Big Obscene pop Star

Brittany Ham

Art Department MFA graduate
In COLFA there have been many recent milestones and leading indicators that signal the increasing importance and sophistication of our university, and the increasing value of a UTSA degree.

Philosophy and Classics has become one of the very top programs in the nation (in both disciplines) in terms of faculty scholarly productivity. College-wide, the faculty have increased grant funding by 78% over the last two years. Typical are large awards to support archaeological and neuropsychological research and enhance the academic success of first-generation students. Innovative new degrees in such areas as Public Health, Medical Humanities, and Global Affairs join new programs in traditional fields like Dance, and all have experienced dramatic growth and record enrollments.

At the root of these developments and trends is the dedication of our faculty and students to the everyday work of scholarship. This work unfolds in novel and creative ways, beyond the traditional lecture hall: in our model United Nations deliberations, our new Global Information Systems lab, and through other endeavors and events like those documented in the present issue. And behind this activity is the robust support of ardent alums and community leaders who donate their advice, time and money for the continuous improvement of our teaching, research and service. Together faculty, students and donors form a vibrant liberal arts community notable for its love of learning, wise approach to career preparation, and commitment to the betterment of society. Such a community must be at the core of tomorrow’s Top Tier university.
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In Memorium
On Sunday, July 7 of last year, something significant happened to the Alamo and the other four Spanish missions in San Antonio: They became a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, one of 24 new sites given that designation in 2015. With a total of 1,031 sites globally, only 23 in the U.S. and no others in Texas, this prestigious recognition ended a long process that was started in late 2006 by the San Antonio Conservation Society and later included the city of San Antonio, Bexar County and the Texas General Land Office.

On the same page now with Britain’s Stonehenge, India’s Taj Mahal, and Cambodia’s Angkor Wat, the missions’ outstanding cultural importance to the common heritage of humanity was recognized. As Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, U.S. representative to the UNESCO meeting, said afterwards, “The San Antonio missions are universally admired for their representation of the unique, interwoven heritage of Spanish and indigenous cultures in the U.S., and warrant worldwide recognition.”

The year 2015 also marked a significant milestone in the history of the United Nations itself: On October 24 the organization commemorated its 70th anniversary. But the UN is perhaps not as universally admired as the San Antonio missions it now wishes to recognize. After World War II ended in 1945, world leaders met in San Francisco and officially established the United Nations after 29 nations ratified its charter. Since then, the organization has struggled for relevance and faced blistering criticism from all sides for doing either too much or too little. Dedicated to nothing less than “saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and “promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,” as written in its charter, the UN, measured by its own standards, appears to have failed to deliver in many ways. In fact, the UN’s very structure, with five permanent Security Council members with veto power, reflects an undemocratic snapshot of world politics of 70 years ago that may seem anachronistic today and left the organization paralyzed for most of the Cold War. Discussions in the General Assembly, often considered the parliamentarian body of the UN, have sometimes degenerated into a ritual of passing the buck to other countries and delegations without anyone’s assuming responsibility. Whether it is global warming, aid to the poorest countries in the world, human rights abuses, nuclear proliferation (particularly in North Korea) the civil war and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria, or combatting global terrorism and the Islamic State, the UN has been unable to live up to its stated goals. In addition, the UN has been caught up in scandals in its peacekeeping missions throughout the
2000s and remains challenged by its own bureaucratic and inefficient structure. Or, as then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton remarkably announced in 2005, “There’s no such thing as the United Nations. If the UN secretary building in New York lost 10 stories, it wouldn’t make a bit of difference.”

Despite criticism, however, the UN is still the only truly international organization that exists in world politics today. It is global in its membership, which is open to all “peace-loving nations” as outlined in the charter. More important, it is also global in its approach, as it recognizes the ties and overlaps that exist among security concerns, development, the environment, and human rights. All these issues are discussed holistically within the UN. The struggles the organization have gone through represent struggles of a world of nation-states which, despite gathering annually in New York since the 1950s, never accepted their shared fate as single yet interdependent parts in a globalized world. Instead of overcoming their petty national concerns, they took them to the UN. Nikita Khrushchev’s shoe-banging during a 1960 debate over a Soviet resolution decrying colonialism, the notorious ripping of the UN charter by then-Libyan leader Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi in 2009, and the large arrears in dues (over $1.3 billion) that the U.S. owes to the UN all show that national politics do not cease when leaders of the world come together. It is not for nothing that one academic publication about the role of the organization in international relations is titled United Nations in a Divided World.

