Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Community Connect, the magazine dedicated to telling the story of UTSA’s involvement with our community.

Higher education in the United States has traditionally included a threefold mission: teaching, research and public service. At UTSA, public service is a robust and dynamic component of our work, engaging virtually all sectors of the community in economic development, lifelong learning, cultural enrichment and community-university partnerships.

For our economy, UTSA’s extension services, which reach more than 37,000 businesses every year, are critical to stimulate growth and job creation for our graduates, elevating both labor supply and demand. Top-tier programs providing technical assistance, strategic planning, training and applied economics research generated a quarter of UTSA’s $1.2 billion economic impact on the state. UTSA’s engagement activities with more than 37,000 businesses every year, are critical to stimulate growth and job creation for our graduates, elevating both labor supply and demand. Top-tier programs providing technical assistance, strategic planning, training and applied economics research generated a quarter of UTSA’s $1.2 billion economic impact on the state.

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For more information on outreach activities at UTSA, visit UTSA.EDU/COMMUNITY

Ricardo Romo, Ph.D. President, The University of Texas at San Antonio
Jude Valdez, Ph.D. Vice President for Community Services

COMMUNITY CONNECT
A Maverick’s Texas

High school students present snapshots of life in Pasadena

by Ashley Festa

Students from Pasadena, Texas, recently put their stories on display: stories of culture, heritage and life in Texas.

Earlier this year, Pasadena Memorial High School became the first high school in Texas to display an exhibit at UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures.

The institute’s leadership wanted an opportunity to pair students with Griff Smith, photo editor of Texas Highways, where he has been a photographer for more than a quarter century. The hope also was to include students from outside the San Antonio area to show a wider view of Texas.

Ashlie McKenzie, an education specialist at the museum, contacted Pasadena Memorial where she formerly worked as an AP history teacher.

“We wanted them to be able to tell the story of their town,” McKenzie said. “To show Texas through their eyes.”

And show Texas they did. “I was just blown away with what students captured in their pictures,” McKenzie said. Named for the school’s athletics teams, “A Maverick’s Texas” was open from March 12 through June 17. Before accepting student submissions, the school invited Smith as a special guest to speak to students. He explained some essential photography techniques, such as the use of lighting when capturing a shot.

“The kids didn’t know who he was, but I knew who he was,” said Tish Eubanks, assistant principal at the high school. Originally from Alabama, Eubanks learned much about Texas and its history by reading Texas Highways.

It wasn’t until the students visited their exhibit and viewed the “Griff Smith’s Texas: A Retrospective through the Lens & Images from Texas Highways” that they realized Smith’s contribution to Texas photography.

Fernanda Varela, 18, submitted an image of one of the Mavericks in her photo titled “High School Football.” For her, the image represents Texas heat and one of the state’s favorite sports.

“My parents think it’s a great opportunity for me,” she said, adding that it became a passion for her during her senior year. As she graduated in the spring, the exhibit became an exciting send-off, and she plans to continue her education studying art, photography and journalism.

“Not many people my age get to have their photo displayed,” she said. “That’s true. Out of hundreds of submissions, only 30 photos and so drawings were chosen to be included in the exhibit.

Unlike Varela, some students were new to the photography world. Amy Truong, 16 and a junior, submitted a photo titled “CarrOtS” (below) by Shawnna Hill

“My parents think it’s a great opportunity for me,” she said, adding that the exhibit marked her first time visiting a university campus. She decided she would like to attend college to pursue art in some way.

A former art teacher, Eubanks learned much about Texas and its history by reading Texas Highways.

Eubanks’ favorite images. The carrots were part of the last crop to be harvested from Burt’s grandfather’s garden before he passed away.

In another photo, a violin represents Myrna Rodriguez’ heritage of Mexican music. As a Mexican-American, she plays mariachi music and in an orchestra. For her, the violin is a connection between those cultures, Eubanks said.

“We don’t teach enough about what goes into making a Texan,” Eubanks said. “This gave our students an opportunity to see what really goes into making a Texan. The students got to learn that culture is about people.

“Culture is in the eye of the beholder,” Eubanks said. “It’s carrots for one and a violin for another. These kids deserve to know who they are and where they come from.”

CONNECT ONLINE

Pasadena Memorial High School students have even more photos and drawings to display in their slideshow. Visit utsa.edu/communityconnect.

**STEPS TO PRIDE** (left) by Stephen Alcala

**REMINISCENT** (below) by Shawnna Hill
New director leads museum

As its name implies, the Institute of Texan Cultures focuses on promoting the many cultures of the people it serves. For the first time, the institute has a bicultural leader at the helm.

This year, Angelica M. Docog became the executive director at the museum, bringing 14 years of museum experience to the position. She came to San Antonio from the Charlotte Museum of History.

“I’m entrusted with such a tremendous honor,” said Docog, who is also the first woman to lead the institute. “It’s daunting, but exciting because I’ve seen the passion people have for the ITC.

“My mother is Mexican, and my father is Filipino. My father was in the Navy, so we had the opportunity to travel all over the world,” she said. “My own ethnic background and being a military dependant pretty much paved the way for my future career in museums and interest in the preservation and interpretation of cultures.”

“As a scholar and museum professional with a proven track record of success, Ms. Docog is the optimal choice to lead the Institute of Texan Cultures in its mission to serve the community and provide access to unique learning opportunities, as UTSA transforms into a Tier One research institution,” said Jude Valdez, UTSA vice president for Community Services.

— Ashley Festa

San Antonio city slickers go back to the Wild West

Trail bosses, pioneers and U.S. Cavalry soldiers visiting from the 1800s descended on HemisFair Park this summer to show guests what it was like to work and play on the Texas frontier.

The Texas Trails and Tales summer season at the Institute of Texan Cultures invited the community to visit re-created period buildings and learn about the lives of the Texans who made these places their homes.

Costumed junior docents led guests through the daily lives of early settlers of the Wild West, making stops at the one-room schoolhouse, frontier fort, adobe house, log house and barn. Each stop offered a demonstration; inside the one-room schoolhouse, for example, junior docents showed students a typical school day, with slate board writing and reading aloud from a primer.

In addition to the frontier’s Spanish settlers, the United States Army built forts to house infantry and cavalry units commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers. At the Back 40’s frontier fort, guests learned map reading and flag etiquette skills and they heard stories about life in the regiment.

— James Benavides

TEXAS TRAVELS

(Clockwise from top) Trey Duncan and his grandmother Janet Nolte visit with junior docents and handle some of the tools used by early Texas settlers.

SUN UP TO SUN DOWN

Visitors try to guess why a barn was vital to a pioneer family. (Hint: it housed their tools and farming implements, livestock and work animals.) The barn at the Back 40 is of typical German construction, indicative of the Texas Hill Country.

