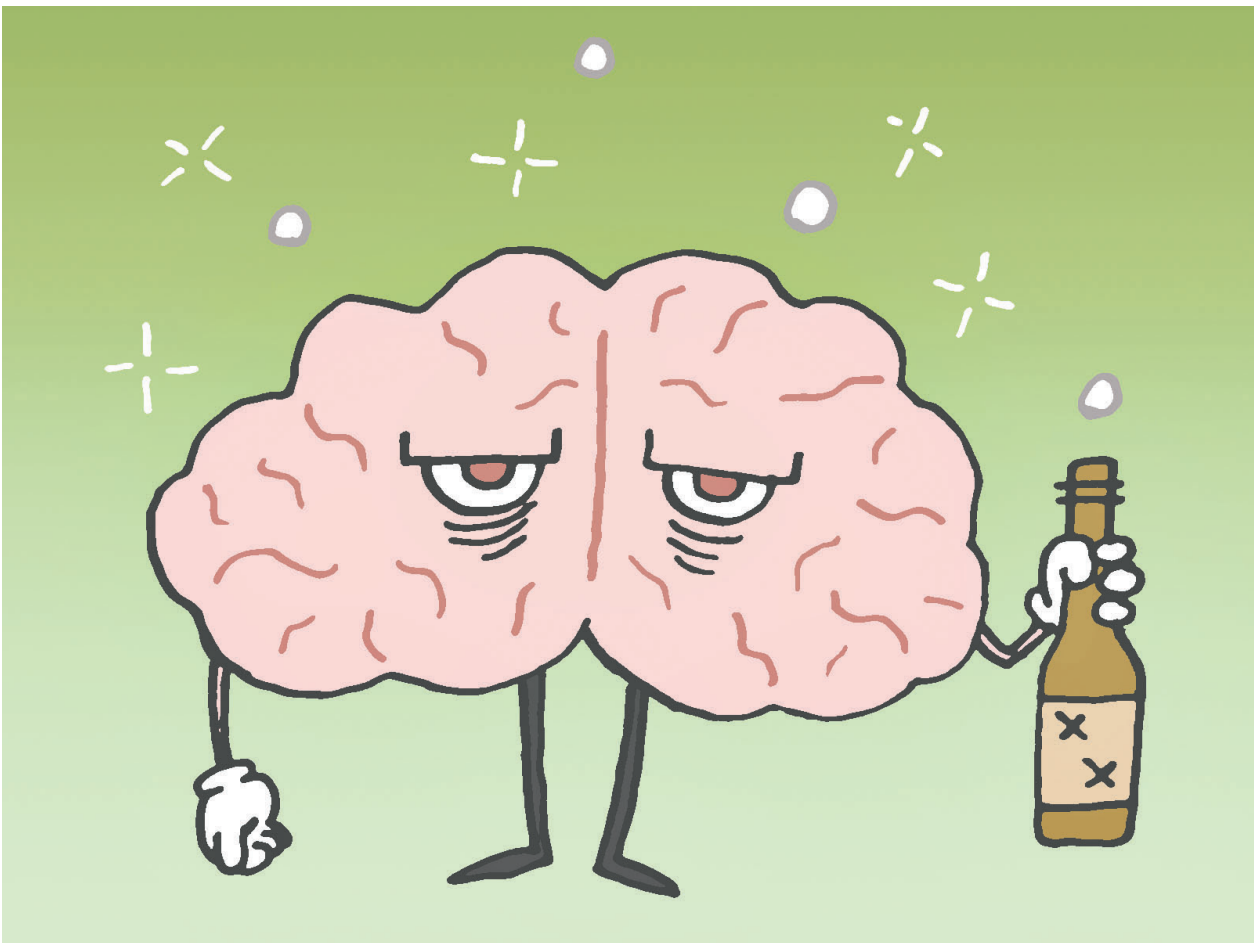
Mayfield said the study utilized the largest number of postmortem brains that have been studied to date for alcoholism.

“This study is somewhat unique since we used brain tissue from human alcoholics rather than an animal model,” Mayfield said. “Tissue was obtained from a brain bank in Australia from alcoholic individuals as well as nonalcoholic controls.”

The paper was a collaboration between UT scientists with the Integrative Neuroscience Initiative on Alcoholism and researchers from the Collaborative Studies on Genetics of Alcoholism (COGA) consortium.

