

MORE THAN JUST THE SPORT

Lacrosse players transfer to Texas for academics and UT culture.

DT

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DAN MARTINEZ / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

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UNIVERSITY

UT fires long-standing professor over complaint of kissing female colleague on lips

By Andrew Zhang
@andrewczhang

Trigger warning: This article references an alleged sexual misconduct violation.

UT-Austin terminated chemical engineering professor emeritus Adam Heller as a research professor Sept. 1 after he allegedly kissed a female co-worker without her consent in January, according to a report obtained by The Daily Texan through an open records request.

According to the report, the Office for Inclusion and Equity found sufficient evidence on June 25 that Heller violated Handbook of Operating Procedures 3-3031, an employee policy prohibiting sexual misconduct, interpersonal violence and sexual harassment. Daniel Jaffe, interim executive vice president and provost, adopted the Office for Inclusion and Equity's findings, according to the report.

The complainant, whose name was withheld from the report, said Heller complimented her before touching her hand and elbow and kissing her on the lips, according to the report. Several witnesses said the woman told them about the alleged incident and appeared emotionally distressed, according to the report.

"As part of our

long-standing practice, the University takes all accusations of misconduct very seriously," Joey Williams, director of communications for the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, said in an email. "When an investigation finds a policy has been violated, appropriate disciplinary steps are taken."

The firing was not announced publicly but instead reported as a statistic in an October report of sexual misconduct on campus, according to the Austin American-Statesman, which first reported the firing.

Heller has a "spotless record of good and fair conduct," Heller's attorney Tom Nesbitt said to the University in a July 28 letter, which he provided to the Texan. Nesbitt said Heller has worked with the woman for about 13 years, and this was the first time any complaint had been raised.

"I am 87 and deaf," Heller said to the Office for Inclusion and Equity investigator June 4, according to the letter. "Even though I intended nothing sexual and nothing offensive, I understand that (redacted) has interpreted my conduct so very differently than I had intended. ... This will not happen again."

In the letter, Nesbitt said Heller did not kiss



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the woman on her lips and has never done so. Nesbitt said the investigator never stated that Heller admitted to kissing the woman on her lips.

Since Heller is a retired faculty member, UT denied him a hearing and the opportunity to be judged by his peers, Nesbitt said in an email Thursday evening. Nesbitt said he requested a meeting with the provost and an informal resolution, but both requests were denied.

The investigation entailed an interview between Heller and the investigator March 12, which Heller completed without written declaration of the allegations against him, Nesbitt said in the letter.

The University claims that no recording of the interview exists, Nesbitt said in the email.

Heller will keep his title as Ernest Cockrell, Sr. Chair in Engineering Professor Emeritus but cannot be employed by UT again or visit campus without express permission, Cockrell Dean Sharon Wood said to Heller in a Sept. 4 letter, which Nesbitt provided to the Texan.

"While I do believe that you did not (intend) to harass the complainant, your conduct ... represents a failure to meet the professional and ethical standards to which the university holds members of its faculty," Wood said in the letter.

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UTPD



EMMA GEORGE / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

UTPD lights up for more visibility

UT Police Department aims to deter crime in West Campus by keeping their cars' red and blue lights on at night.

By Lauren Abel
@laurena0324

The UT Police Department will keep the red and blue lights on squad cars lit overnight to increase visibility in West Campus, according to a Saturday UTPD tweet.

Peter Scheets, UTPD assistant chief of police, said the increase in robberies in West Campus prompted the decision to keep “wig wag” lights on overnight to deter crime and offer enhanced visibility for students. “Wig wag” lights are the rear-facing red and blue lights on police vehicles that are difficult to see unless the car passes you, Scheets said.

“This is not a new practice,” Scheets said. “We’ve done this intermittently over the years during periods where we have a high call volume or high crime activity.”

UTPD employed this technique following the murders of students Haruka Weiser

and Harrison Brown to offer increased security and decrease crime rates, staff officer Lt. Wayne Coffey said.

“This was a way to reassure the community but also signal to people that are in the neighborhood and wanting to do criminal activities that we’re also in their presence,” Scheets said.

Government sophomore Teniece Evans said she disagrees with this decision as it negatively affects Black, Indigenous and people of color, and the resources being used could be re-allocated elsewhere.