PLAYTIME ON THE FRONTIER

Some of the Texas Trails and Tales volunteers enjoyed schoolyard games. Hoop-rolling races were a popular children’s activity.

HOUSEHOLD CHORES

Visitors glimpse into the home life of early settlers.

— Ashley Festa

New tastes and sights at 41st Folklife

Several new groups showed off their wares, their cooking and their talents at this year’s Texas Folklife Festival, which just celebrated its 41st year at the Institute of Texan Cultures. About 50,000 people joined the festivities.

Joining the festival for the first time, Ritmo Colombiano, a group of performers clad in Colombian costume, entertained the crowd with traditional dances from the South American country. The dancers even got the audience up on its feet during the show.

Festival-goers were able to sample Bangladeshi cooking for the first time, and at the Crepe Crazy booth, guests tasted delicate French pancake-like snacks. Also new to the festival were two car displays – Volkswagens and vintage cars – as well as ballet performers, a Brazilian display, a sculptor and a harpist.

Don’t miss next year’s celebration. Mark your calendar now for the 42nd annual Texas Folklife Festival on June 7-9, 2013, at HemisFair Park.

— Ashley Festa

DANCES FROM COLOMBIA

Dancers from Ritmo Colombiano got the audience up on its feet during their performance at the Texas Folklife Festival.

CONNECT ONLINE

Experience the Texas Folklife Festival all over again in the photo slideshow. Visit utsa.edu/communityconnect.
Business Therapy

Security firm owner develops plan for growth thanks to expert advice

by Robert S. Benchley

Shawn Fluitt offers up a big South Texas laugh when he describes his relationship with Richard Sifuentes, assistant director of UTSA’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC). “I tell everyone he’s my therapist,” he said.

It isn’t far from the truth. Fluitt, owner of Timekeepers, a private security firm, and Sifuentes have met roughly every other week since October 2009. But instead of lying back on a couch describing his dreams or talking about his childhood, Fluitt often has sessions while driving his pickup truck, with Sifuentes riding shotgun. Fluitt takes Sifuentes to every important meeting he has—bankers, insurance brokers, you name it—and the two talk about everything from managing payroll and retaining good employees to customer service and work-life balance.

For Fluitt, the relationship has meant everything to his company’s growth. “I started Timekeepers back in 1996,” he said. “We touch almost every piece of the oil and gas business—drilling, completion, fracking, pipeline—but in 2009, I wasn’t sure which way we were headed. Oil and gas prices were down. So were our revenues, by about 30 percent.”

Fluitt had a plan, though. The year before, the Eagle Ford Shale—an oil and gas play of historic proportions—had been discovered, and it promised unprecedented opportunities for business in South Texas. Fluitt wanted to get his company in on the action, but he knew he wasn’t prepared to manage the growth that would come when Eagle Ford started to take off. Then he heard about the SBDC’s Building Business Excellence program, and he decided to sign up.

The program, which held classes twice a week for four months, was a real eye-opener. “People in very different businesses from mine were talking about forecasting five years out,” Fluitt said. “For me, six months was a miracle.”

“The program is for companies that are really ready to commit to going to the next level,” said Sifuentes, who became Fluitt’s advisor as part of the program. “The problem is, you can go out of business just as quickly when you are growing. You have to manage your growth; you can’t let it manage you.”

For Fluitt, the program and his ongoing relationship with Sifuentes have paid off in a big way. “Taking that course is the best thing I’ve ever done,” he said. “Eagle Ford was just starting to be developed, and the timing was perfect. Our business has skyrocketed; we’re probably up 30 percent, and we’re still growing.”

And as his business has grown, Fluitt added more employees, creating jobs for about 150 people at Timekeepers. At a second company he spun off called Tier One Security Management, he has about 380 contractors, up from only 45 in 2009.

But, as Sifuentes noted, the most important takeaway for Fluitt has been learning to manage that growth. “Our world changes about once a week,” Fluitt said. “A customer will come up with a new requirement. Insurance will throw us a curve ball. When someone asks for something different, we say yes and then figure out how to get it done. I just got into the equipment rental business this morning that way. We’ve moved into new offices twice and changed banks two or three times.”

Fluitt’s wife, Donna (he calls her “the boss’s boss”), still helps out in the office, but today there are eight full-time people working there. “Before, it was just me driving around in my pickup,” Fluitt said. “I’ve put two of my guys through the same program, I thought it was that valuable. Now when Richard comes out to the office, he spends time with them, as well as with Donna and me.”

The most valuable change, Fluitt said, is that he has learned how to run his business like, well, like a business. “Heck,” he said, laughing again, “now we have a process for things we never knew we needed a process for.”

The challenge for Eagle Ford Shale

Shawn Fluitt is far from being the only business owner to benefit—now or in the years to come—from the Eagle Ford Shale play. Long term, hundreds, maybe thousands, of companies will find opportunity in the massive oil and gas discovery. A study released in May by the Center for Community and Business Research at UTSA’s Institute for Economic Development reported that, “In 2011 alone, the play generated over $25 billion in revenue, supported 47,000 full-time jobs in the area and provided $357 million in local government revenue.”

But Eagle Ford is just getting started, said Gil Gonzalez, director of the institute’s Rural Business Program, with the latest projections being $30 billion in revenues through 2021, creating 177,000 new jobs.

“It’s a game-changer for a lot of communities,” Gonzalez said, “But it also brings challenges, such as the social impact, and housing and employment considerations. Much of the development is in rural areas and small towns. They’re overwhelmed because there isn’t the infrastructure that you find in an urban area.”

The institute is trying to help communities learn to plan. That means focusing on business development, community development and workforce development at the same time.

“In an urban center, they can happen independently, but in a rural setting, the steps to those efforts have to be co-ordinated,” he said. “If we can capture the windfall Eagle Ford will bring to this area and gain sustainability, then when things come to a close someday, the communities and businesses in the area can continue on, not just bust.”

— Robert Benchley
San Antonio’s opportunities expand with pilot program

To boost trade growth in San Antonio and economic development in Honduras, UTSA hosted a training program to transfer its Small Business Development Center model to that Central American country. A team from UTSA’s International Trade Center completed a four-month SBDC Diplomado training program in July, and as a result, the Honduras secretary of industry and commerce announced the establishment of the first two pilot SBDCs in the Golfo de Fonseca and Olancho regions. Six regional SBDCs are expected to open across the country by year’s end.

“Small business trade growth is the low-hanging fruit for economic development at home and abroad,” said Robert McKinley, UTSA associate vice president for economic development. “UTSA’s global presence and leadership fulfills our mission of community service and creates job opportunities for our graduates by expanding the San Antonio regional economy.”

