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# [October 04, 2023: University of Texas At Austin: Llamas Help Mitigate Effects of Climate Change](#)

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## **Body**

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Introducing llamas (Llama glama) into land exposed by retreating glaciers can speed the establishment of stable soils and ecosystem formation, mitigating some of the harmful effects of climate change, according to experimental research conducted by scientists at The University of Texas at Austin and partner institutions in Peru.

"Glaciers are melting rapidly around the world, creating unstable and dangerous landscapes, acid rock drainage, and land rushes for mining that are disrespecting local and Indigenous land rights," said Tim Beach, professor of geography and the environment and one of the paper's authors. "The research shows that llamas, when managed by Indigenous herders, are accelerating soil fertility and plant succession."

The study is published in Nature Scientific Reports.

Land exposed by glacial melting initially has low nutrient soil that is inhospitable to vegetation. Without intervention, these landscapes can take hundreds of years to stabilize.

The researchers partnered with the Llama 2000 Asociacion, a local community of farmers whose village had been affected by acid rock drainage. Working at the exposed edge of the Uruashraju glacier in the Cordillera Blanca, Peru, the team created eight 925-square-meter plots, half of which would house llamas and half of which would remain unoccupied control plots. They then monitored soil quality and plant species prevalence

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SECTION 1 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN PROFILE

1.1 ACTIVITIES

They say everything's bigger in Texas, and The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) takes them at their word. With about 51,000 students, it is the flagship institution of the UT System's eight universities and six health institutions. UT Austin consistently ranks on the list of the country's largest student bodies and offers more than 155 undergraduate and more than 170 graduate degree programs. In addition to its 430-acre downtown Austin academic campus, UT Austin maintains extensive research locations including the J.J. Pickle Research campus

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(also in Austin), the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, and the Marine Science Institute on the Texas coast. The university was founded in 1883.

## 1.2 SUMMARY

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## SECTION 2 PRESS RELEASES: 2023

September 29: University of Texas At Austin: Oden Institute Celebrates 50 years in Interdisciplinary Leadership

The Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences at The University of Texas at Austin celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 21, hosting a full day of events, which featured two keynote addresses and afternoon panels looking at the future of computational science and engineering (CSE).

Opening remarks from university provost Sharon Wood kicked off the morning from Mulva Conference Center and Auditorium at the Engineering Education and Research Center. "I am honored to be here with all of you as we celebrate the anniversary of the Oden Institute, which has been a true center of excellence and impact on our campus for 50 years. Or as President Hartzell called it this week in the Faculty Council meeting - one of the "crown jewels" of UT!"

Source: Company Website

September 13: UT Will Lead Research Collaboration in Outer Space

AUSTIN, Texas - The University of Texas at Austin is set to spearhead a groundbreaking research collaboration to advance the U.S. Air Force's ability to understand and monitor activity in cislunar space. The project itself, officially named the "Representations, Theory, and Algorithms for Autonomous Space Domain Awareness in the Cislunar Regime," seeks to tackle the intricate complications of monitoring and controlling activities within the expansive region between Earth and the moon. This region, known as cislunar space, presents unique challenges due to the combined gravitational forces of the two celestial bodies.

Source: Company Website

August 15: University of Texas At Austin: Longhorns Awarded 17 Prestigious Scholarships, Including Rhodes and Marshall

This year, more than a dozen University of Texas at Austin students and alumni were recipients of some of the world's most competitive scholarships and fellowships. These Longhorns represent a wide range of years, fields of study and emergent career paths, including a rising senior who received two scholarships in support of his work in cardiac tissue engineering and regenerative medicine as well as a recent graduate who will pursue graduate degrees in environmental policy and economics. Many competed against thousands of other applicants, and all were recognized for their intellectual curiosity, hard work and commitment to changing the world.

Applicants work with UT's Office of Distinguished and Postgraduate Scholarships (ODPS), which mentors undergraduates and alumni interested in scholarship opportunities. ODPS is led by professor and director Douglas Bruster and assistant director Tina Thomas and works with volunteers from the campus and local communities.