Researchers analyzed an expression of genes in the brains of alcoholic individuals compared to the control brains and combined the data with genetic data, said Manav Kapoor, a member of the COGA consortium.

“This helped identify different networks of genes that were differentially expressed in alcohol dependent individuals,” said Kapoor, a co-author of



ALBERT LEE | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

the study.

The study pinpoints new networks of genes or proteins that are functionally important in the development of alcohol dependence and can be therapeutic targets, said Alison Goate, an author of the study and a member of the COGA consortium.

“There isn’t one gene that does any of these things. There are tens and hundreds of genes that interact together and with the environment that can factor into alcohol dependence,” Goate said.

Kapoor said this includes a gene-

environment interaction, where drinking is affecting the existing gene.

“People who have the genetic background, if they drink more, have more probability of becoming dependent,” said Kapoor.

This research is important in order to better understand the causes of the disease, said Yunlong Liu, a member of the COGA consortium.

“We need to understand whether people will have alcohol use disorders, what are the gene expression differences that make some people more susceptible to alcohol dependence and how

alcohol impacts the brain after years of drinking,” Liu said.

Mayfield said this research is exciting because it generates new hypotheses to explore and provides new avenues of research, such as identifying potential new treatment options. Currently, there are only three FDA-approved treatment options in the United States.

“Given the social and economic impact of alcoholism, it is striking that there are so few FDA-approved treatments available in the U.S.,” Mayfield said. “We hope our work will lead to new treatment options.”

CAMPUS

Professor gives time management tips, lessons to students

By Tien Nguyen
@tienjng

Students feeling pressured by the clock don’t have to be, communication studies professor Dawna Ballard said.

It’s not the clock that’s causing the stress — it’s how you respond to it, Ballard said. Ballard’s research focuses on chronemics, which is the study of time as it is bound to human communication. Ballard will be offering an undergraduate course this fall titled “Time Matters” to teach the role of time in contemporary society.

“The course takes a dive into our relationship with time,” Ballard said. “It’s about gradually regaining, in your life, a sense that time really doesn’t control us — we cocreated time as a culture, and we can create a different time.”

Ballard said the idea students have to do everything by a certain age to be successful leads to overcommitment.

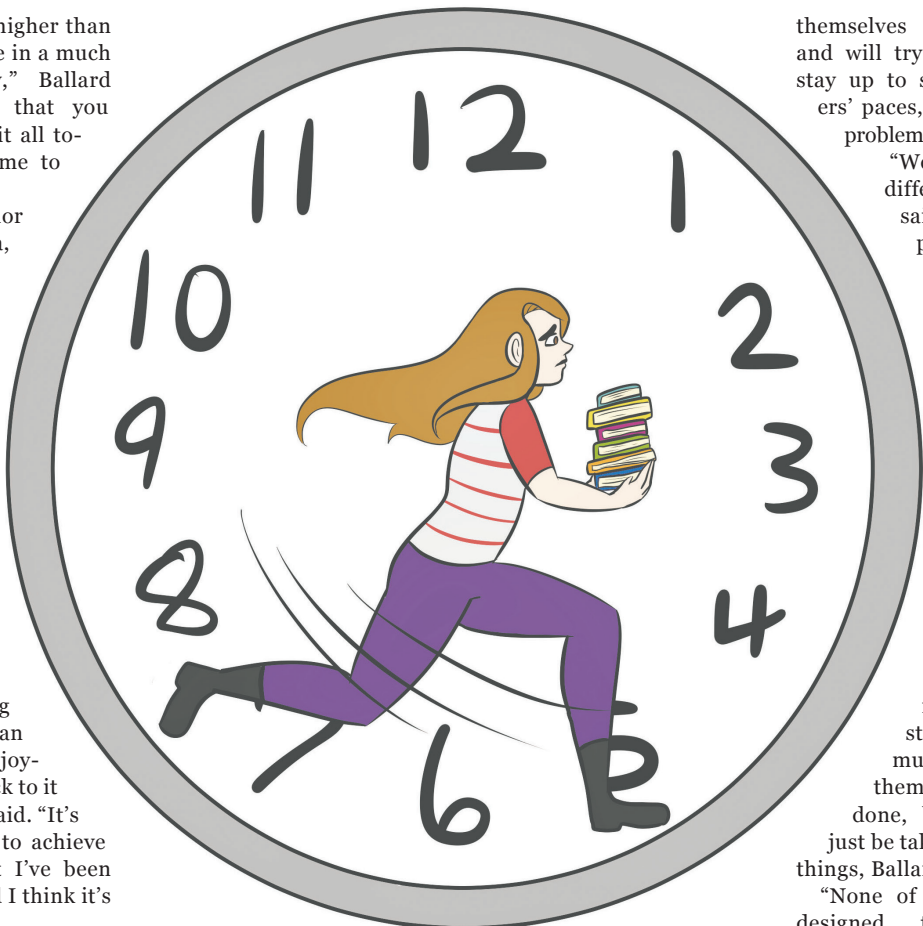
“If you’re trying to get it all done by 20, the likelihood of