As part of President Obama’s Small Business Network of the Americas initiative, the State Department asked UTSA to help establish SBDC networks in developing countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. Building SBDC networks internationally will expand trade growth opportunities among all SBDCs, whether in the United States or international.

The Minority Business Enterprise Center, which advises businesses interested in growing their market with public contracting opportunities, classroom training and business assessments, achieved a No. 1 ranking in the nation for Highest Total Procurement Dollars Secured from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Snapshots of Excellence

As one of the top-performing university-based economic development centers in the country, the UTSA Institute for Economic Development is proud to share its recent accomplishments and contributions to the community. The following are achievements from 2011, the most recent year for which complete results are available.

SERVICE PROJECTS

Energy Saving Solutions
The institute pioneered an Energy Saving Solutions program to help small businesses improve their bottom line. In collaboration with UTSA’s College of Architecture, 44 audits have been conducted to date in a variety of businesses to reduce costs, improve competitiveness and save energy.

Rural Business Conference
As part of its work in the Eagle Ford Shale area, the Rural Business Program held its 2nd Rural Business Challenge Conference.

Experiential Learning Activities
Institute for Economic Development programs provided more than 500 students with service-learning opportunities in which students earn valuable practical experience that also benefits the institute’s business clients.

TOP RANKING

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center, formerly the Minority Business Enterprise Center, achieved a No. 1 ranking in the nation for Highest Total Procurement Dollars Secured from the U.S. Department of Commerce.
A dozen graduate students have spent the past two years working with San Antonio Alternative Housing Corp., a West Side San Antonio community agency, to erect three experimental rental houses that will answer some questions about the future role of energy-efficient building materials in affordable housing.

“It is community outreach that adds new rental housing to a redeveloping neighborhood,” said Taeg Nishimoto, associate dean for research, outreach and graduate studies at the College of Architecture. “But it also includes the bigger concepts of research and creative activity.”

Nishimoto’s students designed three experimental houses that include energy-conserving features such as sprayed foam insulation, attic fans and solar panels.

Real Life Lessons

Architecture students put theories into practice to benefit community

by Cindy Tumiel

Perhaps one day, all new houses will be built of energy-conserving materials like aerated blocks, insulated panels or recycled steel.

For now, though, architects, builders and energy specialists are still learning about the practicality of using such building materials. How much energy do these types of houses use, and do lower gas and electric bills offset the potentially higher cost of construction for a family with a modest income?

Students and faculty from UTSA’s College of Architecture are working on answers to that puzzle, thanks to a community service project that offered students hands-on experience working with green building practices while it added to the supply of affordable rental housing in an inner city San Antonio neighborhood.

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New park offers wellness opportunities for community, experience for students

UTSA’s architecture students can now include the design of a new Southwest Side community park on their professional résumés.

This summer, the UTSA College of Architecture collaborated with the non-profit San Antonio Sports on a new city project that has seen success in Houston: the SPARK School Park Program. The project aims to transform unused areas on school property into publicly accessible parks to promote health and wellness in the community.

“The College of Architecture has been the backbone of making this park program possible,” said Susan Blackwood, executive director of San Antonio Sports. “I’m so appreciative of their willingness to jump right in. It’s been a lot of fun to watch the students work.”

COA students brought their classroom learning to the real world by hosting neighborhood discussion groups to determine what types of facilities should be included in the new park.

“I think we were able to relate and get a real feeling of the community by interacting with them on such a personal level,” said Britta Moe, a master of architecture student.

Then students used their skills to design the park, and with professional architecture and landscape architecture firms – Marmon Mok and Bury+Partners – made the designs plausible with regard to topography and drainage.

“It was a really amazing experience to see our initial schematic designs transformed into real-life plans,” Moe said. “Not only were we able to receive...
and will use them as rental units for the income communities, owns the houses supportive renovation effort, Radle also had a location to build the new rentals. The nonprofit built one traditional wood-frame house, and Radle put Nishimoto and the architecture students in charge of designing the other three with the same energy-efficient features, but using alternative exterior “skins.” Students divided into three teams, each taking one house. They designed one floor plan with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and 1,050 square feet. “We researched energy-efficient alternative building materials,” said master of architecture student Clare Cloudt, who’s leading the effort to monitor energy use after construction. “A lot of energy-efficient technology can really help the monthly budgets of these families.” The students incorporated three different exterior materials into their house designs. One was designed with autoclaved aerated concrete blocks, which are manufactured with a process that blows insulating air into the blocks. A second design used prefabricated wood and foam insulated panels. The third used three tractor-trailer-size metal shipping containers, which were cut and assembled on the site to form the exterior. Students then designed an interior wood frame for insulation, wall board and other indoor necessities. Because the materials are not typically used in home construction, part of the learning process for students was earning approval from city authorities for the building permits, said Joel James M.Arch. ’11. He started working on the designs as a UTSA student, and after graduation, he was hired by general contractor Camilo Garcia Inc. as the project manager for all four houses. “The city inspectors are excited to see these alternative ideas for buildings, but at the same time, they are not just going to give you a permit,” James said. “We had to demonstrate this was a viable idea.”

Construction began in early 2012 with a budget of $68,250 for each house. Students negotiated with some suppliers for discounted and donated materials, which helped the contractor with budget restraints. The final cost for each house was $72,500, which included items like fencing, sheds, engineering and environmental work performed for the container home, said Greg Cooper, construction manager for San Antonio Alternative Housing.

The project wrapped up in the summer months with the application of brightly hued exterior paint – red-orange, blue-gray and vibrant green.

“These are houses that fit in with the character of the neighborhood,” Cloudt said. “They are happy houses.” As families move into the new houses, the second phase of the project begins. Sensors will collect data on the renters’ use of energy, and over the next few years, UTSA architecture students will be able to study which of the construction types is most energy efficient. The results could help define the future of green technologies in affordable housing.

“The real success is not seeing the buildings done,” Nishimoto said. “The real success of this project is how the next step unfolds from here.”

For the students, the project offered the chance to test how different environmentally friendly alternatives would perform in affordable housing.

“Nishimoto wanted us to be active in the community while gaining real-world experience with architectural projects,” Cloudt said. “This was a project that helped us accomplish both those goals.”

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**CONTINUED theories into practice**

water heaters. The exteriors are made of three different materials: autoclaved aerated concrete blocks, prefabricated insulated panels and recycled steel shipping containers.

