

# Business Horizons

A monthly publication of Business Affairs

every person  
every day  
every job

## December 2008

### Calendar of Events

#### Christmas Holidays

December 24-26

#### New Year's Holiday

January 1

#### New Year's Skeleton Day

January 2

### Kerry's Korner

As the New Year stares us in the face, I find myself once again ever so briefly reflecting on the past, but very much anticipating the newness of 2009 and what exciting and challenging opportunities will confront us. I don't know about you, but as the surety of the New Year approaches, I'm appreciative for the chance to have some "do-over's" to improve in those personal and business areas where I have not been as accomplished or as sensitive as I know to be. A time of introspection, but limited and measured, can be most revealing as we prepare for another 365 days. And while I'm not a great believer in New Year's resolutions, a time of reflection and projecting are not only normal, but can be motivational, inspirational, and encouraging.

I am, however, this year more mindful and burdened than ever for those who are struggling with a recent loss of a family member, for those who, due to the current pitiful state of the economy, have lost their jobs or have reduced capacity to provide for their loved ones, and for those who are battling a bitter illness personally or within their families. But happily, at the same time, there are those joyfully expecting their first baby or yet another addition to their family, nearly or newlyweds planning their newfound lives together, graduations, promotions, and an ever so wide range of exciting and celebratory events. As we anticipate and celebrate 2009, let us recognize by an expression of our thankfulness how blessed we are, no matter our state, and be available to those who have need for an encouraging word or a listening ear.

What are you thankful for? Like you, I am thankful for much; too much to print here, but considering my audience and for those who have never heard me say this, "**My job is the best job that I've ever had!**" What you don't often here me say is, "**It is the hardest job that I've ever had.**" Many ingredients go into making it the best, but for lack of space, let me just say how thankful I am to work with the most professional, hardest working, finest 570 (or so) Business Affairs staff in Texas who make my job the best. Your support, your willingness to do the hard work of partnering for others' success, makes me enormously proud of you and thankful that Brenda and I can call San Antonio and UTSA home.

May your 2009 be full of joy and thanksgiving,

Kerry

### Inside this issue:

Spotlight On...	2
Pedro Nieto	2
Kudos	3
Police Award	3
Construction Update	4
Did You Know...	4
Holiday Safety Tips	4
Football at UTSA!	4
Holiday Giving	5
Parking Stamps	5





## Spotlight On ...

# Alice Cervantes

Alice Cervantes has been married for 36 years to her husband, Frank. They have 5 sons and 11 grandchildren. Alice said in her younger years they enjoyed camping with the children, but now have settled down to watch old movies, working in her yard and having family over.

Alice has been with UTSA for 20 years where she started her career as a Building Attendant I in the Multidisciplinary Studies (MS)

building under crew leader Jesse Gongora. In February of 1991, she advanced to Building Attendant Leader, and in January of 2002, she became a Building Services Supervisor.

Alice says in her years here at UTSA she has seen many new buildings constructed, experienced many changes as well as lots of staff, faculty and administrative personnel come and go.

She has worked in the MS building, Arts Building and 13 years in the John Peace Library. Alice currently oversees cleaning efforts in the Main Building.

Alice has enjoyed her years of working at UTSA very much.

Thank you, Alice, for your years of dedicated service to the university and Business Affairs.

*Alice will be receiving a Roadrunner meal card to use for either breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Roadrunner Cafe, compliments of ARAMARK. Our thanks to ARAMARK for their support!*

## Pedro A. Nieto



The UTSA community is mourning the loss of Pedro Nieto, a UTSA housekeeping building attendant, who died tragically after midnight Saturday. The operator of a taco stand at Nassau Street and West Avenue, Nieto was shot by two men late Saturday, December 6. The Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office ruled the death a homicide. Nieto is survived by his wife, Sofia Nieto, also a UTSA housekeeping building attendant, and two sons, ages 20 and 22.

Pedro began working at UTSA in January in Facility Services. Besides working at UTSA, he operated his own taco business and worked part-time at Taco Cabana.

His supervisor, Sonia Saenz, described him as quiet, hard working and always willing to learn. Co-workers remembered that he often made them laugh and always had a smile and a good word for everybody. Nieto would have lunch every day at the John Peace Library Building with his wife. He frequently told others that he had been "in love with his wife since the age of 19."