“People of color, Black students especially, have a general distrust in police officers, so the idea of having lights on is a slap in the face with everything that’s going on,” Evans said.

Evans said she believes resources would be better spent increasing lighting in dark areas and putting measures in place that prevent the issues from the start.

“Why are we paying police to stay in alleys and intimidate (Black people and) people of color when you could

re-allocate those funds toward setting up street lights in dark alleys where students are walking at night, where students are getting robbed?” Evans said.

Economics senior James Peterson said in a Twitter message he supports the decision to keep lights on overnight as it could help people feel safer.

“I believe it will make citizens feel safer when they’re out and about at night and hopefully serve as a deterrent for crime as well,” Peterson said.

Scheets said although the response to the new policy has been generally positive, UTPD is open to hearing concerns about the lights negatively affecting Black, Indigenous and people of color. Scheets also said the experience with UTPD will differ from that of the Austin Police Department, so students are able to make complaints if an issue arises.

“The feedback we’ve gotten has been overwhelmingly positive, but we welcome hearing from members of the community if they have concerns or opposition,” Scheets said.

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COLUMN

Prepare for students' return

University Housing and Dining must ensure it adequately protects residents after Thanksgiving.

By Arianna Hosek
Columnist

When it released the plans for the fall semester back in May, UT announced that all classes would move online after Thanksgiving break and students would not return to campus. This plan was intended to prevent a fall COVID-19 surge from students getting infected at home and then bringing it back to campus.

However, University Housing and Dining recently sent out an

email asking on-campus residents to let UHD know if they planned to stay home after the break. Not only was this email the first indicator that students would be allowed back on campus to finish the semester, but it also indicated that the default option was to return.

This contradicts the plan released over summer and, as a third wave of the pandemic is already in full swing, brings about major health and safety concerns.

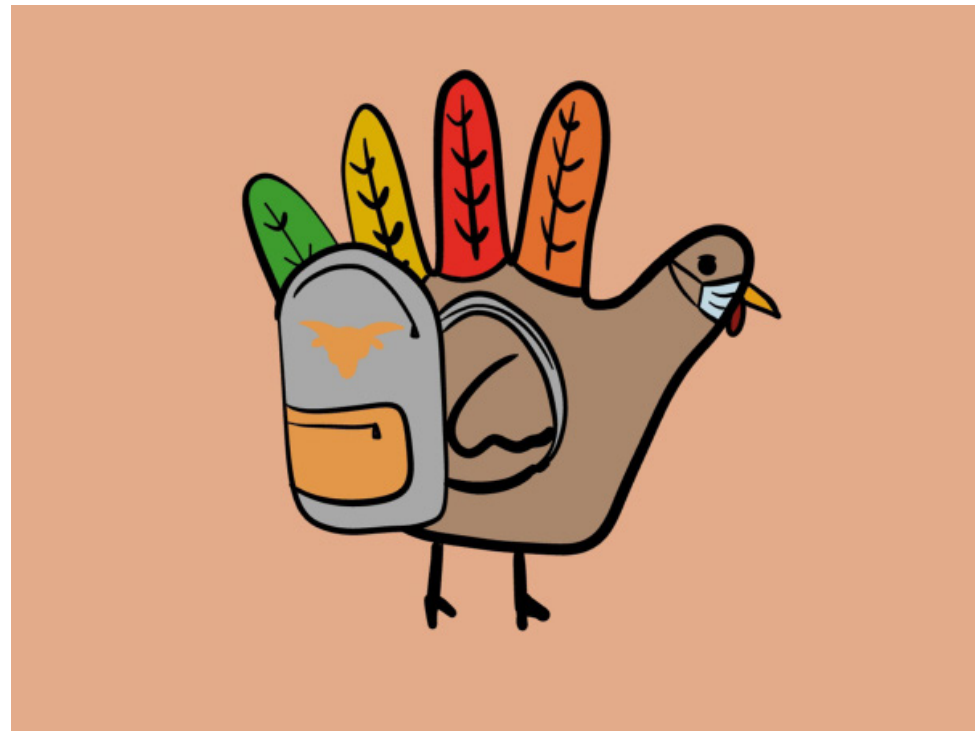
If residence halls are planning to welcome students back with open arms after Thanksgiving, they must adopt stricter health precautions to prevent a potential COVID-19 breakout on campus.