A fourth house, designed by a professional architectural firm, is traditional wood-frame construction, but has the same energy-efficient interior features as the test houses. All four houses contain energy-monitoring sensors to allow UTSA students to collect data on utility usage during the next few years. San Antonio Alternative Housing, a 20-year-old nonprofit that provides affordable housing and support services for low- and moderate-income communities, owns the houses and will use them as rental units for the families it serves.

The project was conceived several years ago when Nishimoto met Rod Radle, now-retired executive director of San Antonio Alternative Housing, through Mission Verde, a regional collaboration that works to test and improve eco-friendly technologies in buildings.

“We both wanted to get involved with bringing in university students to do educational projects in the neighborhood, and Nishimoto suggested developing a project to test energy-efficient materials in some affordable housing,” Radle said.

In 2011, Radle secured funding through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs’ Neighborhood Stabilization Program to build four rental homes. Because the nonprofit owns some lots on Guadalupe Ybarra Street where an old public housing project had been demolished in a federally supported renovation effort, Radle also had a location to build the new rentals. The nonprofit built one traditional wood-frame house, and Radle put Nishimoto and the architecture students in charge of designing the other three with the same energy-efficient features, but using alternative exterior “skins.” Students divided into three teams, each taking one house. They designed one floor plan with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and 1,050 square feet. “We researched energy-efficient alternative building materials,” said master of architecture student Clare Cloudt, who’s leading the effort to monitor energy use after construction. “A lot of energy-efficient technology can really help the monthly budgets of these families.”

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**CONTINUED community park**

the hands-on training we need in the field, but we were able to contribute and give back to the community. It was all very rewarding.”

“They were passionate about the work because they know they’re making a meaningful contribution to San Antonio,” Blackwood said. “It’s a fantastic way to reach the community.”

Construction began at the first park June 1 with a groundbreaking ceremony at Sky Harbour Elementary School in the Southwest Independent School District.

“What SPARK provides is a unique situation in which our graduate students are involved in the development of the program with people from the school and community, which isn’t available in a classroom environment,” said Taeg Nishimoto, COM’s associate dean for research, outreach and graduate studies, who helped coordinate the project.

“It is a great experiential learning opportunity for our students to work as a team with real people from the community,” he said.

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**GIVING BACK**

SUSAN BLACKWOOD, executive director of San Antonio Sports, accepts a donation from Toyota to go toward the SPARK program.
Hundreds of Roadrunners help make community a better place

Take 400 Roadrunners, 25 student groups and 17 service projects, add them all together, and you’ll come up with a whole lot of smiles around San Antonio. The eighth annual United to Serve event is a UTSA tradition and UTSA mission of civic engagement and volunteerism. Oyeteju created this scholarship bearing my name. I asked that the scholarship go to someone who understands this generosity of spirit. In my own lifetime, I have been blessed with rewards when I have worked on behalf of others with humility. I think the rewards of volunteering are greater than fame or fortune. “Many students logged lots of hours of community service, but Janet gave really thoughtful answers about why she volunteers, the impact service has on the community and the impact it has on her peers,” said Jennifer Rames, associate director of service learning. In honor of National Mentoring Month, mentoring professionals and advocates from across Texas are invited to share best practices, program successes and the latest news in mentoring. The award honors an outstanding student for time, effort and personal commitment to volunteerism and community enhancement. As someone who embodies the true spirit and UTSA mission of civic engagement and volunteerism, Oyeteju also received the $500 Sandra Cisneros Scholarship that accompanies the award. “I think that the work we do for others, without ego, without expectations of return, is the highest work we can do as spiritual beings,” Cisneros said. “I was surprised and honored when UTSA created this scholarship bearing my name. I asked that the scholarship go to someone who understands this generosity of spirit.”

Student earns award for her dedication to volunteerism

“Service is an act of the heart.” And it’s because Janet Oyeteju has such a big heart for service that she was named the 2011-12 Student Volunteer of the Year by the UTSA Inclusion and Community Engagement Center.

As a freshman, Oyeteju volunteered for one activity as a way to meet people. Soon, she joined VOICES, a student service group at UTSA. She became an officer, and also joined Women of Honor, a group working to discredit stereotypes of minority women. Now as a senior, she’s the vice president of alternative service-learning efforts.

“One of my favorite aspects of volunteering is the impact it has on an organization and the community in general,” Oyeteju said. “It makes me feel good to make them smile, even for a moment.”

Originally from Houston, Oyeteju dedicated Fridays and Saturdays to her volunteer projects. One of her favorites is working with Habitat for Humanity.

“I liked how we had a part in helping families have their first house. I liked being part of the family history and putting life into the house,” she said.

Oyeteju also coordinated the first Extreme Makeover UTSA event, which brought together more than 250 students working on projects to beautify the university campus. “The purpose of the event was to make students feel proud to go here,” she said.

In her application for the award, Oyeteju wrote, “I encourage friends to start by doing projects with things they like. Their love for service will grow, and then they can do any volunteer activity and love it... Service is an act of the heart.”

The corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the U.S. Department of Education recently honored UTSA, among other universities, for its commitment to improving the community through service and service-learning. UTSA was named the 2011-12 Student Volunteer of the Year by the UTSA Inclusion and Community Engagement Center.

UTSA showed off its recent report card with pride because the university has been listed on the 2012 national honor roll for its community service efforts throughout San Antonio.

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“One of my favorite aspects of volunteering is the impact it has on an organization and the community in general,” Oyeteju said. “It makes me feel good to make them smile, even for a moment.”

Originally from Houston, Oyeteju dedicated Fridays and Saturdays to her volunteer projects. One of her favorites is working with Habitat for Humanity.

“I liked how we had a part in helping families have their first house. I liked being part of the family history and putting life into the house,” she said.

Oyeteju also coordinated the first Extreme Makeover UTSA event, which brought together more than 250 students working on projects to beautify the university campus. “The purpose of the event was to make students feel proud to go here,” she said.

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The award honors an outstanding student for time, effort and personal commitment to volunteerism and community enhancement. As someone who embodies the true spirit and UTSA mission of civic engagement and volunteerism, Oyeteju also received the $500 Sandra Cisneros Scholarship that accompanies the award.

“I think that the work we do for others, without ego, without expectations of return, is the highest work we can do as spiritual beings,” Cisneros said. “I was surprised and honored when UTSA created this scholarship bearing my name. I asked that the scholarship go to someone who understands this generosity of spirit. In my own lifetime, I have been blessed with rewards when I have worked on behalf of others with humility. I think the rewards of volunteering are greater than fame or fortune.”

“Many students logged lots of hours of community service, but Janet gave really thoughtful answers about why she volunteers, the impact service has on the community and the impact it has on her peers,” said Jennifer Rames, associate director of service learning. In honor of National Mentoring Month, mentoring professionals and advocates from across Texas are invited to share best practices, program successes and the latest news in mentoring.