"This was an incredible year for UT, with so many students accepted to some of the world's most prestigious scholarship and fellowship programs," Bruster said. "But we have found that every student who participates in the

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application process benefits greatly from their experience. It's like a class they prepare for, with their fields and future versions of themselves as the subjects."

Learn more about our recent recipients: Rhodes Scholarship

Recent graduate Isaac W. James was selected as one of 32 Americans in the 2023 class of Rhodes Scholars, one of the most prestigious graduate scholarships in the world. Awarded by the Rhodes Trust, the scholarships provide all expenses for two or three years of study at the University of Oxford. James, who graduated in 2022 with bachelor's degrees in Plan II Honors and government with a minor in LGBTQ+ studies, plans to pursue master's degree in education at Oxford, with a concentration in digital and social change.

July 28: Events Calendar: University of Texas At Austin: Exhibition Emphasizes Histories Behind Europe's Earliest Printed Books, Including Shakespeare First Folio

To mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's First Folio, the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin will display all three copies in the library's collection beginning Aug. 19 as part of the exhibition, The Long Lives of Very Old Books. William Shakespeare, Comedies, histories, and tragedies (London: William and Isaac Jaggard, Edward Blount, John Smethwick, and William Aspley, 1623). Harry Ransom Center Book Collection.

The exhibition explores stories behind books published by Europeans between the mid-15th and late-17th centuries, tracing them from printing houses into the hands of generations of collectors and bookbinders and, ultimately, modern research libraries such as the Ransom Center.

"Analyzing books as historical artifacts allows us to move beyond content to discover how they were originally made, who owned them, the transformations they've undergone, and how they've been read, used, abused and altered over the centuries," said Aaron T. Pratt, the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Curator of Early Books and Manuscripts, who organized the exhibition.

Visitors will encounter a number of exceptional volumes, including a "Don Quixote" that has been annotated by a class-conscious reader, a Bible that purportedly traveled to New England on the Mayflower, an atlas owned by Oliver Cromwell, a group of playbooks implicated in a series of high-profile thefts, and more. A Harvard University undergraduate used one 16th-century book as his personal diary around 1970. Early books have often been used in surprising ways.

"Every early book in the Ransom Center's collection has a unique story to tell," said Claire M. L. Bourne, Associate Professor of English at the Pennsylvania State University and former Ransom Center research fellow. "Unlike institutions that have selected books based on their pristine condition, the Center boasts a large number of 'dirty' books, ones that carry the weight - and intrigue - of their histories with them."

July 17: Computational Sciences Visionary J. Tinsley Oden Celebrates 50 years at UT Austin

J. Tinsley Oden was firmly planted at The University of Texas at Austin long before the What Starts Here Changes the World branding existed. There is no doubt, however, that he may be the one of the reasons this statement is so relevant.

Oden, who is credited with the term 'computational mechanics,' has spent the last 50 years of his career at UT Austin, and he is the founding director for the institute that now bears his name: The Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences. At times, it's difficult to separate Oden the man from Oden the Institute - they are intertwined like branches on a mature tree.

On the cusp of its half-century anniversary, which will be celebrated this September, the seed for the interdisciplinary Institute was planted by Oden. With support from multiple university presidents, Peter O'Donnell and the O'Donnell Foundation (ODF), and W.A. 'Tex' Moncrief, the Oden Institute, which began with minimal initial funding and no building to call home, is now a renowned research Institute in the Peter O'Donnell Building, with a global reach.

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A Louisiana native with now deep Texas roots, Oden, often clad in his black cowboy boots at the Institute, earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Louisiana State University in 1959, and his PhD in Engineering Mechanics from Oklahoma State University in 1962. His academic career took off at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he taught for nine years and was chairman in the Department of Engineering Mechanics. Source: Company Website

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June 15: University of Texas At Austin: James E. Davis Named Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

University of Texas at Austin President Jay Hartzell announces that James E. Davis has been named senior vice president and chief operating officer (SVP and COO).