Now that they've been given the option to come back, many students feel the need to return to their on-campus dorms due to mental health benefits, better study environments and uncomfortable conditions at home.

"My mental health is a lot better in Austin than it is at home," biochemistry freshman Maddie Beischer said. "It's much easier for me to focus here on campus, and during finals, I really want to have a place for me to focus."

However, coming back to campus poses risks in terms of COVID-19 safety.

"I don't feel safe," Beischer said. "I understand that I do have to be very careful and there are people who aren't."



CLARA SÁNCHEZ / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Aaron Voyles, director of residence hall operations, said that despite the interpretation of the plans released over the summer, residence halls were always planning to stay open after the break.

However, Voyles also acknowledged that no extra precautions are planned for students that choose to return.

"Our procedures are going to be the same in terms of our daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures and all of the student policies," Voyles said.

The residence halls are more confident about health safety because only 1,074 of the 3,261 residents are scheduled to return, Voyles said. While this is only about 30% of residents, the

presence of COVID-19 in 1,074 individuals is much more likely than in zero.

Additionally, the existing policies Voyles identified — testing, quarantines and sanitization — were created to keep up with a student body that remained largely static for the whole semester. I am not confident they can effectively protect against a COVID-19 outbreak when a significant portion of the residence hall population will be leaving and then reentering the dorms within a span of a week.

This is especially concerning because the existing policies are already showing weaknesses. Students are not getting voluntarily tested as much as the school planned for, isolation plans are

unorganized and confusing and proper cleaning supplies are not available for residents.

Requiring negative tests before return, making testing mandatory while on campus and providing sanitization materials to residents are all ways to increase safety, especially when students return to campus after Thanksgiving.

At the end of the day, when a university plans a whole semester around a possible post-Thanksgiving COVID-19 surge, it would only make sense for residence halls to be prepared post-Thanksgiving.

As of right now, they're not.

Hosek is a psychology freshman from Austin, Texas.

GALLERY



CHARLIE HYMAN / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

RESEARCH

US Department of Energy invests \$4M in UT laser

By Kevin Vu
@KevinKek_

The United States Department of Energy announced an \$18 million grant to support and expand the capabilities of their lasers in facilities across the U.S. in late October, and UT-Austin will receive \$4.1 million over the course of three years.

In 2018, the department established a network of facilities with ultra-intensity lasers across the nation, including UT's Texas Petawatt Laser, one of the highest-powered lasers in the world, in hopes of restoring the U.S.'s top position in high-intensity laser research.

Todd Ditmire, the director for the Center for High Energy Density Science, said the laser produces a power 10 times more powerful than all of the power plants in the world. He said the laser can be used in many ways.

"We study astrophysics. We study what plasmas look like in high temperatures. We study ways of accelerating particles using the very intense light," Ditmire said. "I had a student, and we looked at how an explosion driven by the laser might simulate a supernova explosion."