burnout is much higher than if you see your life in a much longer trajectory,” Ballard said. “Recognize that you don’t have to do it all today. You have time to do it.”

Chemistry junior Sorin Srinivasa, who said they have taken on a heavy workload this semester, said it’s important to allocate some time every week to relax.

“I’ve been trying to work on being okay with not finishing everything immediately and leaving something unfinished so I can do something enjoyable and come back to it later,” Srinivasa said. “It’s been a challenge to achieve that balance, but I’ve been working on it, and I think it’s getting better.”

Students often compare



NIKOLE PEÑA | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

themselves to their peers and will try to do more to stay up to speed with others’ paces, but this can be problematic, Ballard said.

“We’re all very different,” Ballard said. “Some people can be motivated by more, others are overwhelmed by more. It’s important to ask yourself: Are you listening to your gut about your ability to handle these things?”

In addition to overcoming, some students think multitasking allows them to get more done, but they might just be taking longer to do things, Ballard said.

“None of our brains are designed to multitask,” Ballard said. “When you’re

doing your homework, are you just doing your homework or are you switching over to social media, are you texting friends? Ask yourself if you are constantly being interrupted while doing this one task that requires a lot of concentration.”

One way to gain control of your time is to gain control of your technology, Ballard said.

“Being accessible to everyone at all times is a big shift in our culture,” Ballard said. “When you’re constantly being pinged by social media, texts or emails, these incoming messages can make it so that you can’t pace yourself and others are pacing you.”

Neuroscience freshman Mariana Rios said she tries to minimize social media notifications during the day to stay focused.

“When I try to get work done, it helps to turn off my phone completely,” Rios said. “The phone is a distraction if I let it be. Keeping (my phone) away and honoring and respecting my time to do something is important.”



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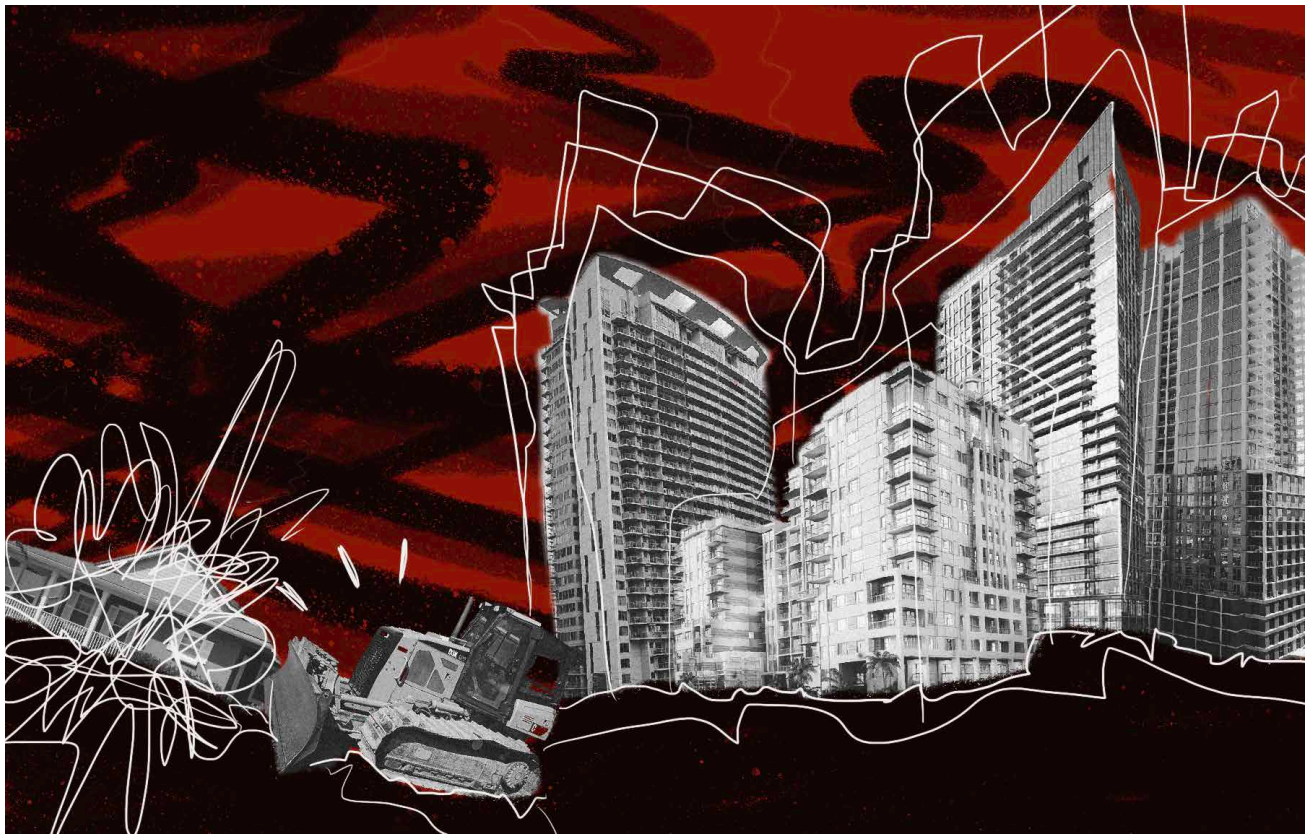
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ABRIELLA CORKER | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