As part of President Hartzell's vision that UT Austin be the highest-impact public research university in the world, he unified the teams that develop, construct, maintain and operate university real estate, intellectual property, buildings, grounds, infrastructure, student housing and business services under Davis as SVP and COO. Davis is charged with marshalling these university resources to unlock impact and drive the strategic mission of UT.

In his prior role as vice president for legal affairs and business strategies, Davis delivered on important outcomes for the University. As general counsel, Davis led the legal strategies on the development of the Moody Center, Innovation Tower, and UT's entry into the SEC Athletic Conference. As the head of the Business Strategies team, under Hartzell's leadership, Davis initiated the planning for multiple innovation districts on off-campus land, established the University's first seed investment fund for startup companies based on faculty discoveries, acquired and defined the University's first faculty housing solution, devised and implemented a public-private partnership solution for a new graduate student housing development, and shaped the first student housing scholarship fund sourced from rent revenue. Source: Company Website

June 06: Fulbright Scholar Program Grants 4 UT Awards for 2023-2024

The U.S. Department of State and Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board have selected four members of the staff and faculty at The University of Texas at Austin to receive Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program awards for the 2023-2024 academic year.

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Professors Tia Madkins and Hannah Williamson as well as head librarian Mary Rader and postdoctoral fellow Julia York will receive resources from the Fulbright Program to pursue research and/or teaching activities abroad in 2023-2024. Annually, more than 800 U.S. scholars, artists and professionals from all backgrounds teach or conduct research overseas with the program.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

UT Austin has enjoyed a long relationship with the Fulbright Program, amassing a strong history of students, alumni, faculty members and staffers who receive Fulbright awards to work in a multitude of disciplines and attend specialized seminars across the globe. This opportunity expands the awardees' professional networks, often leading to continued research collaborations and laying the groundwork for future partnerships between institutions.

#### 2023-2024 UT Fulbright U.S. Scholars

Tia Madkins, assistant professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, received a Fulbright Flex Grant to work with the REM-NE network at Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz in Brazil, examining how elementary and middle school mathematics teachers in Northeast Brazil develop and implement equity-focused math teaching practices.

June 05: University of Texas At Austin: Separating Language from Thought to Understand why AI Chat Bots Make Mistakes

Using linguistic and cognitive approaches, scientists from The University of Texas at Austin, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and University of California Los Angeles propose an explanation for why AI programs like ChatGPT, which can produce fluid and coherent sentences, are sometimes prone to errors that human writers are not.

Large language models (LLMs), of which ChatGPT is one, are trained on enormous language datasets and generate text by predicting the word most likely to appear next in a sequence, not unlike the autocomplete function in email and text messaging. The resulting prose often sounds so convincingly human that readers wonder if something akin to human thinking lies behind it. But LLM-produced text also regularly contains bizarre mistakes and falsehoods. In a paper posted to the open-access archive arXiv, the authors argue that the strengths and weaknesses of LLMs. can be understood by separating language performance into two aspects: formal and functional linguistic competence.

Formal linguistic competence is the command of the rules and patterns of a particular language, things like vocabulary and grammar. Functional linguistic competence, on the other hand, encompasses the abilities necessary to understand language, such as reasoning, knowledge of the world, and social cognition. Using evidence from cognitive neuroscience, the authors demonstrate that formal linguistic competence in humans arises from language-specific mechanisms in the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain, whereas functional linguistic competence relies on multiple other brain regions related to human thinking. Due to their strictly linguistic training, LLMs. succeed at language formally but not always functionally. They are good at composing sentences, but not always good at thinking.

June 05: University of Texas At Austin: Longhorn 100 Celebrates the Entrepreneurial Achievements of UT Alumni

The Texas Exes, The University of Texas at Austin's alumni organization, announced the winners of the inaugural 2023 Longhorn 100 awards, a prestigious list that identifies, recognizes and celebrates the 100 fastest-growing Longhorn-run businesses. The winners were honored at the Longhorn 100 Gala on Thursday, May 18, at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center. Popular Austin-based companies like Rambler Sparkling Water, Beatbox Beverages and El Arroyo topped the list, which included well-known Texas brands like GSD&M, Independence Brewing Co. and A Taste of Koko. Visit [texasexes.org/longhorn100](https://texasexes.org/longhorn100) to view the full list of this year's Longhorn 100 winners.