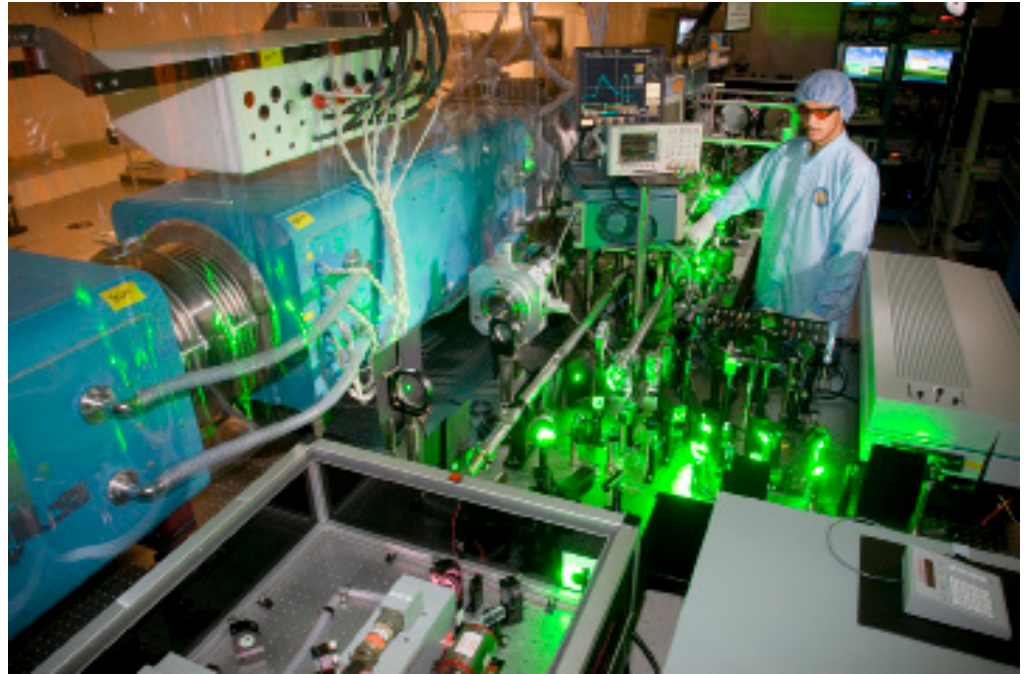
Sandra Bruce, a research scientist for the laser who is managing its upgrade, said the grant will largely be used to integrate three additional lasers coordinated to work on the same experiment.

"Those three (beams) don't need to be shooting on the same target at the same time," Bruce said. "It could actually increase the number of users that are able to use our facility, having all of these different lasers and different target chambers available."

Bruce said to allow the three lasers to work together, the team plans on making a new facility called Texas Relativistic Intensity Ultrafast Multi-beam Plasma science Facility using part of the grant.

"This investment is really important for the future of not just laser experiments (and) high-energy-density experiments in the U.S. but also as a training facility," Bruce said. "We have students working and helping with the laser ... Even undergraduates are helping to build this upgrade."

Michael Donovan, the associate director of the center, said the network allows people from around the world to be able to use the



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UT will receive \$4.1 million in grants over the course of three years for its Texas Petawatt Laser from the U.S. Department of Energy.

high-intensity lasers for various research purposes.

"People come from all over the world for these experiments," Donovan said. "We have groups scheduled in the future right now from the Czech Republic, from Germany ... and from the University of California, San Diego."

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STUDENT LIFE

Texas Athletics says transferring of student football tickets is impossible

By Anna Canizales
@annaleonorc

This year, it is not possible to transfer The Big Ticket to another student online or in person, according to Texas Athletics.

In past years, students would use group chats to buy and sell tickets for football games, but this year, the University has implemented a touchless-entry mobile ticketing system that does not allow for ticket transfers, said Drew

Martin, executive senior associate athletic director for external affairs.

For the Nov. 7 football game and Nov. 5-6 volleyball games, student Big Ticket holders were required to either test negative for COVID-19 through UT's complimentary test in the days leading up to game day or provide proof of a positive test result from between Aug. 7 and Oct. 24, according to the Texas Sports website. Other ticket holders are not required to be tested for COVID-19 before

attending games.

Martin said a student is eligible to receive a ticket only if they either test negative for COVID-19 right before the game or tested positive at least two weeks prior and recovered.

"We provide the testing group on campus with the list of Big Ticket holders," Martin said. "They test and they return us ... the list of Big Ticket holders that are approved to receive a ticket. Those are the only students that we load into

the claim process."

Business junior Christina Ebaseh-Onofa said she has seen students in group chats looking to buy and sell tickets, which she feels is concerning given the pandemic.

"It's still important to do your part in a way you can do, so of course, getting tested before you go and then isolating after you've gone," Ebaseh-Onofa said. "But I know those steps were not happening. People are tailgating and (having) large

gatherings after the game. You can't force someone to do something they don't want to do, but I just wish people got tested before this game."

Business junior Jack Nichols said he did not purchase a Big Ticket and thought about buying a ticket to go to one game but could not figure out how to transfer a ticket.

"I ended up not doing anything," Nichols said. "How does that work? Am I allowed to do that? So (with) a lot of those questions, I just decided not to. (It's) definitely not worth COVID-19 happening."

Martin said Texas Athletics does not know of any students transferring tickets.

"If you were to try to transfer your ticket through the transfer portal, it does not allow the transfer of a student ticket," Martin said. "It's a pretty streamlined process."

