

# SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

## MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC PLAN 2005-2010

### MISSION

To support and promote the Mission of the University of Texas at Dallas.

To prepare students for the global, diverse, and technologically sophisticated world of the twenty-first century by providing an integrated interdisciplinary education that fosters the fusion of critical with creative thinking, the arts with the humanities, the arts and humanities with other branches of knowledge, the University with the community, and theory with practice.

To encourage and support scholarly research and creative endeavor that seeks, creates, and explores connections across conventional academic disciplines and forms of artistic expression.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic planning of the School focuses on developing innovative programs of focused excellence specifically appropriate to UTD. Rather than seeking to duplicate or extend conventional degree programs, A&H has a tradition of creating new academic linkages that both transcend the boundaries of traditional programs and anticipate major intellectual and social developments.

### GOALS

To become a recognized leader in higher education by developing a dynamic interdisciplinary approach that fosters qualities of mind necessary for survival and success in an era of change, diversity, ready international and intercultural communication, and ubiquitous technology.

These qualities include

- Intellectual Agility: the ability, enhanced by education focused in part on nurturing disciplined creativity, to apply knowledge imaginatively in response to unforeseeable circumstances, problems, and opportunities;
- Communicative Expertise: the ability to be thoughtful, highly skilled creators and interpreters of artful, convincing communication in a wide range of media;
- Empathic Understanding: a capacity for the critical examination of one's self, culture, and system of accepted beliefs, that is balanced by a capacity for the objective but sympathetic understanding of others.

To gain international recognition for sustained excellence in interdisciplinary research, particularly at the convergence of the creative and performing arts with science and technology.

To establish UTD as an internationally recognized center for the creative arts and sciences by

- Developing a unifying conceptual model of the creative process that generates artistic endeavor, scientific discovery, technological innovation and entrepreneurship;
- Offering programs of study that promote the synergy of scientific reasoning and the creative imagination;
- Establishing an interdisciplinary Institute for Innovation.

## PLANNING

Four interrelated factors guide the strategic planning of the School:

- A commitment to interdisciplinary education that transcends traditional boundaries.
- The conviction that the educative role of the School embraces both advanced study for its own students and a core of liberal education for all undergraduates.
- A commitment to increasing advanced research activity capable of attracting external funding.
- A growing recognition that profound cultural, economic and intellectual trends – variously described as the emergence of the “creative economy” [Richard Florida: *The Rise of the Creative Class*] and the “conceptual age” [Daniel Pink: *A Whole New Mind*] give the nurturing of *creativity* profoundly greater importance in contemporary higher education.

The strategic planning of the School focuses attention on the next three to five years. Believing that agility and flexibility are essential attitudes for success, the School intends to create an environment of innovation that will enable it to take advantage of opportunities for the creation of bold new programs.

## COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

1. Experience providing interdisciplinary education that fosters the development of intellectual agility, innovative thinking, interpretive sophistication, and the ability to communicate effectively in a wide range of media.
2. A unique fabric of expertise in translation, interactive arts, technologically based communication, and the implementation of interdisciplinary education.
3. A uniquely flexible structure (free of the restrictions associated with departmentalization) that encourages innovation and experimentation.
4. Proven success in establishing interdisciplinary research centers such as the Center for Translation Studies, Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Museums, Holocaust Center, Institute for Interactive Arts and Engineering, and antE: The Center for the Study of Anticipatory Systems.
5. A record of successful, mutually beneficial collaboration not only with other Schools within UTD but also with major educational and cultural institutions in Dallas and North Texas.

## UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

### Liberal Education for UTD:

Through continued development of innovative elective courses in addition to courses included in the Core Education requirement, the School will increase opportunities for all students to enhance their ability to create and interpret rhetorically sophisticated and effective messages across boundaries of culture, language, and medium, place their values and assumptions in larger cultural contexts, and develop their creative powers. Specifically:

- Add faculty members and strengthen each area of the curriculum: Literary Studies, History and Philosophy, Art and Performance, Arts and Technology.
- Expand foreign language opportunities through formal course work, learning communities on campus, and travel experiences.
- Expand and enhance opportunities for all students in the creative and performing arts.
- Establish the Guitar Studies Program, Guitar Performance Series, and International Guitar Festival as the most prestigious in Texas.
- Expand efforts to create a dynamic cultural environment through a major public arts series.
- Expand programs related to the development of communicative skills across disciplines and media.
- Develop interactive courses for “distance” learning.

### New Majors:

The immediate and dramatic success of the interdisciplinary major in Arts & Technology (ATEC) – the first of its kind in Texas - confirms the educational attraction of programs that link the creative arts, humanistic inquiry, and technological sophistication.

The School intends to seek immediate approval for two innovative interdisciplinary majors:

- International and Technological Communication:  
A program designed to enable students to translate communication into the most appropriate rhetoric in the most appropriate media in cross-cultural professional circumstances. In *The New Division of Labor: How Computers Are Creating the Next Job Market*, Frank Levy (Harvard) and Richard Murnane (MIT) predict a heightened need for two categories of human skills: innovative problem solving (“expert thinking”) and the ability to persuade, explain, or convey convincing interpretations of information (“complex communication”). This major will emphasize the intertwined development of expert thinking, imagination, and communication.
- Medical and Scientific Humanities  
A program placing scientific and medical study in a broad humanistic context, designed primarily for students who seek careers in the sciences or health professions. It will be designed to foster the complementary development of scientific reasoning and the creative imagination, integrating the various fields with a common descriptive language

for creativity and processes of innovation. The major will require advanced study in at least one area of both science and the humanities.