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"Some of the brightest minds and the most successful entrepreneurs are UT graduates. To be listed among them in the Longhorn 100 is a true honor," said Dave Mead, Chief Marketing Officer and co-founder of Rambler Sparkling Water. "The University of Texas provided us with an unmatched education and a roadmap to success. Austin is a mecca for creatives and entrepreneurs and we're truly humbled to be building a successful, fast-growing business in and around the Forty Acres."

Current UT students presented the Longhorn 100 awards throughout the event, and UT President Jay Hartzell and Texas Exes Executive Director and CEO Chuck Harris delivered remarks.

"The Longhorn 100 brings together some of UT's best and brightest," Harris said. "Recognizing the entrepreneurial achievements of Longhorns is a way the University can support its alumni long after they've left the Forty Acres and encourage future growth and innovation from Texas Exes." Source: Company Website

May 31: University of Texas At Austin: Alumnus Awarded Prestigious 2023 Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship

Awarding-winning UT Austin graduate Arjun Menta is a recipient of the 2023 Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, a merit-based program that supports graduate study for immigrants or children of immigrants.

Founded in 1997 by Hungarian immigrants Paul and Daisy Soros, the fellowship program honors the contributions of continuing generations of immigrants in the United States. More than 2,000 candidates applied for 30 fellowships. As a Soros Fellow, recipients receive \$90,000 toward their graduate studies.

Born and raised in Dallas, to an immigrant family from India, Menta graduated from UT Austin with degrees in biochemistry and business honors in May 2021. He was a standout in his class during his time at UT, earning early recognition from the University for his innovations, leadership and volunteer work.

arjun menta in white coat and tie

A prolific researcher and inventor, Menta holds multiple patents and publications, with his works appearing in many journals that include IEEE, Surgical Clinics, Chemistry of Materials, Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, Frontiers in Oncology and Trends in Cancer.

Menta often credits his parents, who worked as engineers and fostered an atmosphere of resilience, curiosity and service, for inspiring the mindset he continues to carry beyond childhood.

"I wish that everyone knew that children of immigrants are not 'one-size-fits-all' and are instead individuals with unique experiences, backgrounds and perspectives," he said. "They are brave and resilient people who have made sacrifices and overcome difficult challenges to provide for themselves, their families and their future."

When asked about the fellowship and what it means to be a "New American," he added: "Ultimately, it means embracing complexity, being proud of one's diverse identity and uniquely contributing value and strength to our society." Source: Company Website

April 28: 4 Longhorn Alums Awarded Presidential Citation for Service to UT

Four University of Texas at Austin alumni, one of whom is also a current faculty member, have been recognized by President Jay Hartzell for their dedication and support of the University. Quan Cosby, Janet Mountain, S.V. Sreenivasan and Rex Tillerson have received the University's Presidential Citation Award.

To celebrate the honorees, UT Austin will grant Presidential Citation Scholarships to select students in each of the honoree's names to extend their significant contributions to the University in arts, academics, athletics and health care even further by supporting these scholarship recipients.

"This year's slate of honorees has accomplished incredible things, in board rooms and laboratories, through philanthropic organizations and on playing fields. Beyond setting standards of excellence that are inspirational for us all, they have all given back to the University in truly exceptional ways," Hartzell said. "They have found new

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ways for alumni to re-connect with the University, created partnerships that will set up thousands of students for greater success, built institutions that will lead our state and country in important ways, and provided guidance and leadership for the University both by example and by giving back to our students. We are thrilled to amplify their impact by creating student scholarships in each of their names."