Ebaseh-Onofa said she would feel safer if all ticket holders were required to get tested instead of just Big Ticket holders, and students moving tickets around would make that more difficult.

"We all have a responsibility to be responsible during this time, and college students are not taking on responsibilities seriously," Ebaseh-Onofa said. "Honestly, it's just them risking getting COVID-19 or not."



DESTINY ALEXANDER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

Q&A

The Sound of UT: Indie pop

Susannah Joffe finds a new sound in quarantine along the lines of Phoebe Bridgers and Clairo.

By Morgan-Taylor Thomas
@mtthomas_

With a bunch of silver and gold chain necklaces around her neck, Susannah Joffe applied blush to her face as she got ready for a night out. Peering into the mirror, she said her journey to music started when she would co-write and sing with her dad at a young age.

Her family moved from Virginia to pursue the Austin music scene when she was young, and she performed her first solo gig at 15. The summer before her freshman year at UT, she put out her first two singles.

Now, after a yearlong hiatus to take time for herself, the radio-television-film and Plan II junior said she has been able to express herself and explore her identity through her music. Recently, the solo indie pop artist has added another single, “Nobody Wants Me Tonight,” and a music video to her discography.

The Daily Texan: How did you first start making music?

Susannah Joffe: I was born in Virginia, and we moved to Austin because my dad wanted to pursue songwriting. He organically nudged me towards it by showing me a melody he wrote, so that’s how we started writing together. And songwriting with my dad in high school was a way for us to bond and talk about a lot of stuff that maybe I didn’t really want to talk to him about — like breakups — and was a way to have a dialogue with him without actually having it.

DT: How has quarantine affected and shaped your music?

SJ: I came out during quarantine.

Before that, I was still in very deep denial that I am very bisexual. And I was quarantined with the girl that I was (dating), so it gave me the time and space to be ... writing all the time and exploring (my sexuality). I also got submerged a lot more into gay culture online, which affected the type of music I was listening to, so I got a lot more into indie pop and indie rock. I think now I’m writing a lot more along the lines of Phoebe Bridgers, Clairo, all the typical gay ladies. So quarantine has definitely shaped my songwriting a lot, and that’s why I’m really excited to put out a new EP that debuts that new sound.

DT: What kind of creative overlap have you discovered between the radio-television-film program and being a musical artist?

SJ: Honestly, it’s really great because I self-directed my music video for “Nobody Wants Me Tonight,” and I was able to do it for free because I have great friends in the program who didn’t charge me. That video was a huge part of promoting that song, and I don’t think my song would have gotten anywhere near as many streams if I didn’t have a professional-looking video. Having those resources and those connections has been invaluable for me.

“

Music means the world to me, and I literally don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have music because I don’t want to do anything with my life other than music.”

SUSANNAH JOFFE

RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM AND PLAN II
JUNIOR

DT: What does music mean to you?

SJ: To be honest, a few years ago, I don’t think I would have known how to answer this question. I only just



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Susannah Joffe, radio-television-film and Plan II junior, moved from Virginia with her family when she was young so her dad could pursue the Austin music scene. She performed her first solo gig at 15.

started understanding how important music is to me during quarantine. I’m very pain-avoidant and have a lot of issues with confronting that pain, so I need some kind of outlet. Songwriting is literally journaling for me. It’s my diary,

so music has been a really healthy way for me to cope. Music means the world to me, and I literally don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have music because I don’t want to do anything with my life other than music.

Students stress out over finding apartments in West Campus for next school year

By Leni Steinhardt
@lenisteinhardt

Even though her first semester of college is only just drawing to a close, government freshman Sydney Murray already knows where she's living next year.

After meeting her future roommates through her sorority, Murray has already signed a lease for an apartment in West Campus for her sophomore year.

"It felt that within the first month of being here, everybody had their roommates already figured out," Murray said.

Although fall 2021 is months away, some students are rushing to sign leases and find off-campus housing for next year. Some say they're afraid apartments will run out of space.

"You have the really desirable complexes in West Campus," said Sam Njigua, broker associate at Campus and Central Properties. "If you want the best, those apartments are normally the ones that go the fastest."