"Pedro was a gentle, giving individual who was an extremely hard-working and loving family man, and there are no words that can adequately describe this terrible loss his family must now endure," said David Riker, UTSA associate vice president for facilities. "Pedro and his wife Sofia have worked at the university for just under one year and have become part of the extended housekeeping and facilities family."

A memorial fund had been set up in his name.

### Pedro A. Nieto Memorial Fund

To provide support for the Nieto family, an account has been established at Frost Bank. Donations can be made at any Frost Financial Center, including the branch in the University Center at the UTSA 1604 Campus. Donations should be made payable to the "Pedro A. Nieto Memorial Fund." Donations can be mailed to: Pedro A. Nieto Memorial Fund, Bank-By-Mail Department, Frost Bank, P.O. Box 2919, San Antonio, TX 78219.

## Kudos to Business Affairs Staff

Dear Janet Parker,

The purpose of this letter is to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the staff of the Surplus Department for their support during the library's ongoing renovation project.

In early June we contacted Ed Minter, Surplus Properties Supervisor, to coordinate the turn-in of over nine hundred and fifty library chairs while at the same time taking delivery of new chairs. Ed immediately arranged a meeting with Library and Surplus staff to propose a plan of action and to coordinate a realistic schedule to help ensure the smooth operation of the project. His attention to detail and advice was most appreciated. Despite a delay in delivery of the new chairs, thus necessitating two changes in the schedule, Ed and his crew were consistently courteous, supportive and flexible.

Over a period of five days, the Surplus staff quickly and efficiently removed all of the chairs identified for surplus. They went out of their way to ensure Library patrons were not discommoded for any extended period of time and, during finals week, their concern for the many students studying in the Library was reflected by their efforts to keep noise levels to a minimum.

The Surplus Department continues to respond in a timely manner to our many additional requests for support and consistently provides the same high level of service and professionalism. Ed Minter, Frank Balderas, Angel Garza, Pete Vasquez, and Aldo Trevino, are to be commended for their exceptional service.

Sincerely,  
David R. Johnson, Interim Dean

**Thank you all for striving for excellence every day!**

## Tom J. Calucci Receives Award



Each year the Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators (TACUPA) present the Larry W. Fultz Memorial Award for Excellence to an outstanding campus police officer. Larry W. Fultz was retired Houston Police Dept. Inspector who became Attorney at Law and the principle author of the current Juvenile and Family Code for the State of Texas. He later became the Director of Security at the University of Houston and actively promoted and developed campus policing in the State of Texas.

On December 10, 2008, TACUPA awarded the 2008 Larry W. Fultz Memorial Award for Excellence to Sergeant Thomas J. Calucci from the UTSA Police Department.

Thomas Calucci currently serves as a Detective Sergeant with the UTSA Police Department where he heads up the Criminal Investigations Section. Sgt. Calucci supervises a staff of two detectives and has successfully investigated numerous important criminal cases. Sgt. Calucci also developed and co-chaired the UTSA Behavior Intervention Team, which addresses threats of violence made from any member of the UTSA community. Sgt. Calucci works very closely with other university offices on campus such as Student Judicial Affairs and the Counseling Center.

Sgt. Calucci currently holds a Masters level certification through the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards of Education and is also an active police instructor and Mental Health Officer. He is a certified Crisis Intervention instructor and serves as the department's first contact when dealing with people in psychological crisis. Sgt. Calucci also assists the San Antonio Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team, which has been nationally recognized for excellence for the past three years.

Before being assigned to the UTSAPD Criminal Investigations Section, Sgt. Calucci served as a patrolman and a Field Training Officer. Sgt. Calucci has received numerous departmental awards during his time with UTSAPD. Some of these awards have included the Chief's Commendation Award, which he received twice from two different Chiefs; The UTSA Team Spirit Award; Officer of the Semester; and the American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Please join us in congratulating Sgt. Calucci for his excellent performance and awarding of the 2008 Larry W. Fultz Memorial Award.

## Construction Update

Tomas Rivera Center and Student Athletic Tutoring – Renovation Project

The ground level east wing of the Multi-Disciplinary Studies Building is currently being renovated to house the Tomas Rivera Center and to provide new facilities for Student Athletic Tutoring. The project will



provide office space and ancillary support areas, including work areas, classrooms, a computer lab, and expanded restrooms. This institutionally managed project is scheduled for completion in April 2009.

