



UTSA[®]
ALVAREZ
College of Business
The University of Texas at San Antonio

▶ 2024

DEAN'S REPORT



An aerial photograph of a cityscape. On the left, a tall, modern skyscraper with a blue glass facade stands out. In the foreground, a large, multi-story brick building with many windows is visible. The city is filled with various other buildings, some with flat roofs and others with more complex structures. There are trees and a parking lot with several cars in the middle ground. The sky is clear and blue.

It has been another amazing year for the Carlos Alvarez College of Business! We continue to grow in our commitment to providing educational and research excellence while creating transformational impact within our business community.

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Over the past three years, we've made significant investments in our faculty and support for our students, leading to increases in our graduation and retention rates, as well as our research productivity. We're becoming a model among research-intensive business schools for how a college can serve the workforce needs of their local business community.

Below are just a few of our specific accomplishments from the past year.

- Hired 16 new full-time faculty, including seven new tenure-track faculty, increasing our full-time faculty by 27 over the past two years
- Launched Career Compass, our comprehensive professional development program required of all new Alvarez undergraduates
- Received a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to encourage low-income and underrepresented students to pursue graduate degrees
- Ranked No. 5 in the nation by *Forbes* for our Online B.B.A. in Cyber Security
- Named one of the top 100 MBA programs by *Fortune*
- Ranked No. 2 in the U.S. and No. 7 globally for our Executive MBA program by *CEO Magazine*
- Won first place in the 2024 SAS Curiosity Cup in the data presentation category by our M.S. Data Analytics students
- Placed second in the Historically Black College and Hispanic-Serving Institution National Supply Chain student case competition

With our forthcoming integration with UT Health San Antonio and the launch of our College of AI, Cyber and Computing, 2025 is shaping up to be another exciting year for UTSA and the Alvarez College of Business.



Jonathon Halbesleben

JONATHON HALBESLEBEN, DEAN

Bodenstedt Chair and Tom C. Frost
Distinguished University Chair for
Business Excellence

COLLEGE OVERVIEW

Nationally ranked and recognized, the Alvarez College of Business encompasses almost 8,000 students and seven academic departments. Providing a traditional business education at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels, the college also offers unique opportunities for our students to gain competencies in business analytics, entrepreneurship and leadership.

Executive and corporate education is available through the college's Center for Professional Excellence. Businesses and professionals can engage with thought leaders to gain critical business skills and remain competitive in the rapidly changing global economy.

A Tier One and Hispanic Serving Institution, the college is accredited by AACSB International and has been designated as a Center for Academic Excellence by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security for cyber security education and research.

NO. 5 ONLINE
B.B.A. IN
CYBER SECURITY

Forbes

**1 OF THE BEST
ON-CAMPUS
MBA PROGRAMS**

Princeton Review

**TOP 100
MBA PROGRAM**

Fortune





Vision Statement

Our vision is to transform our students from curious and hopeful learners into confident and career-ready professionals. We aim to be the best in class by delivering educational programs that provide both applied business and technical skills in areas of high-workforce demand; investing heavily in professional skills that help students integrate into the workforce and create value as employees, future managers and entrepreneurs; being responsive to the evolving marketplace and stakeholders needs; and by supporting a community of scholars who conduct rigorous and relevant research that inspires student learning, advances knowledge and attracts industry partners.

Mission Statement

The Alvarez College of Business is dedicated to creating and sharing knowledge that enhances the translation of theory to practice. The college combines rigor with relevance and provides innovative solutions to global business challenges.

6,500+
undergraduate
students

1,100+
master's
students

85
doctoral
students

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Alvarez College of Business launched a new collaborative degree program with Tecnológico de Monterrey (Tec de Monterrey) that allows students to earn two degrees simultaneously: a Master of Science in Information Technology with a concentration in cyber security from UTSA and a Master in Cybersecurity from Tec de Monterrey.



The program will enable students to advance their cyber security knowledge and skill set through a binational lens, giving them a competitive edge to enter the workforce with a greater understanding of cyber security in the United States and in Mexico.