Created in 1979, the Presidential Citation honors the extraordinary contributions of people who personify the University's commitment to the task of transforming lives, and it is the highest honor bestowed by The University of Texas at Austin. Source: Company Website

April 27: UT Launches First-Ever Pilot Housing Scholarship Program to Assist Low- and Middle-Income Students

In an ongoing effort to address affordability, The University of Texas at Austin has launched a first-ever pilot housing scholarship program to assist students from low- and middle-income families. The program, which initially prioritizes first-year students, will provide scholarships to offset housing costs by up to \$1,800 per academic year for students who are eligible for free or reduced tuition through Texas Advance Commitment (TAC) and who elect to live in University residence halls. The scholarship program is part of a larger strategy to address housing affordability and will continue to evolve based on studies of its impact.

"We have already made progress in reducing and, in some cases, eliminating the cost of tuition for our students who can least afford it, through programs such as the Texas Advance Commitment," said Jay Hartzell, UT Austin president. "Now we are actively working to identify new and more expansive solutions to mitigate the rising cost of Austin's housing market, which has become a more acute financial barrier. This pilot program is the next step in our strategic effort to support our students in new ways." Source: Company Website

April 11: Amazon Teams Up With UT To Establish New Science Hub

The University of Texas at Austin and Amazon are launching a science and engineering research partnership to enhance understanding in a variety of areas, including video streaming, search and information retrieval and robotics.

The UT Austin-Amazon Science Hub is the sixth such alliance between the tech company and a leading university. It aims to advance research that prompts new discoveries and addresses significant challenges while creating solutions that benefit society. This will be achieved by fostering collaboration among faculty members and students along with the development of a diverse and sustainable pipeline of research talent.

"We are striving to establish even more collaborations with leading companies and organizations in order to bring together more talented people, produce higher-impact research, and help our students reach their greatest ambitions. The launch of the new hub with Amazon is the latest success story in this effort," said UT Austin President Jay Hartzell. "I am eager to see the discoveries that our researchers and students will create from this collaboration, and how those discoveries will change the world."

The hub will be hosted in UT Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering but engage researchers in a variety of disciplines.

As part of the collaboration, Amazon will provide funding for research projects, doctoral graduate student fellowships, and community-building events designed to diversify and increase cross-disciplinary innovation. Source: Company Website

April 07: University of Texas At Austin: Jason McLellan Receives Inaugural Award To Recognize Research Impact

A structural biologist at The University of Texas at Austin who played a key role in the development of COVID-19 vaccines has received the university's inaugural President's Research Impact Award.

Jason McLellan, the Welch Chair in Chemistry and a professor in the Department of Molecular Biosciences, was recently honored at a ceremony with the award. He and his research team figured out how to produce a stable version of the coronavirus spike protein used to develop the leading COVID-19 vaccines. During the first year of



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vaccinations, nearly 20 million deaths were prevented because of COVID-19 vaccines, many of them featuring the McLellan Lab's technology.

President Jay Hartzell established the award this year to recognize university researchers whose scholarly or creative endeavors have changed lives and the way we look at and understand the world.

"Jason's work has not only saved lives but also saved our way of life," Hartzell said. "This award speaks to our aspirations as Longhorns: to aim high, push the boundaries of knowledge, and contribute solutions to some of the greatest questions and challenges facing society, as we strive to become the highest-impact public research university in the world. Jason embodies that, and I am honored to present the inaugural award to him."

McLellan said he moved his lab in 2018 to UT Austin because it invests in innovative instrumentation and core facilities needed to advance science. Specifically, UT Austin is home to the Sauer Structural Biology Laboratory, which is equipped with one of the best electron microscopes in the world and cryo-EM technology capable of making atomic-scale 3D models of cellular structures, molecules and viruses. Source: Company Website

March 29: Texas Port Partners with UT Scientists to Store its Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Scientists at the **Bureau of Economic Geology** at the University of Texas Jackson School of Geosciences are helping the Port of Corpus Christi determine if it can permanently store greenhouse gas emissions from industrial operations at the port beneath the seafloor of the Gulf of Mexico.