UT should offer more place-based classes in East Austin

By Isabella Waltz
Columnist

Every spring for the past 19 years, radio-television-film students have spent their semesters making short documentaries featuring members of the East Austin community. This course, East Austin Stories, provides a unique opportunity for students to participate in place-based learning just minutes away from the heart of UT's campus. This class has given me insight into the disheartening level of displacement in Austin because of gentrification and how residents are responding.

East Austin Stories allows students to concretely put their skills to work and become active participants in a community that is often under or misrepresented by the media. While this class has had a positive impact on the community and students, only a select group of radio-television-film students have the opportunity to participate, because it is a small, restricted class. UT needs to offer more place-based learning classes across a broader range of majors to raise student awareness about the problems facing their community.

In a Forum piece last September, philosophy sophomore Florent Marchais wrote about the value student voices have in the fight against gentrification. Whether they realize it or not,

students play a significant role in the Austin community during their time at UT. Rather than staying detached from this community, Marchais encouraged students to promote affordable housing and develop stronger connections with non-student Austinites facing life-altering changes. However, they can only do this if the University gives them the resources they need.

“

Engaging in place-based learning is effective because it has the potential to connect both students and other community members ...”

Engaging in place-based learning is effective because it has the potential to connect both students and other community members in a lasting, meaningful way. Hearing from prominent community voices and establishing connections can serve as a foundation for continued student activism.

“One of the first pieces that was made in the class in 2000 was about a house that developers were trying to buy and (the

owner) did not want to sell,” said East Austin Stories professor Andrew Garrison. “They were able to use that documentary in the Guadalupe neighborhood to help present the case against gentrification. It helped them keep their house.”

In addition to contributing to the preservation and celebration of East Austin, students who might feel disconnected from the community have the opportunity to grow and learn through the relationships they form.

“I tell my students that the impact is probably going to be on them. There's going to be a much greater impact from them hearing and learning other people's stories,” Garrison said. After forming strong connections and seeing a side of East Austin that is often ignored, students can gain invaluable experiences they couldn't find in the classroom. The same goes for all place-based learning, which is why UT needs to provide similar opportunities for more students.

Replicating the nature of East Austin Stories across different areas of study would give more students the chance to understand gentrification and other social issues on a personal level. Whether students remain in Austin or not, this understanding would allow them to be more empathetic, participatory members of their future communities.