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Help a Student Become a Mentor

San Antonio Mentoring Forum Summit Friday, Jan. 11, 2013
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
UTSA Downtown Campus
Mentoring Recognition Awards Luncheon to follow

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San Antonio Mentoring Forum Summit is hosted by the UTSA Office of P-20 Initiatives.

Visit utsa.edu/mentoring for more information.

Student earns award for her dedication to volunteerism

“Service is an act of the heart.” And it’s because Janet Oyeteju has such a big heart for service that she was named the 2011-12 Student Volunteer of the Year by the UTSA Inclusion and Community Engagement Center.

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Prefreshman Engineering Program readies students for careers in STEM fields

by Ashley Festa

Sometimes it takes a little push in the right direction for a bright student to find the right path. The Prefreshman Engineering Program, or PREP, offered at UTSA is designed to be that push, and the path leads to careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics, known as STEM fields. PREP motivates and prepares middle and high school students for success in one of these STEM career fields during four intensive summer sessions. PREP especially encourages minority students and women, who traditionally have been underrepresented in STEM professions.

Adding to the number of PREP success stories are two native San Antonio women who discovered their passion for engineering after participating in the program. Marisa Martinez Palmer, who is now a supervising engineer at San Antonio Water System, found that being exposed to college-level courses and becoming familiar with a college campus during her middle school years gave her a new perspective.

“It planted a seed, and I realized: I can go to college,” said Palmer, who became valedictorian of her graduating class at Lanier High School in downtown San Antonio. “Seeing that you were able to do the work was eye-opening.” She became the first in her family to attend college and the only one of her siblings to earn a college degree. She was also the only one to attend PREP.

Already a strong student, Palmer was encouraged to apply to the program in sixth grade because of her advanced math skills. During her summers at PREP, she honed that ability and developed an interest in science and engineering.

“I listened to accomplished and inspirational speakers in engineering and science from our community, I took college preparatory practice exams, visited other college campuses, and took field trips to places like NASA,” she said.

At SAWS, Palmer is able to solve real-world problems with her engineering background. “The work I do now fascinates me,” she said. “I know what it takes to treat wastewater. Lots of people take it for granted.”

Though she loved the problem-solving challenges, she found the team-building skills to be the most valuable asset she gained in PREP. From working together on projects to collaborating on homework assignments, students had frequent opportunities to learn from others in the program.

“It’s critical for engineers,” said Palmer, who leads a team of six. “Many like to work by themselves, and it’s important to learn to work in groups.”

ECHOING THAT SENTIMENT IS ANOTHER PREP grad, Jessica Perez, who is working toward her doctorate in biological and chemical engineering at Northwestern University after earning a bachelor’s in biological engineering at MIT.

Though working in groups sometimes led to taking on much of the responsibility alone, Perez found the experience important to developing leadership skills.

New in graduate school, she regularly puts those teamwork skills to good use while collecting research with other students.

As a senior, she will be attending graduate school at MIT. Though grades were important to Perez in her college years, she realized the experience was even more valuable.

“I felt like I could do a lot more,” Perez said. “You got to see things before you took those classes in school. It gave me an advantage and potentially helped me get better grades.”

She had always enjoyed research and study, and PREP introduced her to like-minded students. “I met people like me,” she said. “They are really intense and curious about learning.”

In fact, Perez and some of her PREP classmates decided to create a robotic suit and begin their own company in their spare time outside of courses. Though their entrepreneurial plans never came to fruition, Perez’ sense of belonging with the other students was strong.

“Some students’ entrepreneurial plans never came to fruition, but others put those plans to good use while collaborating on research with other students,” she said. “They are really intense and curious about learning.”

The survey says...

In the 2011 annual survey of PREP graduates, 5,300 respondents revealed these facts.

99% graduate from high school
98% go on to being college students
73% of the college students are members of a minority group
90% of the college students graduate
44% of the college graduates are science, mathematics or engineering majors
A Change of Environment

Future engineers build a bridge from community college to UTSA

by Ashley Festa

On a breezy, overcast June morning at Confluence Park in San Antonio, a group of Alamo Colleges students gathered to complete their final research project as part of UTSA’s engineering transfer program. The Transfer Academy for Tomorrow’s Engineers, or TATE, provides students a bridge from the city’s community colleges to a four-year degree program at UTSA. The partnership was designed primarily to serve first-generation students and help ensure their academic success as engineering majors.

This summer marked the launch of the NASA-funded program, which has been in planning stages for several years. The first cohort of 21 students studied climate at the local level, researched a specific aspect of climate change, and for their presentations, applied their findings to the global level.

After two weeks of classroom teaching on the science of climate change, students and their professors visited Confluence Park to observe effects of civil engineering decisions at the convergence of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek. Armed with video cameras and iPads, students recorded evidence of environmental changes and discussed classroom lessons with their instructors and tour guide during the interactive session at the park.

“We know more about climate change in depth,” said Valentin Tenaero, who is studying petroleum engineering. “We know more behind-the-scenes stuff, what the real cause was rather than just the human cause.”

Civil engineering lecturer John Joseph, who taught the classroom portion of the program, briefed students on some of the environmental systems of waterways, such as how oxygen is dissolved naturally into river water by rocks. Throughout the tour, a guide brought attention to the area’s indigenous vegetation, artistic details of the river’s built environment, and other details of interest to future engineers.

Afterward, students learned to storyboard their videos and worked with other multimedia aspects of creating a webcast for a layman audience, said Joseph Kulhanek, director of the TATE program. Students eventually turned over their research projects to NASA.

“I really liked all the new technologies we were introduced to,” said Storm Graybill, a civil engineering student. In addition to the hands-on component of the program, students were expected to hone their writing skills. Lindsay Ratcliffe, of UTSA’s writing program, worked with students on their 25-page technical papers. She taught them the technical aspects of writing a report, called “scientific prose,” she said. As part of daily assignments, Ratcliffe also asked students to write a journal prompted by a lecture or field excursion, stressing the importance of writing every day.

“It was important to the engineering professors that there was a writing professor involved,” she said.

Learning to work effectively in groups, Ratcliffe said, was also an important component, one to which the students caught on successfully. “These students are motivated, sharp.”

Because NASA funded the program, students were invited to visit the Johnson Space Center in Houston. In addition to receiving exclusive visitor access, students also learned about professional research opportunities for engineers, highlighting the practical side of completing their projects for TATE.

Next year, Kulhanek expects an additional 25 students from the Rio Grande Valley to participate, and he already has new ideas on how to streamline the program for its second year. Despite its youth, TATE is already having an effect. During their video presentations, many students affirmed they want to continue in the engineering field. Some even decided they would like to study environmental engineering, rather than other concentrations they had intended to pursue.