At this time last year, Murray didn't even know what college she was going to. This November, however, she knows where she'll be living next year and with whom.

"It was all kind of a scramble," Murray said. "We found a place we really like, but it definitely caught me off guard. It was a stressful week because we were worried that spots were filling up really fast."

With its proximity to campus, Greek life presence and nearby bus stops, West Campus apartments are popular student housing locations, Njigua said.

"The first- and second-year students want to be in West Campus," Njigua said.

"If you like high-rises, that's the place for you."

This year, biomedical engineering junior Sara Stevens is renewing her current lease at The Ruckus on Nueces. The apartment said her signing deadline was Sept. 21.

"I think it's stressful because West Campus apartments run out of spaces quickly," Stevens said.

Murray and her roommates also signed their leases at the end of September.

"I think if we had waited any later, it would be quite a struggle, at least from the people I've heard from that don't know what they're doing next year," Murray said. "It's definitely giving them a little bit of anxiety."

Biology freshman Isabella Ambroso currently lives at The Callaway House. Since the start of the semester, she has stressed about where she'll be living next year and with whom.

"I'm an out-of-state student, so I think that kind of adds another complicating factor because I don't have a ton of super close friends that I went to high school with that came here," Ambroso said. "I don't have people that I know for a fact I would vibe with ... living together with them."

Ambroso has yet to figure out where she will live next year and is worried she won't find roommates in time.

"It sucks because you don't even know these people that well yet, especially because we're freshmen during a pandemic," Ambroso said. "It's always in the back of my head that I need to find a lease and figure out my living situation for next year."



DAILY TEXAN COMICS

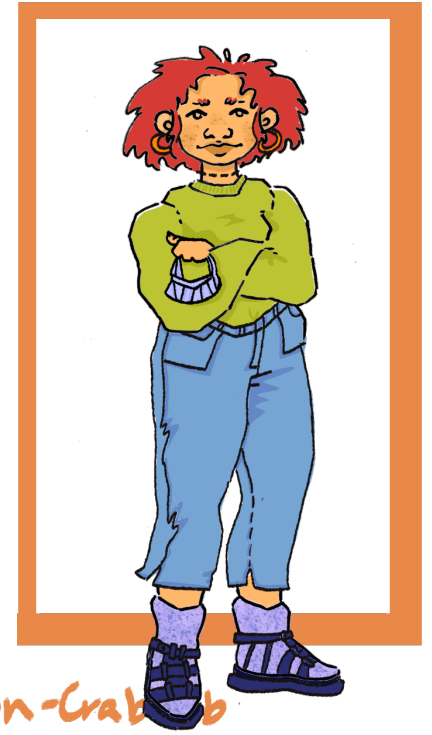
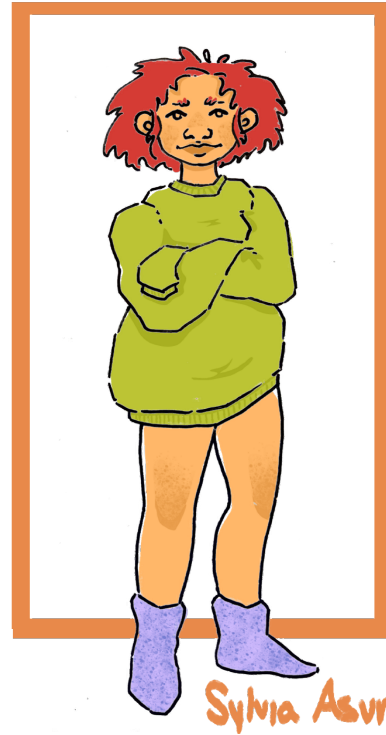
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CLUB SPORTS

Change of pace: Lacrosse players choose to come to Texas for more than just their sport

Players decommit and transfer from Division I and Division III schools to play club lacrosse at Texas.

By Daniela Perez
@danielap3rez

For freshman midfielder Ari Weiss, The University of Texas was always his dream school. But he didn't realize this until after he committed to play lacrosse at Denison University.

In January 2020, after three months of sleepless nights, Weiss called Denison's head coach and told him he would be decommitting. Weiss said the decision came after his high school coach urged him to choose a college not just for lacrosse.