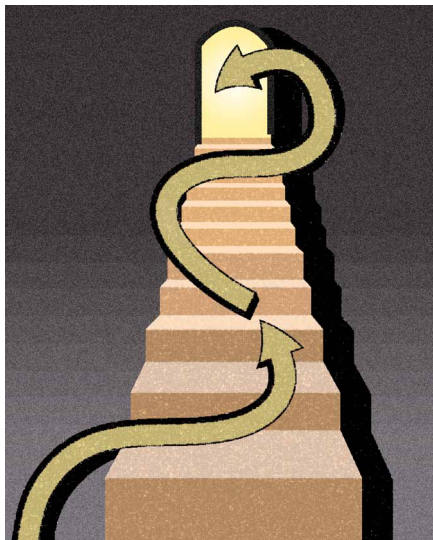
Waltz is a radio-television-film senior from Dripping Springs.

GALLERY



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We need resources for prospective DACA students

By Neha Dronamraju
Columnist

Applying to college is stressful. In the midst of tests, papers, jobs and coming to terms with the beginning of adulthood, students have to plan their futures — a daunting task for any young adult.

Imagine if that task were complicated by a precarious citizenship status jeopardizing the education your future hinged on.

In September 2017, President Donald Trump announced that his administration would end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by March 5, 2018. Although we still have DACA, conversations about its termination serve as a constant reminder to 800,000 recipients that their opportunities in the United States could be withdrawn at any time.

The college application process for DACA students can be overwhelming and nuanced, and DACA students could benefit from specialized guidance when applying. To meet this need, UT's Office of Admissions should offer specialized information sessions to help students with DACA status complete their application to UT.

For José Martínez, a Plan II and economics freshman, a DACA status meant unequal opportunity during the college application process.

Although Martínez grew up in a supportive environment and attended a school that encouraged college attendance, he found himself navigating most of the application process by himself.

“Mostly you just have to self-learn,” Martínez said. “It can be confusing at times, but one of my goals was to make the process as less financially burdensome as possible for my parents, so I was willing to do whatever I could.”

According to Kendall Slagle, content strategist at the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, Texas state law mandates that universities refrain from asking students about their immigration status.

“All of our sessions provide information for any student, regardless of their immigration status, to learn about and apply to UT-Austin,” Slagle said in an email.

But the Admissions Council doesn't need to ask students about their immigration status. Students can choose to attend specialized information sessions to ask questions related to their status.

The current generic information sessions are not enough to level the playing field for DACA students during application season. One of the many concerns that is not thoroughly addressed in those information sessions is applying for financial aid with DACA status.

“Finding scholarships was the biggest challenge,” Martínez said. “I can't apply to a lot of them because I'm DACA. And not just through the University — there are a lot of outside scholarships that I could have done well in, but you have to be a citizen or at least a permanent resident.”

According to Martínez, UT offers helpful resources including non-resident specific scholarships. He recognizes that his supportive educational environment and consequent initiative are privileges that many DACA students don't have. UT still has work to do to connect DACA students to available resources.

Information sessions are an effective way to share these resources. Prospective applicants attend them, eager to learn and embark on their higher education journeys. Events that encourage students to attend college should be catered to all students — not just citizens.

By offering such info sessions, UT would be supporting DACA students through the first major obstacle in their professional lives.

Dronamraju is a public health freshman from Dallas.

B THERE

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 8

with some of the fraternity (students) is working with ones that have good reputations and are well connected,” Dudney said.

Johanson, who said he’s proud to have both men and women working on his team, said that although women are statistically more likely to be involved in a situation facing sexual assault, men can be a big part of the solution.

“What we, as guys, can do is be good friends by being that one stepping in,” Johanson said. “If we see a guy getting to a place where he’s not making good decisions or getting pushy, we can step in.”

As an incentive to encourage friends to stay together, bthere utilizes its location-sharing technology in order to reward friends with points for every hour they stay together. These points can be exchanged for discounts to clothing stores or restaurants.

bthere also hosts competitions and rewards circles who spend the most time together, such as marketing senior Daniel LaBauve and his friends, who won 10 three-day ACL passes.

“We consistently hung out for two weeks for that contest, probably hanging out an extra two to three hours a day more than we would have otherwise,” LaBauve said. “It’s actually very fun if you like your circle.”

After officially launching in January, bthere now has 12,000 downloads at UT and is holding a contest to give away four Coachella tickets.

Now expanding to other campuses, bthere has grown organically by asking ambassadors to reach out to their friends at other colleges to combat sexual assault.

“The issue of reducing and preventing sexual assault is deeply complex, and we never want to position ourselves as thinking that we’re the solution to that,” Johanson said. “We want to be a part of the solution.”

