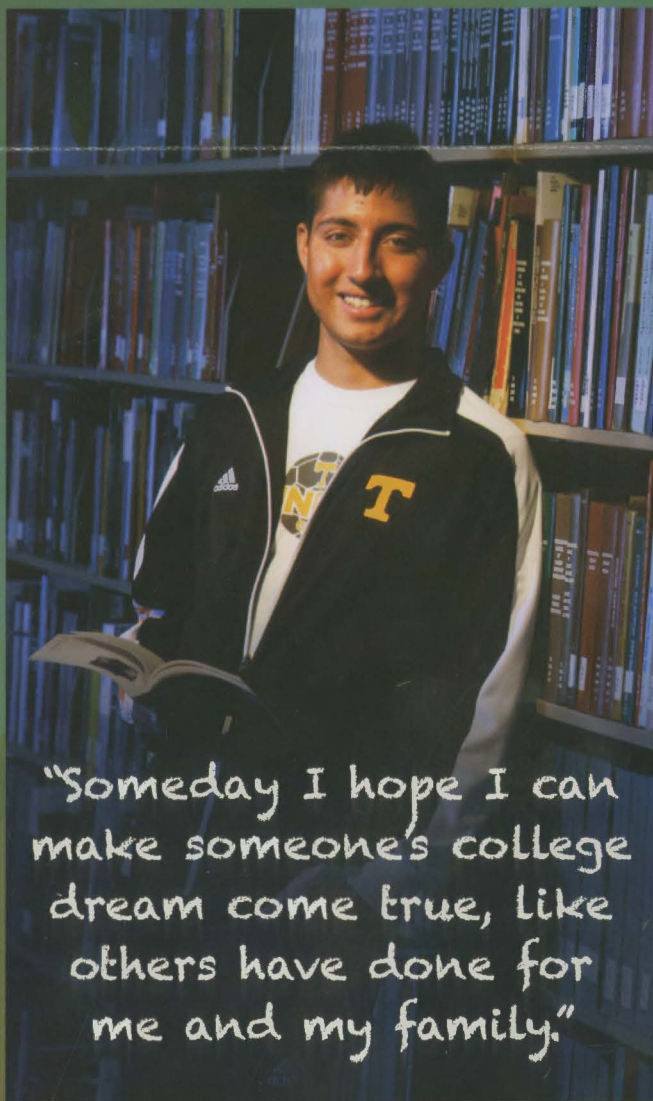


gratitude.

Every day on this campus your generosity changes the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. On these pages are stories demonstrating how your philanthropic gifts allow the university to transform lives and change the world. Please enjoy this first issue of **gratitude.** and know that you are truly making a difference.

Humberto Velazquez:

THIS FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT IS LIVING A DREAM



"Someday I hope I can make someone's college dream come true, like others have done for me and my family."

Burdened by his past but not broken by it, Humberto Velazquez always dreamed big. His father, Alberto, was a migrant worker who supported the family by doing work in the states while his family stayed behind in Mexico. When Humberto was 14, his father finally was able to bring the family together in Memphis.

At that time in the 8th grade, Humberto had already surpassed his parents' school achievement. The promise of a better future through education became Humberto's greatest motivator, along with "Mr. Andy"—Andy Taylor ('72)—his dad's boss. It was "Mr. Andy who planted the seed of going to UT into me," says Humberto.

"He had a spark of tenacity in his eyes," says Taylor, who recommended Humberto for UT's Business Education for Talented Students (BETS) summer program. An internship at Gerber/Taylor Associates, Taylor's Memphis financial investment firm, solidified Humberto's interest in international finance, and college became a leap worth taking, even if his family's finances couldn't support it.