“UTSA and Tec de Monterrey have a long-standing relationship in terms of collaboration for research and for teaching,” said **RAYMOND CHOO**, the Cloud Technology Endowed Professor in the Alvarez College of Business. “With this specific program, students will spend their first year at their home institution and their second year at their host institution. At the end of the two years, students will have two degrees. It’s a two-for-the-price-of-one opportunity.”



Students will learn how to protect critical data and systems, gather and examine digital evidence, perform security risk assessments, develop secure software and protect computer networks. Courses in digital forensics, cyber law and strategic management of information technology are among several offered as part of the program.

Graduate students will complete 18 hours of required courses at UTSA, 18 hours of courses at Tec de Monterrey and a research project that will be jointly advised by faculty members from both institutions.

“This program will enhance and strengthen the collaboration between both institutions while providing international exposure for the students,” said Choo. “Ultimately, our goal is to positively benefit the workforce from both countries.”

► Undergraduate Programs

B.B.A. Accounting*
B.B.A. Actuarial Science
B.S. Applied Cyber Analytics
B.B.A. Business Analytics*
B.B.A. Cyber Security (online and in-person)
B.B.A. and B.A. Economics*
B.B.A. Finance*
B.S. Health Administration
B.B.A. Human Resources Management
B.B.A. Information Systems and Technology
B.B.A. Management
B.B.A. Marketing
B.B.A. Operations and Supply Chain Management
B.B.A. Real Estate Finance and Development
B.S. Statistics and Data Science*

** available as a five-year accelerated program*

15
undergraduate
degrees

► Master's Programs

Master of Accountancy
MBA
MBA/MD
MBA/MPH
Executive MBA
M.A. and M.S. Economics
M.S. Business
M.S. Data Analytics
M.S. Finance
M.S. Finance—Real Estate Finance and Development
M.S. Information Technology
M.S. Information Technology-Cyber Security
M.S. Statistics and Data Science

13
master's
degrees

► Doctoral Programs

Ph.D. Accounting
Ph.D. Applied Statistics
Ph.D. Finance
Ph.D. Information Technology
Ph.D. Management and Organization Studies
Ph.D. Marketing

6
doctoral
degrees

STUDENT SUCCESS

► Developing Leaders

The Alvarez Student Success Center provides business students with the tools, resources, strategies and the support needed as they navigate their academic journey. Offering academic tutoring, leadership and professional development workshops as well as personalized coaching and wellness support, students have access to a variety of programming to help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

“Being an ambassador has given me the chance to connect with students and share what makes this college so special.”

ELISSA AYOUB



College Launches Ambassadors Program

The Alvarez College of Business launched the Ambassadors Program to allow students to develop their leadership potential as well as cultivate a sense of community within the college. Business students serve as hosts at Alvarez events, provide information and resources to fellow business students and assist in student recruitment.

24 EVENTS SUPPORTED

850 STUDENTS ENGAGED WITH AMBASSADORS

JASMIN PAQUET-DURAND FORD HONES LEADERSHIP SKILLS AT UTSA

“Go to office hours, join a club and trust the process. Every experience, big or small, adds value to your story.”

JASMIN PAQUET-DURAND FORD, '24



JASMIN PAQUET-DURAND FORD'S life has been shaped by cultures, curiosity and an enduring commitment to leave the world better than she found it.

A December 2024 graduate who earned a B.A. in Economics, Paquet-Durand Ford's academic pursuits were matched by her leadership and extracurricular achievements.

While at UTSA she served as president of the Student Government Association, vice chair of the University of Texas System Student Advisory Council, vice president of the Society of Economics and a member of both the Business Honors Program and the UTSA Honors College.

As a participant in the Archer Fellowship program in Washington, D.C., she interned with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration her senior year and was offered a full-time job as a junior media and communications specialist upon graduation.

70%
**underrepresented
populations**

58%
Hispanic

41%
first gen

STUDENT SUCCESS

► Professional Development

The Alvarez College of Business launched Career Compass, a comprehensive professional development program designed to equip business students with the necessary knowledge, skills and experiences to be competitive in today's job market in fall 2024.

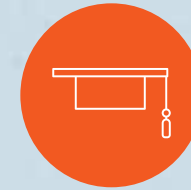
The program allows students to develop marketable skills in alignment with National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) competencies and enhance networking opportunities.