The goal of the project is to divert carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from industrial operations at the country's largest energy port and safely store them in geological formations deep beneath the seafloor in nearby state-managed waters. The port is tapping the expertise of some of the world's leading carbon capture and storage researchers at the bureau to help find the best locations and determine the technical and economic feasibility of the project.

Tip Meckel, a senior research scientist at the bureau's Gulf Coast Carbon Center, said significant work has already been done in the area that could benefit the project.

"The Gulf of Mexico Basin is one of the most studied geologic basins in the world, so we know a tremendous amount about it already," said Meckel, who has been a researcher for over 16 years at the Gulf Coast Carbon Center. "Myself and others at the carbon center have been working on this topic for the Department of Energy for almost 10 years now. We've conducted regional studies from, more or less, Corpus Christi to the Louisiana border and put together a very nice storage resource map and high-level capacity estimates."

The feasibility study, which is funded by a \$7.36 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, will last two years and include a study of the best methods to transport CO<sub>2</sub> from the port to an offshore storage site. The site would be in state waters in property managed by the Texas General Land Office. Funds from the leases support the state's Permanent School Fund, which helps fund primary public education throughout Texas.

March 28: University of Texas At Austin: Harry Ransom Center Acquires Archive of Poet James Fenton

The archive of the English poet, journalist and literary critic James Fenton is coming to the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin.

Fenton's body of work traces the political upheavals of our time, including the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the suppression of political protest in China's Tiananmen Square, and Northern Ireland's fratricidal bloodletting.

His papers include notebooks and loose manuscript and typescript drafts spanning his career as a journalist, critic and poet. Letters within the Fenton papers document his lifelong friendship with his Oxford tutor, John Fuller, and with leading writers of his generation, including Martin Amis, Julian Barnes, Christopher Hitchens, Ian McEwan, Redmond O'Hanlon and Craig Raine, as well as with his partner, Darryl Pinckney.

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"James Fenton's politically aware and morally rigorous poems are a powerful response to this continuing story of violent upheaval in our own more recent history," said Harry Ransom Center Director Steve Enniss. "In his poems, James Fenton bears witness to the collective traumas of the 20th century, and for generations to come his poems will be read and reread for the way they transform that experience into art."

The Ransom Center holds the papers of numerous writers displaced by the wars of the 20th century, ranging from the Polish-born Isaac Bashevis Singer, to the Japanese-born Kazuo Ishiguro, and the Czech-born Tom Stoppard.

Fenton received the Whitbread Prize for Poetry for "Out of Danger" in 1994, and that same year he was elected to Oxford's prestigious Chair of Poetry. In 2007, Fenton was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. Source: Company Website

March 23: University of Texas At Austin: ROTC Students Travel to Normandy for Immersive Learning Experience

Longhorn ROTC cadets recently participated in an immersive learning experience in Normandy, France. Military science students and educators from The University of Texas at Austin took part in a four-day "staff ride," visiting the historic World War II sites for a field study and examination of decision-making and lessons of the past.

Twenty-two cadets visited Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, Pointe du Hoc, Pegasus Bridge and Sainte-Mere-Eglise to go through the events of the landings and battles as interactive case studies. The Battle of Normandy lasted from June to August 1944, beginning with the D-Day operation of land, air and sea forces of the allied armies in what became known as the largest invasion force in history.

A long-standing military tradition, the staff ride is a systematic analysis of a site to learn about the impact of geography, weather and human interactions of historic importance. Through guided discovery by experienced U.S. Army facilitators, participants learned timeless lessons on leadership, tactics and strategy, communications, use of terrain, and the psychology of those in battle. These exercises bring these events to life and aid them in their future service.