One group’s video project, titled Extended Forecast: 100 Years, used footage students captured at Confluence Park and focused on how environmental engineers work with nature rather than against it.

“It was out of my comfort zone,” admitted Christopher Navillo, who is focused on mechanical engineering, but he said it was interesting to study something new.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” said Dora Hernandez, a civil engineering student recruited by UTSA for the program. For some students, TATE was also a chance to change course. René Landero was working at a restaurant when he met Kulhanek, who was enthusiastic that he join the program. “This was an opportunity that I needed to take,” the mechanical engineering student said.

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Building the Future

Engineering workshop promotes early awareness and readiness for college

by Ashley Festa

To explain why size matters when it comes to engineering, Joey Donzis rounded up his young assistants and organized them into two circles, one large and one small. On Donzis’ count, 14 eager eighth graders created the moving parts of two human gears, the smaller circle of two and the larger one of one.

Getting students moving and physically involved with what they’re learning helps them to understand the information better, said Donzis, education specialist with iTEC, UTSA’s Interactive Technology Experience Center, part of the College of Engineering. Activity combined with academics is all part of the plan for UTSA’s P-20 Initiatives GEAR UP II workshops. The second year of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, a federal grant given to the San Antonio Independent School District, provides at-risk students early exposure to concepts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM, fields and helps promote a college-going population among low-income families. The first GEAR UP program, held last summer, focused on leadership.

“We’re teaching kids about college and engineering,” Donzis said of this summer’s focus. “We explain. This is why you should go to college.”

Though the program is educational, Donzis understands the importance of making activities entertaining to encourage participation and increase information retention.

“I want to show them that this is the world around you and how you can have fun with it,” he said. “I’m trying to give them opportunities I didn’t have as a kid.”

Continued on next page

Parent Academy gets neighbors talking about schools, community

Big changes begin with a conversation. And it’s with simple conversations that UTSA has begun a grassroots effort to install a sense of personal responsibility in improving local neighborhoods around San Antonio, especially those areas that are consistently plagued with crime and drugs.

To begin the dialogue, Joseph Kulhanek, director of P-20 Programs developed the College and Career Readiness Parent Academy. As the facilitator at one of the academy’s town hall-style meetings, Kulhanek asked a group of nine parents about school and community problems, generating a dynamic, interactive discussion.

“We get them to tell us what’s important to them,” said Dennis Gonzalez, project director for GEAR UP II and Spanish translator for the academy participants. “It’s not us telling them what they need to do.”

Simply by listening, Kulhanek said he’s able to address concerns, raise awareness, and develop solutions. He hopes attendees will then spread the message to a wider circle as they share the conversation with their friends and neighbors.

He stressed the need to help participants understand that by solving problems within the community, schools will be improved as a result. Part of the process includes formal letter-writing workshops, so parents will feel comfortable writing formal communications to representatives in Congress and school boards.

Parents also will be introduced to their area’s San Antonio Fear-Free Environment (SAFFE) officer, part of the city’s Community Policing Program. As

Continued on page 23
High school students develop critical skills in UTSA TRIO courses

Instead of being lazy or getting into trouble, Dillon Paez spent six weeks of his summer doing research, attempting to prove his hypothesis that the use of technology while driving influences the number of traffic fatalities.

Paez’s research was part of his participation in the Upward Bound program, one of several federal TRIO programs designed to provide assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. At UTSA, eight TRIO programs serve 2,000 low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students as they progress from middle school through graduate school.

As a method of developing a college-going culture, TRIO helps these students prepare for higher education. “I know I wouldn’t have gotten as far as I am” without this program, said Paez, a high school senior who has participated in Upward Bound at UTSA since he finished middle school.

During summer sessions, the Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science academic programs help prepare TRIO participants for the courses they’ll take in the upcoming school year. Taught by credentialed faculty, TRIO course options offer various levels of math studies – all the way up to pre-calculus – as well as laboratory science, literature and composition, and foreign languages, including Spanish, Latin and American Sign Language. A research class and symposium round out the program.

The research course develops students’ critical thinking skills and also teaches them how to work as a team. Students also learned how to use electronic research tools.

The culmination of the program is the research symposium, a venue in which Paez and fellow UTSA TRIO students can present their faculty-led, college-level research to peers and school administrators.

Paez focused his research this summer on the trend of texting while driving in the United States. He chose the topic because he lost two friends to accidents caused by texting while driving.

With faculty mentor Ellen Wolroth, Paez and his teammates hypothesized that technology use in automobiles is on the rise in the U.S., increasing the number of traffic fatalities. The group researched the laws pertaining to texting while driving, along with the number of fatalities attributed to distracted drivers from 1999-2008. The team organized the data by race, gender and age to present at the symposium.

“Upward Bound is an eye-opener to all things that are possible,” Paez said. “The program provides a head start to people who would not have considered going to college or doing research. I liked it because it gave me an edge.”

— Rhonda Moses

CONTINUED engineering workshop

The SAISD partnered with UTSA to develop a program aimed at helping communities achieve academic success, a goal that is already showing results. Activities help students prepare for required standardized tests and have been increasing student graduation rates. The grant will follow the same cohort of students all the way through their senior year of high school.

“We’re losing kids in middle school,” said Francisco Aranda, a college readiness coach for GEAR UP. He stressed the importance of introducing educational programs early to prevent low-income, first-generation students in underrepresented demographics from becoming marginalized.

He was especially pleased about the number of young women at the event. “We’re trying to empower these young girls to let them know they can be engineers in a male-dominated field,” Aranda said.

Donzis, who developed the summer Solar Hot Rod Workshop, used the human gear demonstration to show the ways students could construct their project for the day: a solar panel car, to be built for either strength or speed.

After explaining how to build the car frame and attach the motor to the solar panel, Donzis set the students loose in teams of two to plan and build their cars. Later, they would race them to determine the fastest car. The cars built for strength would compete for the record in amount of weight pulled.

Particularly important to Donzis was that before building their cars, the students should understand how solar power works. He spent the first half of the day showing how solar energy can be converted into electricity. That way, he said, students would be able to focus on engineering the cars rather than wondering how the sun is used to run them.

“It’s no longer magic; it’s science,” he said. “We’re talking about solar energy because it’s finally a viable energy. It could be used in these kids’ future.”

The students worked together discussing and debating the best way to build their cars. Donzis offered advice to the teams as he observed construction and answered questions. He encouraged the students to walk around and look at the other teams’ cars.

“Engineers share ideas,” he said, “because they build stuff to make the world better, not worse.”