Students accumulate points by engaging in activities and have the ability to personalize their experience with achievements that align with their career path. Their progress is tracked and gamified using the Suitable app.



CAREER COMPASS

The Career Compass professional development program helps students build key skills based on NACE's eight career readiness competencies to prepare them for success as they begin their careers.



CAREER & SELF-DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNICATION



CRITICAL THINKING



GLOBAL MINDSET



LEADERSHIP



PROFESSIONALISM



TEAMWORK



TECHNOLOGY

BUSINESS STUDENT ACCEPTS OFFER FROM GOLDMAN SACHS

“Firms statistically perform better when they have women on their teams. I’ve been fortunate in my experiences. I’ve never felt marginalized because of my gender.”

EZABELLA KHAN



Jumpstarting her career in the world of finance, **EZABELLA KHAN**, a senior majoring in finance, secured a full-time position with Goldman Sachs in Dallas after interning with the Big 4 investment bank.

As a future analyst in Global Public Markets, Khan credits Goldman’s culture for pushing her to grow. “It was intimidating at first, but the environment is very much about development. I wasn’t just sitting on the sidelines—I was contributing to high-level projects,” she said.

Originally from Singapore, Khan began studying political science and economics before finance captured her attention. “I wanted to apply what I was learning, and finance offered that perfect blend of analytical skills and practical application,” Khan shared.

6,600+
students
participating in
student success
programming

215+
professional
development
events

150+
employer
engaged
events

STUDENT SUCCESS

► Experiential Learning

By combining academic instruction with real-world experiences, the Alvarez College of Business equips students with the knowledge, skills and cultural awareness necessary to excel in a globalized economy.

Data Analytics Students Win First Place in Global Competition

Four graduate students won first place in the data presentation category of the 2024 SAS Curiosity Cup, a global data analytics competition. The team featured students in the M.S. Data Analytics program: **NIHARIKA BANDLAMUDI, KI JEONG, NUPOOR KARNIK** and **GAGANA UDAY KUMAN**.



The team analyzed data from the 17 most-populated countries in the world to explore how population growth affected energy usage. “It originally started as a classroom project,” said Jeong. “But faculty member **ISIL KOYUNCU** encouraged us to enter this competition and supported us the whole way. The self-confidence we received is the real prize.”

The Curiosity Cup is an annual data analytics challenge sponsored by software developer SAS Institute. This year’s competition featured 107 teams from 19 countries.

250+
Business
Honors students

48
global immersion
student participants

18
business student
organizations



Business Students Gain International Perspectives

Enriching the international experiences of our business students, the college hosted two immersion programs to Costa Rica and Germany this past year. These 10-12 day intensive immersion programs, led by faculty members, offer students unparalleled opportunities to engage with local businesses and immerse in rich cultural landscapes. In addition to the trip, students earn academic credit for the experience.

“This immersion trip was transformative. It broadened my perspective on global business practices and deepened my appreciation for cultural diversity. The hands-on learning was invaluable,” said **STACY CARRIZALES**, who participated in the Costa Rica immersion.

Alvarez Students Shine in Academic Competitions

Learning to apply their academic training outside of the classroom, several teams of Alvarez business students competed and excelled in academic competitions in 2024.

Four Alvarez students won second place in the Historically Black College and Hispanic-Serving Institution National Supply Chain Case Competition held at Arizona State University.

During the competition, the team members analyzed extensive data and crafted strategic presentations, which they presented to a panel of business executives. They were advised by **WERNER TEICHROEB**, a lecturer in management science and statistics.

Representing UTSA at the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) Student Case Competition, a team of three students from the college’s SHRM student chapter placed third in the competition. They were advised by **HEATHER STAPLES**, associate professor of practice in management and SHRM faculty advisor. Students were judged on their problem analysis, creativity, feasibility of solutions, presentation skills and teamwork.



FACULTY

Alvarez faculty are renowned scholars whose impactful research inspires student learning, advances thought leadership and benefits the business community. Their work is widely recognized with publications in top-tier journals and accolades from peers around the globe.