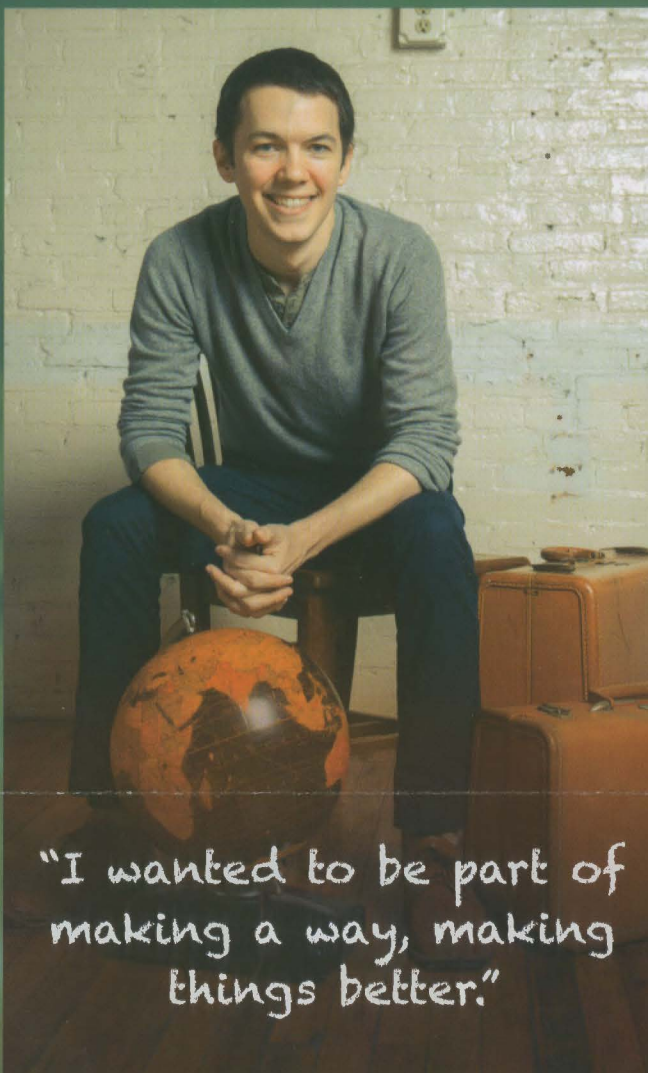
"I received my acceptance letter, but once I looked at the tuition, I knew my family could not afford it," he says.

That's where the Tennessee Pledge Scholarship came in. Created for academically qualified students from families with an annual income of \$40,000 or less, the scholarship makes higher education possible for Humberto and 1,500 other UT students. The four-year award covers tuition, fees, room and board, and books.

"UT is a key that gives me access to greater plans and opportunities," says the freshman, who maintains a 3.0 GPA while participating in a business fraternity and intramural soccer league. "My dad built and carried the dream," says Humberto with tears in his eyes, "until I could take hold and carry it for myself and my family."

Jarett Beaudoin

A STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY HAS BECOME A CAREER PATH



"I wanted to be part of making a way, making things better."

When the realm of adventure called, Jarett Beaudoin ('13) answered, but capturing the postcard-like beauty of France on his first jaunt abroad was not enough. Jarett wanted to study and travel for a greater purpose, so he chose the path of pre-med global studies.

Jarett was motivated by reading Dr. Paul Farmer's plight to serve the medical needs of Haiti's destitute population in *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. "That book changed my future," he says.

A trip to Haiti followed, where Jarett saw firsthand the care of the sickest in Cange, Haiti, where Farmer, an infectious disease specialist and physician, founded a hospital. Since then, every stamp on Jarett's passport is evidence of his passion for activism.

Contributing to his journey was UT.