"The one thing that kind of held me back from decommitting earlier was ... not knowing if I was going to get into Texas and Texas really being the only other school I wanted to go to if it weren't for lacrosse," Weiss said. "It (was a) really hard, really hard time, but I had a lot of different people that I got to talk to about it, from coaches, parents and friends, and ultimately I was able to make the right decision."

For other players on the Texas men's club lacrosse team who decommitted or transferred from Division I and Division III programs, they made the move because

of education and the want for a change of pace. Their choices have benefited the Texas lacrosse program.

Like Weiss, freshman attackman Cristian Reno had previously committed elsewhere before deciding to come to Texas. His brother is a midfielder at Cleveland State University. Reno, who hails from Dripping Springs, Texas, said his brother, the coaches and the school's facilities influenced his commitment to Cleveland State in spring 2019.

However, Reno said he realized he was burnt out from lacrosse and wanted to pursue his academics at a school with a top business program. He said he was transparent with Cleveland State's head coach about still applying to top academic programs even though he had committed to play there. After landing an interview with Texas McCombs' Canfield Business Honors Program in December 2019, he decided to stay in Texas.

Junior attackman Rowan Hart's path to Texas was different than Weiss' and Reno's. Hart played lacrosse at Holy Cross through the 2018 and 2019 seasons, but when the computational physics major started his junior year, his financial aid situation changed. He decided to start looking at transferring to other schools and eventually came to Texas in spring 2020 because he wanted to put his education first and liked UT's physics program.

"I think for a lot of people, you imagine the first or one of the top things you'd be thinking about is another school to play lacrosse at, but there are kind of a limited number of good academic

Division I schools," Hart said. "Realistically, I was either looking at another Patriot League school, which would be a similar tuition rate for a similar education, or an Ivy League school."

Hart has thrived at Texas and was the number one scorer in the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association with 32 goals in six games during the 2020 season. He's not the only transfer who has found success on the field; junior attackman Nick McCall, who transferred from Washington and Lee University, ranked third in the association with 40 goals in 11 games in 2019.

"I had been plowing snow off the field since freshman year in high school," said McCall, who attended Choate Rosemary Hall before college. "I had just only been at small New England-type schools. I just wanted more of an eclectic environment, and I think that's what you get at Texas."

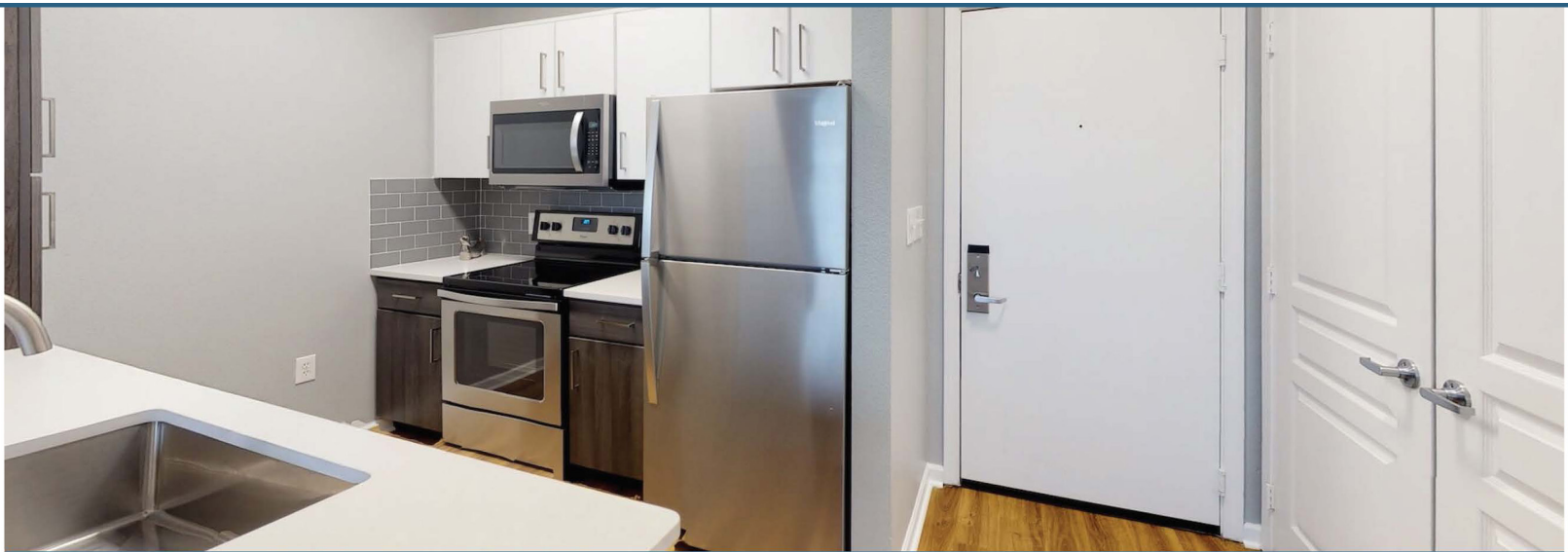
Both Hart and McCall have contributed to Texas' on-field success since transferring here. Not only have they been able to academically succeed while still playing high-level lacrosse, but they've also found a community with their teammates.

