

TU Enrolls Largest Class in 12 Years

Record 66 National Merit Scholars Among 2004 Freshmen

Sept. 8, 2004

The University of Tulsa has enrolled its largest freshman class since 1992, including a record 66 National Merit Scholars.

The 2004 entering class of 680 students represents a 15 percent enrollment increase over last year's freshman class and the third consecutive year of growth. A 25 percent increase in out-of-state freshman enrollment (292, up from 233) and a 43 percent gain in international freshman enrollment (40, up from 28) helped drive the overall increase. First-time freshman applications were up 14 percent this year.

This year's class posted higher standardized test scores than last year's: a mean SAT score of 1220 (up from 1200) and a mean ACT score of 26.2 (up from 25.8). Only the record-setting class of 2001 posted a higher ACT than this year's group. The mean high-school grade-point-average of this year's class is 3.7, the same as in recent years.

The University also made considerable progress in recruiting National Merit Scholars: 66 this year – nearly one in 10 freshmen – up from 49 last year. National Merit Scholarships, widely recognized as the premier award for incoming college and university students, carry full-tuition awards.

“The size and distinction of this year's freshman class continue The University of Tulsa's rise in national prominence,” said University President Steadman Upham. “This year's gains reflect the fact that TU is increasingly the institution of choice for high-achieving students.”

Total enrollment for the University this year stands at 4,174 (up 2.5 percent from 4,072), comprising 2,756 undergraduates (up 3 percent from 2,672) and 1,418 graduate and law students (up 1 percent from 1,400).

This year's strong enrollment report comes soon after news of several favorable rankings in college guides. U.S. News & World Report recently named The University of Tulsa 90th among national doctoral universities in its 2005 edition of “America's Best Colleges,” up one spot from last year's ranking. The Princeton Review's “Best 357 Colleges” recently cited TU as ninth in the nation in having happy students.

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Banking Executive Jamie Dimon to Speak April 1

March 1, 2004

Banking executive and J.P. Morgan heir-apparent Jamie Dimon, known for shrewd acquisitions and tight operations, will speak at The University of Tulsa Friends of Finance luncheon April 1. The event, to begin at 11:30 a.m., will take place at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 100 E. 2nd St., in downtown Tulsa.

Dimon, currently chief executive officer at Bank One Corp., would become chief operating officer en route to a 2006 CEO appointment under a proposed merger announced in January by J. P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Bank One. The \$58 billion deal, expected to be finalized in midyear, would make J. P. Morgan the nation's second largest bank, with assets of \$1.1 trillion and a 17-state footprint. Analysts have widely praised the deal, which would diversify the company's geography and service lines.

Dimon is expected to lead integration and efficiency efforts at the new company; he and J. P. Morgan CEO William B. Harrison Jr. have announced targets of \$2.2 billion in cost savings and a 7-percent workforce reduction by 2007.

Since the late 1980s, Dimon has established himself as a master of acquisition and integration; he and Citigroup President Sandy Weill acquired a string of companies, including Travelers, Salomon Brothers and Citicorp. During these deals and in his subsequent management at Bank One, Dimon made cost cutting, streamlining and standardization his hallmarks.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost is \$12 for Friends of Finance members and \$17 for others. Call 631-2588 by March 24.

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TU to Honor Second Group of iMBA Graduates

July 22, 2003

The University of Tulsa College of Business Administration will graduate its second group of Masters of Business Administration through the online iMBA program at a ceremony Aug. 2. The event begins at 4 p.m. at the Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.

This year's graduating class of 18 includes a Tulsan who completed most of his studies while managing community development projects in Uganda; two students who created a business plan reflecting their experience as wheelchair users; and a rural Californian whose hobbies include near-subsistence farming.

One member of the class maintained his studies through two interstate relocations, and another converted to the online program from TU's campus-based MBA program as a response to growing family responsibilities and the need for flexible scheduling.

Larry Wofford, owner of Route 66 Harley Davidson and a former TU professor, is the featured speaker for the program, which will include comments from TU officials.

The iMBA is a two-year part-time program that delivers instruction via the Web and related technology. Courses proceed in a set sequence, two each term for three terms a year. Topics include strategic management, e-commerce, international finance and marketing, corporate entrepreneurship and information technology management.