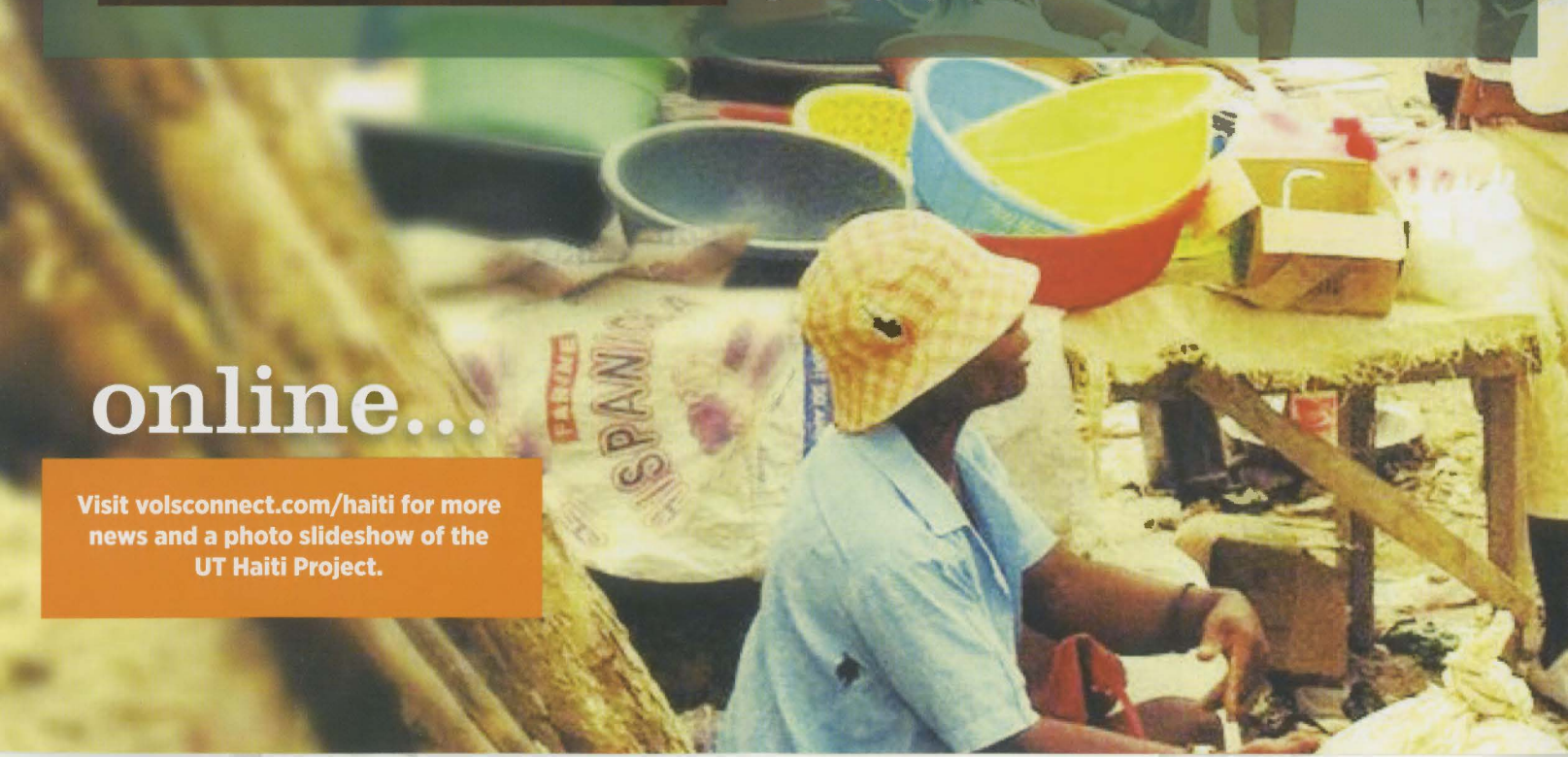
A research grant offered him the privilege of empowering Ghanaians with eye care while studying the economic impact of eye disease. A flight scholarship opened the door for him to study in India, where the depths of poverty—"families living on the streets"—created an even deeper and more desperate conviction for Jarett to stand in the valleys of global health care.

With medical school on the horizon in 2015, Jarett continues to be rooted in his mission and currently serves as a medical case manager who coordinates the chronic health care needs of refugees at Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Always keenly aware of the atrocities around him, Jarett says that while the trips were temporary, the impact, guided by UT, is permanent.

online...

Visit volsconnect.com/haiti for more news and a photo slideshow of the UT Haiti Project.



UT Haiti Project

A collaborative cross-campus effort involving the Colleges of Architecture & Design, Engineering, Nursing, and Arts & Sciences.



DONOR IMPACT

Contributions to UT have funded efforts to build schools and hospitals in Haiti.

In the past three years, since a massive earthquake shook Haiti to its core, UT students and faculty have designed a secondary school, housing, prototypes of medical emergency kits, and medical facilities.



The Haiti Project is almost entirely funded through private donations and institutional funding. Donations support student travel and living expenses.

"I felt like it was an opportunity to use design to make life better for people who have been forgotten by so many."

—Aaron Brown,
architecture student

STUDENT VALUE

UT students gain cross-discipline experience and hands-on training in the global marketplace.



Since its inception in 2010, ninety-three students have enrolled in a course that focuses on real solutions for Haiti, with forty traveling there. Students visit with community leaders to create plans that are conducive to local environmental conditions and culture.



In the current project, students are master planning a new campus for the University of Fondwa, which suffered significant damage after the earthquake.

"Whether it is professional or personal, we all benefited from this experience in ways that we will never be able to truly explain."

—Laura Sherborne,
architecture student



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