College Welcomes 16 New Full-time Faculty

HUNTER AKU

Assistant Professor, Accounting

PETER AMAH

Associate Professor of Practice, Management

DAVID BLANK

Assistant Professor of Practice, Marketing

SHAHEDUR CHOWDHURY

Assistant Professor of Practice, Finance

EMADELDIN ELGAMAL

Associate Professor of Practice,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

FRANKIE GRULLON

Assistant Professor of Practice,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

MARK JOHLKE

Professor of Practice, Marketing

LARISA KOVALENKO

Assistant Professor, Marketing

JEFFREY KROPP

Assistant Professor of Practice, Management

RODNEY LACEY

Professor of Practice, Management

FANGYU LIN

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

AKALANKA BANDARA MAILEWA

Associate Professor of Practice,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

SAIDAT ABIDEMI SANNI

Assistant Professor,
Management Science and Statistics

NEHIR TANYEL

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

STEVEN ULLMAN

Assistant Professor,
Information Systems and Cyber Security

MÜGE YAYLA-KÜLLÜ

Associate Professor,
Management Science and Statistics

165
full-time
faculty members

20
endowed
faculty positions

20%
increase full-time
faculty since 2022

Alvarez Faculty Receive University Excellence Awards

Two Alvarez College of Business faculty members were honored with UTSA University Excellence Awards.



RITA MITRA, professor of practice in information systems and cyber security, received the Teaching Excellence Award. Known for her engaging teaching methods in both in-person and online classes, she emphasizes a holistic approach to education. Her students frequently laud her ability to make complex subjects accessible and engaging.

“Rita’s knowledge and passion make her more valuable than any textbook,” one student noted. Another highlighted, “Her encouragement and detailed feedback have not only enhanced our learning experience, but have also empowered us to succeed in the field of cyber security.”

MINGHE SUN, professor of management science and statistics, was awarded the Research Achievement Award. With a career spanning over three decades, Sun has distinguished himself through his innovative applications of optimization techniques for real-world problems, including recent advancements in machine learning and supply chain management.

His influential work has been published in top-tier journals including *Management Science*, *Operations Research*, *Production and Operations Management* and the *European Journal of Operational Research*.

“Minghe is not only an accomplished scholar, but also highly recognized in professional circles for maintaining an extraordinary level of research productivity,” remarked **WENBO WU**, chair of the Department of Management Science and Statistics.



FACULTY RESEARCH

Marketing Professor Researches Brand Loyalty

DIAN WANG, assistant professor of marketing, studied how online shopping affects brand loyalty in his paper, “Will Online Shopping Lead to More Brand Loyalty Than Offline Shopping? The Role of Uncertainty Avoidance.” The article was published in the *Journal of Marketing Research*.



Wang’s research explores what behaviors predict customer loyalty in an online versus offline shopping environment with a focus on uncertainty avoidance—an essential cultural dimension that describes an individual’s attitude toward ambiguities: avoid versus embrace.

“Uncertainty avoidance is the most important individual difference that explains people’s different attitudes toward the predictability of their shopping experience—whether they like it or not.”

The paper was co-authored with former UTSA doctoral student **BINGXUAN GUO**, Ph.D. ’21, who is currently an assistant professor of marketing at Wake Forest University. Their research suggests that consumer preferences vary by person. Customers who tend to avoid uncertainty are happier shopping in person, while customers who embrace uncertainty prefer online shopping.

“We are living in an age where online shopping becomes more and more critical to firms. As the growing shift from offline to online shopping becomes prominent, some urgent questions have emerged for marketers: how will online shopping affect brand loyalty? Will online shopping make consumers less loyal, as many marketers have feared?” he stated. Wang looks forward to pursuing new projects in the areas of creativity, behavioral decision theory and cross-cultural marketing.

NO. 49
**IN INFORMATION
SYSTEMS RESEARCH**

UTD North American Rankings for 2020-2024

NO. 52
IN MARKETING

UTD North American Rankings for 2020-2024

NO. 89
IN MANAGEMENT

UTD North American Rankings for 2020-2024



Han Named Romo Endowed Professor

DAVID HAN, associate professor of management science and statistics, has been awarded the Ricardo Romo Ph.D. Endowed Professorship. This two-year appointment recognizes faculty members who teach within the UTSA Honors College for their exceptional contributions to teaching, leadership, research and student service.