IV clinics treat hangovers

Mobile clinics sell IV fluids for fast relief from dehydration, hangovers.

By Denise Emerson
@kaonashidenise

With the pop-up of IV hydration businesses in Austin, medical clinics are using creative means to make IV drips a glamorous way to treat hangovers. IV hydration businesses cater to a variety of groups and events by administering IV treatments of fluid and medicine to almost instantly counter hangovers or dehydration.

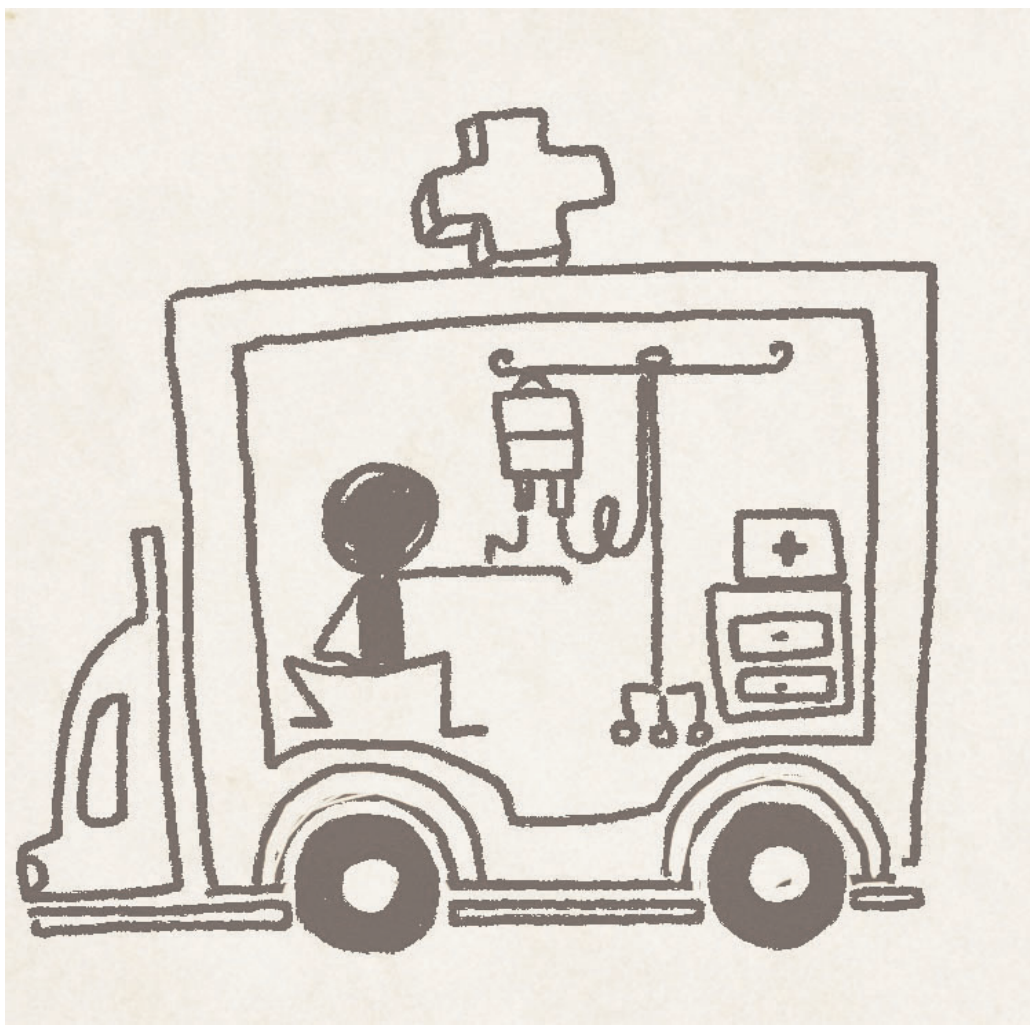
At IVitamin, an IV hydration spa, clients can choose from nine different cocktails. Jordan Cobb, co-founder of IVitamin, said the treatments have fast-acting benefits.

“If you’re doing a full liter bag, it takes about 30 to 40 minutes of you sitting in the chair getting the fluids,” Cobb said. “If you’re super depleted, you’re going to feel the effects almost instantly.”