Students were able to use what they learned in the workshop right away during this year’s GEAR UP finale, held in late July. An interactive technology day at UTSA’s Main Campus was open to all students who participated in events throughout the summer.

“The students were able to go to the ITEC laboratories and were able to participate in four activities including robotics, aviation, forensics and renewable energy,” said Dennis Gonzalez, project director for GEAR UP II.

Planning is already under way for the 2014 event.

— Ashley Festa

continued parent academy

A resource to keep clean up the community, the SAFE officer can aid parents’ effort to prevent crimes, rather than only react to them.

“These are all things they can do in their neighborhood right now,” Kulhanek said. “We’re just giving them the resources.”

He invited parents to attend the follow-up session as part of their academy membership. Future workshops will include leadership skills, financial literacy and academic success planning for their children.

“I think it’s a great, great idea,” said Juan M. Prado, father of middle- and elementary-school students. “I think this will unite the community, all the neighbors. If we get involved, I think we can make a difference. I can start talking to same of my neighbors and other parents to get involved in this program.” And listening will continue as the program progresses. Because the academy is new, organizers know they haven’t worked out all the kinks yet. Parents are encouraged to provide input about what they want to discuss.

“If we’re going in the wrong direction, we want their feedback,” Gonzalez said. “We’re developing the academy organically with parents.”

— Ashley Festa
Each year, the UTSA Office of P-20 Initiatives hosts themed camps throughout the summer for students of all ages. Camps are focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) topics to promote related career fields for children who might not have considered them otherwise. For the first time this year, a 1st and 2nd grade camp was available, which filled up weeks in advance.

At camp, students participate in hands-on, fun learning activities such as doing experiments or building rockets in an attempt to both instruct and recruit for other P-20 learning programs.

**Destination: Discovery**
A two-week Destination: Discovery science camp allowed 4th and 5th graders to explore a variety of topics, such as making things glow in the dark, the myth of Pop Rocks candy with soda, slime and polymers, fizzing and foaming, layered liquids, the physics of paper airplanes and the perennial favorite challenge: designing a capsule to protect an egg from a four-story drop.

We dropped in on the young scientists as they designed catapults for a day of Marshmallow Mania. Students received materials to build the catapults and later, challenged each other in a contest to see which team could lob the marshmallows the farthest.

**Robotics Camp**
P-20 was able to sponsor a robotics camp with iTEC, the Interactive Technology Experience Center from UTSA’s College of Engineering, thanks to funding from Rackspace intended to offer more students the chance to experience iTEC. With those funds, 30 students were able to attend the camp for free.

At the one-week camp, 9th and 10th grade students built robots to perform designated tasks, such as moving an object from one location to another, or annihilating other robots in combat.

— Ashley Festa
UTSA research project sheds light on undocumented immigrants’ struggles

It’s hard enough being a young adult with the burdens of completing school, finding a job and growing up. Multiply the hardship many times over for undocumented students living in the United States who add the fear of deportation to their list of concerns.

UTSA’s Mexico Center is conducting research to discover more about the lives of young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children. As they have grown up, they’ve attended school, graduated and now would like to get jobs. Their undocumented status, however, has prevented them from doing so, until recently.

In June, President Obama signed an executive order allowing young undocumented immigrants to apply for deferred action, protecting them temporarily from deportation, and for work permits. To qualify, they must meet certain criteria, such as being in school or already having a degree.

The order is a relief for many, but it’s not the end of the journey for those in favor of the DREAM Act, legislation that, if passed, would provide a conditional path to citizenship for qualifying youth.

DREAM stands for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors.

Harriett Romo, director of the Mexico Center, is collaborating with others at the university to lead the research aimed at understanding and documenting the civic engagement of such individuals.

“We’re putting a face on these stories, these people who the media have treated as criminals. They’re citizens in every way except on paper.”

Harriett Romo

director of the Mexico Center

More than 20 students have agreed to be interviewed for the research so far. Romo seeks to discover how students plan to be involved in their communities, while in school and after graduation.

Some of the students she has interviewed have become activists for the DREAM Act, joining national groups, working to raise awareness and gain support for its approval.

Carolina Canizales, 22, came to the U.S. with her family at the age of 10, and she’s been advocating for the DREAM Act for the past three years.

Her mother worked as a housekeeper in Alamo Heights, and growing up, Canizales attended school in that area. She didn’t realize the limitations of her undocumented status until she reached high school when she wasn’t allowed to take driver’s education classes.

“I was the only one who rode the VIA bus. I was the only one who brought...
Obtaining affordable healthcare can be difficult for even the healthiest of people, but when plagued with a chronic illness, the roadblocks to getting adequate care can seem overwhelming. For undocumented immigrants living in the U.S., even a treatable disease like diabetes can seem like a death sentence.

Melo shed light upon the difficulties these people encounter because they do not qualify for healthcare coverage. Through her interviews with emergency room doctors, hospital administrators, and the county health department, she found dialysis treatment for diabetics to be a recurring topic.

When she began working toward her PhD. at UTSA in the fall of 2011, she decided to pursue the topic further through her pilot research. At the center of Melo's research are the personal interviews she is conducting in the Rio Grande Valley with undocumented immigrants seeking treatment for diabetes.

"I am thankful for the funding I received from the Mexico Center through my research fellowship as it has allowed me to conduct these interviews and in turn, I have really gotten a sense of their illness experiences," Melo said.

"I had an individual actually cry during the interview saying she cannot afford both treatment for herself and to feed her children."

"A key benefit of Milena's research is her in-depth documentation of what it means to live healthcare disparities, day in and day out," said Jill Fleuriet, UTSA associate professor of anthropology and Melo’s faculty advisor who specializes in medical anthropology and health disparities among Hispanics in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. "The Mexico Center allows the UTSA community to develop and contribute research that has an impact on both Mexico and the U.S."

The UTSA Mexico Center was established in 2005 to connect the existing Mexico-related expertise at UTSA and generate transnational dialogue in the hope that such dialogue will translate into bilateral and cooperative public policy recommendations. Since 2007, the center has awarded 24 Mexico Center Educational Research Fellowships, which support student/faculty research projects on Mexico-related topics that require field work or consultation at a university or research center. The Mexico Center also supports research and dissertation is to promote healthcare access as a human right for undocumented immigrants seeking treatment for diabetes. Here, she completed her thesis on healthcare access for undocumented immigrants in the Rio Grande Valley. A native of the area, Melo shed light upon the difficulties these people encounter because they do not qualify for healthcare coverage. Through her interviews with emergency room doctors, hospital administrators, and the county health department, she found dialysis treatment for diabetics to be a recurring topic.