“Being named a recipient of the Romo Endowed Professorship is an incredibly humbling and deeply meaningful recognition. This honor reaffirms my dedication to advancing knowledge and supporting the success of my students and colleagues.”

Han’s career has been dedicated to advancing the fields of statistical modeling, data science and data analytics. He has made significant strides in both theoretical and applied aspects with research interests spanning lifetime and degradation analyses and predictive maintenance planning. His innovative work not only contributes to academic knowledge, but also addresses real-world challenges in various industrial sectors.

The Ricardo Romo Ph.D. Endowed Professorship is named in honor of former UTSA President Ricardo Romo and is awarded to faculty members who demonstrate outstanding teaching and a commitment to student success.



Finance Faculty Member Appointed to Lutcher Brown Chair

BINAY ADHIKARI, associate professor of finance, has been named a Lutcher Brown Fellow at UTSA. This fellowship recognizes newly-tenured faculty for their innovative research and dedication to student success.



“This recognition affirms the importance of my research in corporate finance on the human side of financial decision-making.”

Adhikari’s research, which has been featured in the *Journal of Corporate Finance* and the *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, investigates how behavioral and cultural factors influence financial decision-making and risk management.

His recent projects delve into how characteristics such as manager demographics, including gender and political orientation, and local cultural influences, such as religion, affect corporate policies.

“Understanding the human element in financial decision-making helps us see beyond the numbers and into the motivations and behaviors that drive corporate strategies,” said Adhikari. “This perspective is crucial for addressing challenges in corporate governance and risk management, ensuring that financial systems are not only efficient, but also resilient.”

FACULTY RESEARCH

Management Researcher Receives Grant to Study Gender Diversity in Workplace

A study by **XIAOHONG (VIOLET) XU**, associate professor of management, explores how the adoption of new technologies could improve gender diversity in male-dominated fields such as the construction industry.



In partnership with UTSA colleagues **YUANXIONG GUO**, assistant professor of information systems and cyber security, and **JIANNAN CAI**, assistant professor of engineering, Xu received a three-year \$550,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study this topic.

Xu's role is to assess the impact of emerging technologies, such as AI and robotics, in the workplace and identify strategies that can help women excel in the construction industry. They conducted multiple studies using interviews and surveys to identify barriers faced by women in the construction industry as well as obtain insights on how the incorporation of technology could lead to a more inclusive workforce.

First, they conducted a content analysis to identify gendered wording in job postings from Indeed.com for construction equipment operators. Words like 'ambitious' and 'competitive' are linked to masculine traits, and words like 'understanding' and 'supportive' are considered more feminine. Then they followed up with interviews of construction professionals responsible for hiring.

“

“We want to ensure that organizations utilize a hiring process that is transparent and fair for minorities. Our aim is to help organizations adopt more transparent and fair hiring practices, such as using neutral, inclusive language in job postings, to foster greater diversity in the construction industry.”

Their findings showed that the equipment operator positions skewed toward more masculine-targeted language. In addition, 80 percent of the interview respondents felt that the introduction of robotics into the construction industry could promote gender diversity by reducing physical requirements of the job, increasing workplace safety and attracting a more diverse pool of talent.

Joining the college's faculty in 2021, Xu's research has appeared in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Management* and *Human Relations*.

With a focus on occupational health, Xu would like to continue researching the long-term impact of artificial intelligence and technology in the workforce.

“The goal is to improve employee well-being, but we need to also be prepared to develop interventions if negative consequences arise.”

Economics Faculty Awarded \$2.8 Million Department of Education Grant

The Alvarez College of Business was awarded a \$2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand the college’s quantitative master’s programs and enhance resources for student success with a focus on creating opportunities for low-income and other underserved student populations.

The five-year Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans grant will fund xQuant@ACOB, a project designed by **RODRIGO VELEZ**, professor of economics, and **NATASSA ZERVOU**, associate professor of economics.



“This grant will allow us to expand master’s programs in the college in a way that directly benefits students,” said Velez. “By enhancing both access and support, we’re ensuring that more students from low-income and other underserved populations have the opportunity to succeed in fields that are in high demand, such as business analytics and business research.”

At the heart of the project is the creation of two proposed master’s programs: a M.S. in Business Research (MSBR) and a M.S. in Business Analytics (MSBA). Following approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, these programs would address a growing need for professionals with advanced quantitative skills.

