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Glover's new theater company is finding an audience

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Men's and women's basketball on a roll



## News Briefs

**UTD No. 76 on '100 Best Values in Public Colleges' list**

Kiplinger's Personal Finance ranked more than 500 universities on value for tuition price in 2009. Kiplinger's bases its college rankings on a combination of academic quality and an affordable price, according to content.kiplinger.com

For in-state students, UTD is No. 76 in the country and No. 70 for out-of-state students. UT Austin was ranked No. 19 and Texas A&M was No. 36 for in-state students.

Kiplinger's 2009 entry for UTD quoted a 56 percent admission rate, a 19:1 student to instructor ratio and a \$17,466 average debt at graduation.

**UTD Chess edges UBMC for win**

The UTD chess team faced long-time rival University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship Dec. 27-30.

UTD finished with a score of 5-1 and tied with UMBC but was able to take home the first-place trophy based on tie-breaking rules. The tournament took

# Award carries poetic justice



photo by Eric Nicholson

Literary studies graduate student Gjeke Marinaj holds a copy of the newspaper in which he published "Horses," the poem for which he was forced to flee his native Albania.

## Displaced by protest in 1990, Albanian finds 'poetic brotherhood' at UTD

**ERIC NICHOLSON**  
Managing Editor | eni022000@utd.edu

Gjeke Marinaj is about as non-traditional a student as can be found at UTD. The 43 year-old literary studies graduate student is the author and translator of

Center of the Albanian Ministry of Culture awarded Marinaj 2008 Pjeter Abnori prize for literature by the International Cultural Center, part of the Albanian Ministry of Culture. The award is given annually to an

ined 20 years ago. At the time, he was a young underpaid and unknown journalist living under one of the most repressive governments in Europe.

Tucked away in the hall closet of his modest Richardson home amidst stacks

# Jonsson RA's, TA's face pay cuts

**ERIC NICHOLSON**  
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Like many graduate students, Ehsan Nourbakhsh keeps a close eye on his money. He lives on a budget, so he watches his expenditures carefully.

Beginning in the fall, that budget will become a bit tighter.

Because of an upcoming reduction in stipends for teaching assistants and research assistants in the Jonsson School of Engineering, Nourbakhsh expects to lose \$350 of his monthly income.

Nourbakhsh said that once he found out about the payment cuts, he considered pursuing his computer science doctorate elsewhere.

"It was tempting," he said. "It still is tempting. If it wasn't for my adviser, I'd really think about leaving."

Stipends in the Jonsson School were boosted in an attempt to compete nationally with other universities for top-level graduate students, said engineering dean Mark Spong. This was a by-product of Project Emmitt, the five-year, \$300 million collaboration between UTD, Texas Instruments, the state of Texas and local governments aimed towards improving the national standing of the Jonsson School.

With Project Emmitt officially slated to end in March, baseline payments in the SOE will fall back to their previous levels, a decrease of \$100 — \$400 per month.

"Emmitt gave us the resources to try different things," Spong said. "Some of