The program emphasizes team projects and faculty involvement, which help distinguish it from other distance-learning programs. Graduates receive the full MBA credential.

Last year's graduating class comprised 24 members. Another class of 20 is set to begin the program next month.

For more information on the iMBA program, call (918) 631-3211 or visit the program's Web site: <http://www.imba.utulsa.edu>.

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Family Business Survival Topic of May 21 Seminar

May 14, 2002

Although family-owned businesses account for more than half of the U.S. gross domestic product, nearly seven of eight will fail before they reach the third generation, according to figures from the Family Firm Institute.

Increasing the odds for family business survival is the topic of a half-day seminar led by family business expert Pat Frishkoff Tuesday, May 21, at The University of Tulsa's Allen Chapman Activity Center.

The University of Tulsa Family Owned Business Institute sponsors the event, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pre-registration is required by 5 p.m. Monday, May 20. The cost is \$35 per person, which includes lunch. To register, call Claire Cornell at 631-2684 or e-mail claire-cornell@utulsa.edu.

Frishkoff is the founder and former director of the Austin Family Business Center at Oregon State University. She has delivered more than 300 workshops and seminars for business-owning families and related professionals.

Her articles have appeared in Family Business Magazine, Family Business Review and other publications. In 2001, she was named a fellow by the Family Firm Institute, which also bestowed its certificate in family business consulting.

Frishkoff's tips include the following:

- Continually review your succession and estate planning to ensure clear-cut, tax-minimized transitions to future generations.
- Raise the kids to understand and identify with the family business.
- Keep a close eye on the products driving your bottom line. The sense of tradition should not keep you from changing with your markets.

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TU Students to Take ‘Burgernomics’ To Wilson Middle School

March 3, 2003

Wilson Middle School students will chew on the fundamentals of currency exchange when a group of University of Tulsa students visits the school March 10.

Members of the TU chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) will explain currency valuation using a game in which students take an imaginary tour around the world and purchase simulated McDonald’s meals with various currencies.

The game is based on the well-known “Big Mac Index,” published annually by The Economist. Both the game and the index demonstrate differences in the value of world currencies by showing how the exchanged U.S. dollar cost of a Big Mac varies from country to country.

“We’ll also talk with the students about some of the reasons currencies have different purchasing power,” said TU junior and SIFE member Mollie Hightower. “Hopefully, we’ll give them a different perspective on money—something they don’t think about every day.”

SIFE is an international organization promoting free enterprise, entrepreneurship and business ethics. It sponsors leadership training, regional competitions and career opportunity fairs for thousands of college students throughout 31 countries and awards more than \$400,000 to college student teams each year.

SIFE chapters conduct a variety of programs and may enter their efforts into competition. The TU chapter, which also is putting together a leadership development seminar for area youth, is working toward the regional competition April 10 in Dallas.

For more information, call Claire Cornell, (918) 631-2684, or e-mail claire-cornell@utulsa.edu.

Big Mac is a registered trademark of McDonald’s Corporation.

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TU Graduates First iMBA Class

Aug. 1, 2002

The first 24 graduates of The University of Tulsa's online MBA program will receive diplomas at a ceremony in downtown Tulsa August 3.

The graduation of the first iMBA class is another milestone in a year that also saw the program recognized as one of the 25 best online MBA programs in the nation.

"We are proud of this day, and we are especially proud of the way our students and faculty invested themselves in a new program and set a new standard in distance learning," said Gale Sullenberger, dean of the College of Business Administration. "Because of everyone's commitment, we were able to sustain a high level of personal interaction and collaboration. Our goal was to use technology to facilitate a live online community, rather than let it become an impersonal barrier. We met that goal, and then some."

The iMBA is a two-year part-time program that delivers instruction via the Web, multimedia CDs, e-mail and discussion boards. Courses proceed in a set sequence, with students taking two courses each term for three terms a year. Topics include strategic management, e-commerce, international finance and marketing, corporate entrepreneurship and information technology management.

The program emphasizes team projects and faculty involvement, which help set it apart from other distance learning programs. Graduates receive the same full MBA credential as students completing the campus-based MBA program.