## Did you know...

In accordance with recent changes in the UT System policy, employees are strongly discouraged from using personal vehicles for conducting official University business. If you use your own vehicle, you must carry auto liability insurance that meets the minimum state law requirements and your personal auto insurance will be primary. UT System "Hired/Non-Owned" insurance will be secondary to your auto liability insurance in the event of any claim or litigation and is only for property damage or bodily injury to third parties.

If you wish to use a University-owned vehicle for conducting official University business, you must have completed the necessary driver training and be an authorized driver.

## Holiday Safety Tips



- Click [here](#) for a recipe for making your live tree more fire safe.
- Wreathes and trees using real evergreens are not allowed on the UTSA campuses.
- If an artificial tree is set up, make sure it is made of fire-resistant material.
- Be sure all decorative lighting is made with UL-rated lights; all lights must be turned off at the end of the day.
- Electrical cords are not to pass under the door where they could get pinched and possibly short out. In all cases, electric extension cords are not acceptable; use only outlet strips with built-in surge protectors. Do not "gang" power strips (plugging one strip into another).
- Personal space heaters must have an automatic shut-off sensor switch in case it is turned over.
- Candles are not allowed at UTSA unless the wicks are removed. No lighted candles, please!
- Check out the [UTSA Fire and Life Safety Plan, Annex H](#) (for "holiday") for more UTSA standards for celebrating a safe and happy holiday season."

## Football comes to UTSA!



Last Thursday, The University of Texas System Board of Regents approved UTSA's Athletic Initiative Business Plan granting the university permission to expand athletics and add a football program.

The plan calls for UTSA to develop an \$84 million competitive athletic complex

over the next several years and add an NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS / formerly Division I-AA) football program with the intent to advance the athletics department's existing 16 intercollegiate sports programs plus football to an NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS / formerly Division I-A) conference. For complete article, [click here](#).



For more information on holiday decorations or other safety issues, contact the Office of Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management at 458-5250.



## Holiday Giving

For many, the holiday season is a time for giving gifts and celebrating traditions with loved ones. But for some, it can also be a time for assessing blessing and giving back to those who are less fortunate.

For eight Downtown Campus Facilities employees, December 6, 2008 was a day of giving as they joined more than 300 local "Christmas under the Bridge" volunteers to hand out hot meals, sleeping bags and gifts to hundreds of homeless and low income families. The annual event is held under the IH35 Bridge across from the DTC and is designed to help spread cheer and connect less fortunate individuals with available community resources. For Patricia Morehead, San Juanita Arguelles, Eduardo Maldonado, Jose Nava, Maria Nava, Vladimir Andzic, Gracie Ornelas and Angie Solis the event was also an opportunity to help spread holiday cheer to those who may otherwise not have a reason to celebrate.



## Parking Validation Stamps

Parking & Transportation Services is pleased to announce two options for department visitors and events who utilize the South Parking Garage!

### Garage Validation Stamps



Did that important VIP show up unannounced and park in the garage? Then show him how much he means by paying for his parking! Garage parking validation stamps are \$5 per stamp. Each stamp is good for up to 5 hours of parking in the South Garage. All parking validation stamps are for use by official university visitors only. Stamp Validation purchases are by IDT only. Since validation stamps are like cash, all purchases must be made in person at the Parking & Transportation Services office in the

Physical Plant Building, room 1.208. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., M-F.

The validation stamp should be applied directly to the parking entrance ticket being careful not to cover the magnetic stripe on the ticket. The customer then presents the ticket to the South Garage cashier when ready to exit. The South Parking Garage is a central pay garage. Please have your guest/visitors take their paper entry ticket to the centrally located office before they attempt to exit. There are no cashiers at the exit of the South Garage.

### Event Cards



Whether your event is for one day or one week, event parking in

the South Garage is easy using the PTS Event Cards. Event cards are prepaid access cards that can be used at the South Parking Garage. Each card is valid for unlimited access for the day(s) of your event for \$5 a card. Swipe the card to enter and exit the garage. Event cards are available by IDT only. Coordinate your event early to ensure availability.

For more information please contact Jennifer Machorro at (210) 458-6606 or by email to [visitorparking@utsa.edu](mailto:visitorparking@utsa.edu).

### REMINDER.....

Please email us the new employees in your department, so we can add them to the newsletter mailing.

## Business Affairs Promise

We are committed to helping you achieve your goals through excellence in service -- every person, every day, every job.