“By strengthening the quantitative foundation of our programs, we’re providing students with the tools they need to navigate an increasingly complex economic and business landscape,” said Zervou. “Our students will be better equipped to compete for high-paying high-influence roles that require advanced analytical skills.”

In addition to program development, the grant will also fund a range of student support initiatives designed to improve retention and graduation rates.



“This grant goes beyond just establishing programs. It’s about creating a support system. We’ll be implementing personalized coaching, mentoring and comprehensive advising to help students navigate their academic journeys.”

RODRIGO VELEZ

Nearly 20% of the total grant will be dedicated to financial aid, particularly for low-income students.

By focusing on quantitative education, the college aims to position itself as a leader in this growing area of business education.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building connections within our community, Alvarez students, faculty and alumni contribute to the business ecosystem in San Antonio, the state of Texas and throughout the United States. Our students work on experiential learning projects that provide them with real-life learning opportunities. Our faculty provide academic insights into nonprofit and business ventures. And, our alumni are leaders in the San Antonio community and beyond.

College Recognizes Alumni During Inaugural Awards Dinner

Ten Alvarez alumni were recognized for their accomplishments during an inaugural Alumni Awards Dinner in October 2024.

The Alvarez Alumni Awards honor alumni who have gained distinction through success in their professions, service to the college and contributions to their community.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
BILL MORROW, '86
Chief Executive Officer, Acumera



OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS SERVICE AWARD
MARISSA SCHEFFLER, '07
Assistant Vice President of
Human Resources, Generations
Federal Credit Union



RISING STAR ALUMNUS AWARD
JAKEIM JACKSON-BELL, '15
Global Director of Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion and Belonging, Energizer Holdings



Alumni Achievement Award Winners

DAYTON CLOSSER, '20, M.S. '22,
owner of Aston Hill Limited Liability Company

WILL CURTIS, '13, commercial managing
director for Phyllis Browning Company

CHERYL GARCIA, '85, EMBA '99, senior vice president
and head of government transportation at U.S. Bank

BEN GRAF, M.S. '21, chief data scientist
at Matrix Design Group

FRANK LABORDE, '84, founder and owner
of Laborde & Associates

DUANE NAGEL, '96, senior associate dean at the
Barton School of Business at Wichita State University

RENEE WATSON, '86, director of the Small Business
and Entrepreneurship Department of Bexar County

48,000+

ALVAREZ ALUMNI

Entrepreneurship Program Pairs UTSA Students with Small Business Owners

Local small business owners including a salsa maker, a therapeutic pillow creator and a commercial cleaning service provider came together as part of the college's new Stimulating Urban Renewal through Entrepreneurship (SURE) program to receive assistance from UTSA students.

SURE provides unique opportunities for upper-level undergraduate students and graduate students across various disciplines to collaborate with local small business owners or entrepreneurs through an Alvarez business course. The first cohort consisted of five teams, each including a student, a local entrepreneur and an expert business professional who guided and mentored them.

PURNIMA CHAWLA, associate professor of practice in management, leads the program, which is offered in partnership with the Small Business Development Center in the UTSA Valdez Institute for Economic Development.

"The program does two things: it provides community entrepreneurs, especially those in economically stagnant neighborhoods, with assistance for their small business, and our students learn the skills they need to consult with the entrepreneurs and help them develop business plans," said Chawla. The second cohort of the program begins this spring.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Frost Lectures Feature Graham Weston and Rob Wicall



GRAHAM WESTON, chief executive officer of Weston Ventures, presented the spring 2024 address. With a career spanning a variety of industries including technology, real estate and science, Weston is a renowned entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Inspired to invest in the heart of San Antonio to support technology as well as economic development, he created Geekdom, which is a collaborative co-working space that provides a technology hub for the city. Continuing to follow his passions, he established the 80/20 Foundation to support nonprofits that align with his vision.

“Entrepreneurship and community are the heart of progress. This investment in data science and cyber security isn’t just about education, it’s about transforming San Antonio into a thriving innovation hub that creates jobs, drives economic growth and elevates the city.”