"It's definitely nice to be able to socialize and make friends going into a new school," Hart said. "I know it's scary for a lot of transfers, but to just go to (a place) where 50 people are forced to hang out with you per day, that's pretty ideal for starting to meet people. So it was really nice to make friends, and playing was fun."



COURTESY OF SETH BOKMEYER, REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION

Junior attackman Nick McCall transferred from Washington and Lee University to UT-Austin. McCall wanted a more eclectic environment and has thrived playing lacrosse for the Longhorns, scoring 40 goals in 11 games in 2019.



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VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball remains undefeated, beats West Virginia 3-1

By Daniela Perez
@danielap3rez

The Texas volleyball team beat the Mountaineers 3-1 Thursday in Morgantown, West Virginia, to remain undefeated. In their first match of the doubleheader, the No. 1 Longhorns lost the first set but quickly dominated the match to win back-to-back-to-back sets.

No. 13 West Virginia came out hot with three straight aces. Texas was able to stifle West Virginia's early

momentum and battled at the onset of the game, holding the Mountaineers to an 8-7 lead. But a kill from junior outside hitter Kristin Lux catalyzed three kills for the Mountaineers.

The Longhorns rallied at the end of the first set and were within a point of catching up to West Virginia as the game sat at 21-20. But again, three straight kills from the Mountaineers put them over the edge. When middle blocker Asjia O'Neal committed an attack error, it

squandered Texas' chances of taking the first set.

However, West Virginia would be hindered by its own errors, giving up 30 points to the Longhorns throughout the match. The Mountaineers opened up the second set with an error and would go on to commit 13 throughout the set that allowed Texas to truly dominate. Sophomore opposite hitter Skylar Fields and junior middle blocker Brionne Butler aided Texas with three kills apiece. The set would end with back-to-back

errors from West Virginia that gave the Longhorns a strong 25-15 win.

The third set began as a highly contested matchup, but Texas quickly took a lead. Down 6-7, Fields wound up for a kill and tied the game. Then, back-to-back errors from West Virginia catalyzed a seven-point streak for the Longhorns. Down 17-8, the Mountaineers scrambled to get points on the board and slightly cut away at their nine-point deficit. However, the Longhorns' momentum

was too much to overcome, and Texas took the set with a 25-17 win that was capped off by a service ace from graduate student libero Morgan O'Brien.

By the fourth set, West Virginia had fallen from being a contested opponent to just another school to beat for Texas. The Mountaineers committed four errors to open the set and were not able to recover from them. Texas stormed out and took a quick 10-3 lead, led by three kills from junior outside hitter

Logan Eggleston.

West Virginia didn't quit easily; the team attempted a comeback and were at arm's length from the Longhorns at 11-7. But its momentum wouldn't hold, and the Mountaineers only scored eight more points and gifted Texas 13 points throughout the set. The Longhorns would end the match with a kill and huge blocks from Butler, Fields and sophomore middle blocker Molly Phillips.

Texas is set to play West Virginia again Friday at 5 p.m.



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JACK MYER / THE DAILY TEXAN STAFF

The Texas volleyball team celebrates after winning a point against Baylor. After sweeping the Bears in last week's back-to-back, the Longhorns continued their undefeated run with a 3-1 win over West Virginia on Thursday night.