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Universities share resources and research opportunities, benefitting UTSA and Mexico

Economic development isn’t solely focused on businesses; UTSA is also creating partnerships with several universities in Mexico to advance research knowledge on both sides of the border. UTSA’s Institute for Economic Development has focused on higher education as a means to help Mexico’s academic communities in addition to helping the country’s business community.

One of the strategic partnerships UTSA has established is with Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEM), one of the country’s largest public universities. The values and interests of UAEM align closely with UTSA, and President Ricardo Romo signed an agreement in late 2010 to promote a wide range of collaborative activity.

“Having established a good working relationship with UAEM through our small-business initiative in Mexico, it makes sense to add layers of academic and research collaborations next,” said Robert McKinley, director of the Institute for Economic Development.

“This summer, a group of UTSA administrators – including McKinley, Romo, Vice President for Community Services Jude Valdez, physics chair Miguel Jose Yacaman, and others – visited with their counterparts in Mexico to discuss new ways the universities can work together.

As UTSA shares knowledge and resources, the university also benefits from new research opportunities made possible through the collaboration. Thanks to the agreement with UAEM, UTSA is able to conduct research with Pemex, a petroleum company owned by the Mexico government.

UAEM also benefits from the partnership. Science students from UAEM are able to visit UTSA for a year on scholarship, giving them access to some of the best equipment available, including the world’s most powerful electron microscope, which belongs to UTSA.

Dr. Yacaman sees the partnership as a way to benefit the Mexican education system. Graduate students arrive at UTSA to study nanotechnology, biology and related fields.

Upon graduation, many of Jose Yacaman’s students return to Mexico as faculty members to teach the next generation of STEM students.

“We don’t keep them in the United States, so there’s no ‘brain drain’ for Mexico,” Jose Yacaman said. About 100 of his former students are now teaching in Mexico.

These new faculty have learned applied research while studying at UTSA, helping to solve real-world problems when they return to Mexico. “It’s a benefit to society,” he said.

Improving businesses and academia in Mexico has helped the country strengthen its own job creation and educational system, which benefits communities as a whole.

“It’s a practical answer to the problems of migration and crime in Mexico,” McKinley said.

As UTSA’s Institute for Economic Development, sees academic development as a part of economic development.

As part of a partnership UTSA signed with Mexico’s Universidad Veracruzana, Mexican and American scholars have published a compilation of reports on immigration and citizenship. The book, titled A Bilateral Perspective on Mexico-U.S. Migration, is now available.

The collaboration agreement brought together the two universities to stimulate bi-national dialogue and research-based policymaking.

Following the agreement, the UTSA Mexico Center hosted an open forum and later a scholarly meeting to discuss immigration topics.

Later, scholars with academic backgrounds in law, public affairs, history, bilingual-bicultural studies, sociology and education contributed reports for publication based on conversations from those two events.

The Mexico Center’s 2009 open forum, hosted with the UTSA International Trade Center and the San Antonio International Affairs Department, welcomed faculty members, students, immigration law practitioners, community support groups, government agencies and religious organizations.

Participants offered discussion topics, which included social incorporation and economic development in both Mexico and the United States.

Discussions focused on the role of immigrants – especially women – in the workforce, how legal status affects the ability to establish a small business, workers’ visas, college access, and changes the business community would like to see in immigration reform.

The scholarly meeting in 2010 hosted scholars from several public and private universities in Mexico to meet with UTSA researchers at an academic workshop.

During the day-long session at the Mexico Center, professors from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, the Universidad Iberoamericana, CIESAS Noreste, the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública, Universidad Veracruzana, and the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla shared research and discussed migration-related issues.

Relationships forged between the professors attending the events following the universities’ collaboration agreement have already flourished into networks of scholars working together to address immigrant concerns and bilateral policies.
City partners with College of Public Policy

After more than a year of collaboration, the College of Public Policy at UTSA and the City of San Antonio have officially teamed up to make Mayor Julian Castro’s SA2020 vision a reality. The college was named the lead partner of the SA2020 Government Accountability and Civic Engagement focus area, one of 11 areas outlined in Castro’s plan to transform San Antonio into a world-class city over the next eight years. As a lead partner, UTSA will guide other organizations in taking action for SA2020 as well as pursue its own projects, such as voter registration drives and leadership training. “We will encourage citizens who are not normally involved in civic activities to run for office,” said Francine Romero, COPP associate dean. “It’s about civic engagement, to get more people empowered and get them to do more in their own communities.” COPP has supported the SA2020 effort for many months. In April 2011, the college hosted a Great Cities Dialogue to foster discussion on how to increase and improve civic engagement and government accountability in San Antonio. UTSA’s students also will play a significant role. Graduate students majoring in social work led the effort to improve citizen-government relations, outlines the expectations San Antonio citizens have of their government and the responsibilities they expect to have in return. “Most of our efforts involve students,” Romero said. “It’s SA2020. They will be the ones in charge at that point.” By 2020, San Antonio expects its citizens will become deeply engaged as elected leaders, business leaders, volunteers and voters in the process of making government more responsible and accountable. In doing so, the City of San Antonio expects to experience an increase in: • voter turnout • participation and diversity of city boards • the number of graduates in leadership programs • the number of community and neighbor-hood associations • the amount of media coverage on public policy issues • the number of candidates running for City Council “We are pleased to be a recognized leader in the area of Government Accountability and Civic Engagement, and we look forward to making a significant and long-lasting impact that will transform the City of San Antonio,” Romero said. — Christi Fish

Outreach activity at UTSA

Every year, UTSA reaches out and engages individuals and organizations, from kindergartners through graduates, alumni, businesses, families and others in our community. In 2011, UTSA provided direct services and enrichment activities to more than half a million people in our region. You are invited to participate in the many events offered through the year. Find activities that interest you on the Community Connection website at community.utsa.edu.

Athletics engagement

To further involve the San Antonio community with university activities, UTSA athletics events drew more than a quarter million attendees in 2011. More than 200,000 people supported the inaugural season of Roadrunner Football. Athletics engagement at UTSA

255,879
ATTENDANCE AT PICKERED
ATHLETICS EVENTS

206,730
Football
38,814
Men’s & Women’s Basketball
5,326
Baseball & Softball
5,009
Volleyball

* Weeks, Cross-Quarter, Finals and Final four not included events

New work by 30 nationally and internationally recognized artists living and working in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico

Arte Chihuahua

November 5, 2012 – March 31, 2013

Become a member and get free admission! Individual and family memberships are available.

Find out more at texancultures.com.

The UTSA Community Connection website has something for everyone. It’s our way of connecting San Antonio with all UTSA has to offer. Find summer camps, student practice tests, concerts, professional development opportunities and more.

GET STARTED AT COMMUNITY.UTSA.EDU