- Re-introduce into the curriculum more focused majors (e.g., Drama) to complement the interdisciplinary Arts and Performance major.

## GRADUATE EDUCATION

The interdisciplinary M.A. and Ph.D. program in the Humanities, which anticipated the growing recognition of the need to collapse departmental barriers in humanistic studies, remains strong. The immediate success of the M.A. and M.F.A. in Arts & Technology has exceeded the most optimistic projections. The newly established History M.A. has also proven successful. The School intends to build on its reputation as a leader in interdisciplinary graduate education by seeking immediate approval for the following advanced degrees:

- Ph.D. in Arts & Technology  
Like the B.A. and Master's degrees, this program fosters mutually productive interaction of computer science and engineering with the creative arts and humanities. The program is designed to prepare students for advanced careers in research, education, and entrepreneurial innovation. Our goal is to create an exemplar for the future development of a burgeoning area of academic interest.
- Ph.D. in Translation and Creative Writing  
This program combines the School's reputation as a pioneer in the field of literary translation, especially its value as a conceptual model for interdisciplinary research and education, with a strong, innovative curriculum in creative writing. It will include a strong emphasis on "writing" in multiple media and will have a dynamic linkage with Arts & Technology.

Within the next five years, the School intends to add as well the following degree programs:

- M.A. in Medical and Scientific Humanities
- M.A. in International and Technological Communication
- Ph.D. in International and Technological Communication

## GRADUATE RESEARCH

The School has set a goal of attracting at least \$1,000,000 of externally funded research annually by FY 2008. The key to reaching this goal is the research activity of the Institute for Interactive Arts and Engineering. Acting on its commitment to research and to interdisciplinary investigation, the School has encouraged the entrepreneurial development of other research-intensive centers, among them:

- Center for Translation Studies
- antE: Center for the Study of Anticipatory Systems
- The Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Museums

- Center for Holocaust Studies
- Center for U.S.-Mexico Studies

The School will aggressively support the activities of these centers while encouraging the establishment of new collaborative research centers (e.g. Institute for Innovation) focused on areas of importance that link with the work of existing centers and present reasonable opportunities for external funding. Currently, the School is seeking funding to establish, in collaboration with The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, a Center for Values in Medicine and Technology.

## **OUTREACH AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

The commitment of the School to crossing boundaries includes a deep and persistent interest in collaborations with a wide range of institutions and people in the greater community. The School will both continue to strengthen current partnerships and seek new alliances. Currently the School is working with community leaders in Dallas to develop a range of outreach programs, tentatively entitled *Becoming Dallas' University of Texas*, to expand educational and artistic opportunities for minority students. Current and planned programs include:

- Expanding the role of cross-cultural collaborations in the public arts series;
- Expansion of the “Southside” residency program for artists;
- Expansion and strengthening of a newly established residency program for African-American artists at UTD;
- Expansion of cultural programs with the Hispanic community;
- Establishment of a planned Center for Interactive and Animated Arts in the minority community.

## TIME-LINE AND RESOURCES

### FACULTY

**2004-05:      39 tenured/tenure-track                      13 Senior Lecturers**

Create an orderly and effective plan to add 5-6 faculty members annually to meet demands of growth and additional programs:

**2009-10          72 tenured/tenure-track                      10 Senior Lecturers**

**2014-15          100 tenured/tenure-track                      10 Senior Lecturers**

Immediate needs (2005-07):

- International and Technological Communication [B.A.]: 3 FTE
- Medical and Scientific Humanities [B.A., M.A.]: 3 FTE
- Arts and Technology [Ph.D.]: 3 FTE
- Translation and Creative Writing [Ph.D.]: 2 FTE

Endow Professorships in both Guitar Studies and Medical Humanities in 2006.

Obtain funding to establish six additional endowed Professorships and/or Chairs by 2010.

Add 12 additional endowed Professorships and/or Chairs by 2014.

### FACILITIES

The activities of the School are hampered at every level by inadequate and in some instances non-existent facilities. There are not enough computer laboratories, classrooms, studios, or performance/rehearsal venues to meet current needs. Therefore, this plan has two stages: addressing immediate needs and planning for future excellence.

#### Immediate Needs [2005-06]:

- Assign building known as Human Resources Annex immediately to School of Arts and Humanities to be transformed into the University Center for Arts and Technology.
- Expand Visual Arts Building by constructing a satellite facility containing 15 private studios for advanced students.
- Renovate Jonsson 1 to provide a new rehearsal hall and practice studios.

#### Future Excellence [2005-14]:

- Construct a technologically sophisticated classroom/office building dedicated to the School of Arts and Humanities.
- Construct a Center for the Performing Arts.
- Construct a technologically sophisticated building dedicated to fostering Innovation in Education and Research at UTD:
  - Venues for the Creative Arts
  - Gallery for physical and virtual exhibitions
  - Expanded facilities for Arts and Technology
  - Site for university-sponsored Institute for Innovation