"Our goal for the Normandy Staff Ride was to enable a deep reflection of the intricacies, values and emotions displayed during the planning and execution of D-Day and supporting events," said Lt. Col. Tim Jones, chair of the Department of Military Science. "Another objective was for students to reflect on the successes and failures of others for possible contemporary applications." Source: Company Website

March 22: University of Texas At Austin: Mathematics' Highest Prize Awarded to Luis Caffarelli

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters has named Luis A. Caffarelli, a professor of mathematics at The University of Texas at Austin, winner of the 2023 Abel Prize, considered the Nobel Prize equivalent in mathematics and one of the top international awards. Norway's King Harald V will present the Abel Prize to Caffarelli at an award ceremony in Oslo on May 23. He is the first Latin American mathematician to receive the award.

"For more than a quarter century here at UT, Luis Caffarelli has introduced ingenious new techniques that show brilliant geometrical insight," said Jay Hartzell, president of The University of Texas at Austin. "I can't think of a worthier selection for the highest honor in mathematics. Changing the world starts with understanding the world, and Luis has helped to advance humanity's understanding of some of the most formidable problems in all of mathematics. His academic family tree is part of his impact and story, too, as he has mentored dozens of stellar mathematical minds."

Caffarelli, who holds the Sid W. Richardson Foundation Regents Chair in Mathematics #1 at UT Austin, has contributed extensively to our understanding of partial differential equations (PDEs) and free boundary problems. PDEs arise naturally as laws of nature, to describe phenomena as diverse as the flow of water, the shape of soap bubbles, the movement of electromagnetic waves and the growth of populations.

In an era of supercomputing, having effective models requires being able to simulate real-world phenomena with advanced understanding of the mathematics that drive them, so Caffarelli's breakthroughs offer important potential applications across a range of domains, such as in economics, modeling fluctuations in stock prices, and in

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medicine and the energy industry, where they can inform understanding of dynamics related to the movement of blood through the body or of oil underground and in pipes.

March 09: University of Texas At Austin: Landmarks Celebrates 15 Years on Campus

Landmarks integrates great works of art into everyday life at The University of Texas at Austin. An essential part of the Longhorn experience, Landmarks beautifies the campus and fosters a lifelong appreciation of the arts. Its award-winning public art collection began in 2008 with a long-term loan of 28 works from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and has grown to nearly 50 works by some of the most celebrated artists of our time.

"Landmarks is regarded as one of the top university public art programs in the country, inspiring thousands of students, faculty, staff and visitors each day," said founding director and curator Andree Bober. "For many students, Landmarks is their first opportunity to have routine engagement with great works of art. As part of the campus environment, the collection introduces them to new ideas and perspectives, encouraging dialogue and critical thought." Source: Company Website

March 08: University of Texas At Austin: Celebrating Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a time to reflect and honor the many women who have made an impact on UT's history. Our faculty, leaders and alumna represent many of the "firsts" in their fields, on campus and across the nation - from the first woman to graduate from UT to the first woman to helm the presidency at a major university in the U.S. Learn more and help us celebrate some of our incredible women Longhorns:

Twitter thread: Longhorn women are essential in breaking barriers and creating opportunities. Celebrate #InternationalWomensDay by learning about some of the women in the UT community who've changed the world  
Some of Our Firsts

Ladies' First Read the story of Jessie Andrews, who, in 1886, became the first woman to graduate from UT, earning a Bachelor of Letters degree in German.

Lorene Lane Rogers During her time as UT President from 1974-1979, Lorene Rogers, believed to be the first woman to lead a major university in the U.S., created the College of Liberal Arts and saw several major campus events, including the acquisition of the Gutenberg Bible.

Edith Clarke When Edith Clarke, a renowned mathematician and engineer, joined the UT faculty in 1947, she became the first woman professor of electrical engineering in the U.S. and taught at the university until 1957.

Barbara Jordan - Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder This UT Press book brings together major political speeches delivered by Barbara Jordan, who served as a faculty member at UT for nearly 20 years.

The First Female Drummer in the Longhorn Band, in Her Own Words "The band was a family." In this story in Texas Exes' Alcalde magazine, alumna Leah Mabry, the first woman drummer in the Longhorn Band, reflects on her experiences.

Jeannie Leavitt Alumna and Maj. Gen. Jeannie Leavitt has many firsts in the U.S.

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