ROB WICALL, ’94, managing partner at Alteus Strategies, presented the fall 2024 address. For two decades, Wicall donned the iconic fur suit of The Coyote, the beloved mascot of the NBA’s San Antonio Spurs.

Wicall recently published, “Furlosophy: Beyond the Mascot: Insights into Life and the NBA,” that showcases his experience as an NBA mascot.

“If you follow your passions in life and what fills your soul, you’ll be happy and successful. Nobody is going to give you anything, so you must step up and take what you want in life.”

Now in his current role, he provides a unique perspective on the art of genuine human connection and the power of making memorable moments that last a lifetime.



The Frost Distinguished Lecture Series, which began in 1988, presents a forum for business leaders and academics to share their experiences in business so that students can broaden their understanding of the business world and the individuals who lead it.

College Partners with Victory Capital to Promote Student Success

The college has partnered with Victory Capital to expand programs that support student success for business students to better prepare them for careers in the investment and financial industry.

Victory Capital has made a financial commitment to enhance technology within the college's Financial Studies Center as well as provide UTSA students access to finance-based tools and resources. This commitment allows students the ability to gain industry-specific training and Bloomberg certifications, which can enhance their financial literacy, industry knowledge and strengthen their resumes.

"We are excited about this new partnership with Victory Capital," said **JONATHON HALBESLEBEN**, dean of the Alvarez College of Business. "They've taken a creative approach to not only support the college financially, but also to invest holistically in the college by engaging with our faculty and students to enhance their professional development."

Victory Capital has committed to participate in classroom lectures and professional development programs to create experiential learning opportunities for students. In addition, they are contributing a monetary donation to the Investment Society, a UTSA student organization.



"We are thrilled to launch this new partnership with UTSA to support students pursuing careers in the investment industry," said **CARLY THOMAS**, director of responsible business at Victory Capital.



"Our goal is to inspire students to reach their full potential by providing access to certifications, training programs and career development."

CARLY THOMAS

This partnership between Victory Capital and the Alvarez College of Business will allow for close collaboration between both organizations and will create opportunities for students to learn about careers in the financial and asset management industry from senior level executives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

► Corporate Sponsor Program

Partner Level



Senior Level

- ATKG
- BDO
- CLA
- Enterprise
- KPMG
- Marathon Petroleum
- RSM US LLP
- Weaver, LLP

\$350,000+
SCHOLARSHIP
DOLLARS AWARDED

145
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS



Support Alvarez

Make a gift to support the Alvarez College of Business.

► Dean's Advisory Council

DENISE E. BENDELE, '87, RSM US LLP

ANN BOHL DEACON, '84, Deacon Recruiting
& Deacon Professional Services

MATT DENNIS, Victory Capital

WALTER D. DOWNING JR., MBA '86,
Southwest Research Institute

TREY EMBREY JR., Embrey

YVONNE FERNANDEZ, '85,
Security Service Federal Credit Union

RONALD W. FIELDING, Common Sense Strategy LLC

STEWART G. GOODSON, '84, chair, retired, EY

KENNETH HOFFMAN, '85, Kenneth Hoffman
Management Consulting

DANA HOLDEN, THRU Project

DANA HUNT, PwC

ANN JANSON, '97, Phillips 66

RYAN KELLEY, '03, MBA '05, Par Pacific Holdings

NANCY KUDLA, MBA '87, Kudla Foundation

MARK METCALFE, Susser Bank

BENJAMIN MONTAÑEZ, Norton Rose Fulbright

HECTOR MORALES, Aceroteca Metals

GEORGE S. MULLER, MBA '76, retired,
C.H. Guenther & Son, Inc.

OLADAPO OLALEYE, MBA '09, Nordson Corporation

NANCY EHRLICH OZUNA, '93, MPA '95,
Forvis Mazars, LLP

PATRICIA PONTON, Marathon Petroleum

CHRIS RACKLEY, '07, MBA '14,
Child Development Schools

CHRIS ROSAS, '00, MBA '02

E. RENE SALAS, '86, Wellmond

JERRY SALINAS, '80, retired, Frost

MARTIN SALINAS, '94, Phase 4 Energy Partners

MARCELO P. SANCHEZ, retired, AHMSA International

MICHAEL SETSER, '97, Spurs Sports
and Entertainment

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