"The medium of delivery is different, but the ground our students cover and the projects they complete deliver the same MBA expertise as our campus-based program," said Richard Burgess, iMBA program director and professor of finance.

The iMBA curriculum recently helped the program earn national recognition. Earlier this year, U.S. News & World Report named TU's iMBA one of the top 25 online MBA programs in the nation.

"We were pleased, but not necessarily surprised, that we were able to get their attention so early in the life of our program," Burgess said. "I think our strong start reflects the planning we began putting into our program as far back as 1996."

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Graduates will gather at the DoubleTree Hotel Saturday for an evening ceremony including a keynote address from author and lecturer Clifton Taulbert, founder and president of the Building Community Institute. Taulbert's books include "Eight Habits of the Heart," "Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored," the Pulitzer-nominated "The Last Train North," and "Watching our Crops Come In." Taulbert also is a member of the TU Board of Trustees.

Continuing and new iMBA students also will be on hand for orientation Friday and Saturday. Under the program, students come to the TU campus for two days each term.

This year's iMBA graduates completed their studies while continuing their careers at several companies: American Electric Power, Citgo Petroleum, FedEx, Matrix Service Company, Visteon Corporation/Tulsa Glass Plant, Williams and Williams Communications.

For more information on the iMBA program, call (918) 631-2242 or visit the program's Web site: <http://www.imba.utulsa.edu>.

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Legendary Coach John Wooden to Speak at TU April 18

May 14, 2002

More than 70 years after launching a legendary basketball career, John Wooden still is coaching others to achieve excellence through time-honored values including loyalty, initiative and self control. He is scheduled to bring his message to The University of Tulsa April 18.

The University of Tulsa Friends of Finance presents the event, to be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Donald W. Reynolds Center on the TU campus. Although luncheon tables on the arena floor are sold out, the public may purchase tickets for seating in the stands by calling (918) 631-2588 by April 15. Tickets cost \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

Wooden, now 91, began his basketball career as a three-year All-American player at Purdue University and went on to set coaching records that stand today. During his tenure at UCLA from 1948 to 1975, the “Wizard of Westwood” led the Bruins to 10 national championships and 88 consecutive victories. His many honors include membership in the National Basketball Hall of Fame, seven picks as College Basketball Coach of the Year, Sports Illustrated 1973 “Sports Man of the Year” and the Bellarmine Medal of Excellence.

Wooden emphasizes the commitment to excellence, not incidental rewards. He defines success as the “peace of mind that is the direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

For more information, call (918) 631-2588.

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Mars Needs Muscles: TU Prof Explores Ways to Keep Body Strong in Space

Feature pitch. February, 2004

NOTE TO EDITOR: This is a timely local angle on President Bush's recently announced vision for an increased human presence in outer space.

With all the focus on rockets, rovers and technology, it's easy to forget that the human body itself is one of the largest obstacles to extended space travel. Specifically, we have to figure out how to keep muscles and bones from deteriorating in zero gravity.

TU professor John Caruso, an experienced researcher and teacher who has worked at the Johnson Space Center, is on the front lines of research into "exercise countermeasures" to keep us strong in space. Caruso joined The University of Tulsa Department of Exercise and Sports Science last fall.

Who: John Caruso, TU Associate Professor of Exercise and Sports Science. (918) 631-2924

What: Ongoing research on human physiology in zero gravity.

- Caruso is studying the combined use of albuterol and resistance training to maintain muscle mass in space. Albuterol is best known as an inhaled asthma medication.
- Caruso also is helping Swedish company YoYo Inertial Technologies evaluate a new exercise device that generates resistance through the momentum of a spinning flywheel. (Free weights, of course, are useless in zero gravity.) The flywheel produces something called "eccentric resistance," which is more effective than resistance produced by, say, large rubber bands.
- A humorous side note: In zero gravity, muscles don't get much use. How does Caruso simulate that non-use on Earth? His test subjects wear a lift on one shoe and then walk on crutches, dangling the other leg beneath them. Through non-use, that leg begins to resemble one in space. (No word on how much he has to pay his subjects to walk around like this.)

[PHOTO]: A TU Track member demonstrates the YoYo inertial resistance trainer. The discs underneath the seat are not weight plates, but flywheels that generate resistance through the momentum of their spin.

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