Rolling RevIVal, a clinic operating out of a renovated airport shuttle bus, brands a party theme with quotes such as “party like a rockstar tonight, feel like a celebrity tomorrow” written on the exterior. Michelle Eades, a co-founder of Rolling RevIVal, said the experience doesn’t feel like a medical treatment.

“If you get on this bus when there’s a hydration party, they’re just talking and laughing and sharing the pictures they took the previous nights,” Eades said.

The IVs can include nausea and headache medicine, and clients need to sign a consent form before receiving drips.



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“Because this is a medical treatment, we have our medical director that we work under just like a medical spa,” Eades said. “Even though it’s just fluid, it has a prescription.”

Throughout the five years Rolling RevIVal has been in business, Eades said more people are familiar with what the service is each year. She said the drinking culture and volume of bachelor parties in Austin makes the city a good location for IV businesses.

“(Austin’s) definitely a good place (for this), because everybody’s health and wellness-aware,” Cobb said. “It’s a very work hard, play hard type city.”

Companies will also rent out

the bus for events. Eades said film distribution company Neon bought 100 treatments for their employees last year during South By Southwest.

IVitamin also provides services to groups and companies, but they aim for a relaxing spa setting with amenities including massage chairs and a lounge. Cobb said the company has also experienced growth in its almost three years of operation.

“It is a bit of a new concept,” Cobb said. “The fluids and vitamins and nutrients are delivered straight into the bloodstream. You get 100 percent absorption — instant delivery.”

Radio-television-film junior

Renee Woolley said she saw a mobile IV hydration business while working at a wedding.

“I suspect students, especially the ones who come to school with money, will start using them when it gets more popular,” Woolley said.

IV hydration sessions average around \$100 since it is a medical treatment, Eades said. Even though the treatment won’t cure viral or bacterial illness like traditional medications, some people may still prefer it over medication, Eades said.

“Fluids alone won’t fix (sickness),” Eades said. “But it’s America, and we like our solutions quick.”

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APP

‘bthere’ for friends on nights out

New app promotes bystander intervention against sexual assault.

By Trinady Joslin
@trinady05

After a friend told him about her experience with sexual assault while in college, UT law alumnus Ben Johanson (‘13) set out to create an app designed to help students stay together during nights out.

Combining group messaging and location sharing, the app, bthere, encourages friends to get out and interact together instead of using social media to connect.

“It’s important for people to know that (her experience with sexual assault) didn’t inspire me,” Johanson said. “It didn’t give me some ‘aha’ moment. It really wrecked me, but it made me start asking a lot of questions.”

After connecting with friends, bthere creates a “circle” of people that helps users reconnect after getting separated and alerts the group if a friend’s phone is below 10 percent so they can find each other before losing contact.

“We want to create a culture that makes it easier and more fun for friends to be there for one another,” Johanson said. “That’s not limited to preventing and reducing sexual assault.”

During his research, Johanson said he discovered



CARLOS GARCIA | THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

UT alumnus Ben Johanson creates “bthere” to help increase bystander intervention in situations that could otherwise result in sexual assault.

college students felt they didn’t have the “power or permission” to step in when they noticed a potentially unsafe situation. bthere was created to help promote bystander intervention in situations like these.

“It’s a commitment to each other saying, ‘Hey, these are my people, this is who I’m here for and we’re going to look out for each other

tonight,” Johanson said.

In order to promote the app at UT, Johanson started working with members of the campus chapter of Alpha Chi Omega and other members of Greek life in order to better understand the problem and build a helpful product.

“We deeply believe in making decisions that are based on empathy and based on understanding the people

that we’re trying to serve and help,” Johanson said.

Johanson said the fraternity students he’s worked with have been committed to helping create safer college campuses and operate with a deep understanding of the stigma surrounding fraternities.

Another member of the bthere team, UT business management alumnus Kyle Dudney (‘18) connected with

Johanson’s message because of their similar experiences and started working with Johanson a few days after speaking with him.

“(Ben’s story) really hit home for me, because I had a close friend who was also sexually assaulted,” Dudney said. “I saw the impact that that had on her life, and I immediately connected with Ben’s mission.”

Dudney said this stigma can be remedied by providing a platform with which users can hold their friends accountable. He said the fraternity students they’ve worked with all have a close connection and desire to work with bthere.

“One thing that we’ve tried to emphasize with working

B T H E R E ▶ PAGE 5

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