Understanding these dynamics and their inherent complexity and challenges is at the heart of the Model United Nations Society at UTSA. This student organization was created in 2013 and held its first annual Alamo Model UN Conference the same year. Since then, the organization has been committed to promoting the UN’s mission at UTSA and to educating students about issues of world politics through its annual conference. Following other UN models locally and nationally – the Model UN San Antonio hosted by the International School of the Americas took place earlier this year with over 1,000 participants – this signature event every fall brings together UTSA and other students to step up as delegates and engage in global diplomacy. With difficult and pressing global issues such as non-state terrorism, sustainable development, and the global migration crisis on the agenda, students prepare their assigned country’s view on these issues before they engage in diplomatic interaction. As a full-scale and in-depth simulation of the UN, students are expected to articulate their positions...
and conduct their negotiations according to parliamentary rules of procedure, to listen to each other to find common ground, and to carefully draft resolutions for the problems at hand. Towards the end, students in this engrossing extracurricular experience vote on resolutions and thereby experience the value of compromise and coalition-building in world politics while learning about the proceedings of the UN.

Serving as a Model UN delegate not only transforms theories of world politics and global diplomacy into first-hand experiences, but also gives UTSA students great opportunities to grow as they are challenged to reflect on global issues and realize that there is more than one opinion out there. In addition to preparing students for future careers, students who participate in Model UNs clearly mature as professionals and significantly advance their understanding of international affairs.

The Model UN conference helps students improve their rhetoric, teamwork and group management skills as well as their ability to set priorities and find compromises. And maybe one day the discussions of the missions’ designation as a World Heritage Site will be simulated to show how this global organization plays out locally and affects all of our lives. While we might have concerns about the organization as it is now, it is still the only global forum we have. As such, policy-makers in Washington and New York as well as future policy-makers at the Alamo Model UN would do well to learn the lessons of negotiation and compromise today, so that in the anniversary year of 2045 we can ultimately celebrate a success story. Just as the new World Heritage designation will protect, preserve and promote the Alamo and its sister missions, the constant and essential effort needed to maintain a truly global organization has begun at UTSA.

REIMAGINING THE ALAMO

Paul Shawn Marceaux

In October 2015, the Texas General Land Office, City of San Antonio, and the Alamo Endowment formed a partnership to manage the development of a new master plan for the Alamo. The purpose is to reimagine the Alamo by creating an interpretation of the site that recognizes the history, significance and accurate footprint of the Alamo over its nearly 300-year history, first as a Spanish mission and later as an iconic part of Texas history. The University of Texas at San Antonio Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) is part of the archaeology team of experts working with the master plan partnership.

The center has more than 40 years of experience at the Alamo, the missions and other important sites throughout the San Antonio area. As part of the master plan project, CAR archaeologists are helping to complete a systematic study of the entire Alamo site to determine, with as much certainty as possible, the location of the original walls and other structures. The team believes such a study is necessary in order to develop a master plan with integrity. This archaeology work, as well as a complete timeline of the history of the site, will inform important decisions about future development and educational programming. The CAR team members will provide their leadership and expertise throughout the project.

The CAR researchers expect to find remnants of the original adobe, jacal and stone walls that formed the structures built at the site of the Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo). Archaeologists also expect to find artifacts associated with the mission period (A.D. 1700-1793), such as food refuse; ceramic and stoneware fragments from plates, bowls and other utensils; glass from various containers; metal, chipped stone and personal or clothing items, as well as features relating to the historic Alamo Madre acequia (irrigation ditch). In addition, archaeologists may uncover features related to the fortification of the Alamo during the military period of occupation (A.D. 1806-1877), including those constructed during the Siege of Bexar and the Battle of the Alamo. Artifacts from this period may include household or military items.
This year, the music department’s faculty and students have been wandering the service tunnels under the main campus, examining specimens in dissection labs and volunteering with Alzheimer’s patients. Of course, they’ve still been keeping up with their performances—Rachel Podger’s music residency provided inside knowledge on interpreting expression in Baroque string pieces and Gene Dowdy’s conductor position with Symphony of the Hills has offered unique performance opportunities. But UTSA students have also been taking music beyond artistic expression: They have been examining the ways it promotes well-being in listeners and performers alike.

MUSIC AND MEMORY: GETTING IPODS WHERE THEY’RE NEEDED

In January 2016, UTSA’s chapter of the women’s music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota became involved with Music and Memory, a nonprofit organization that brings music to patients with diseases that damage brain chemistry. After viewing the documentary Alive Inside, which tells the story of how the organization was founded, the fraternity made the unanimous decision to support Music and Memory. Member Hailey Smith said, “As sisters of SAI, we are called to impact the world around us through music, and this was a perfect way to do so.”

The basic mission of the Music and Memory organization is to provide Alzheimer’s patients with iPods, earphones and personalized playlists. Because music is connected to long-term memory in the human brain, listening to favorite songs can trigger memories and allow patients to focus on and reconnect with their surroundings.

Through a collaboration with Candyce Slusher from San Antonio’s M.U.S.I.C. (Musicians Uniting and Supporting in Communities) project, UTSA’s SAI members raised over $2,500 so that two San Antonio area facilities, Morningside Ministries and Oak Park, could receive certification with Music and Memory. SAI is currently working to certify more facilities during the 2016-2017 school year.

After procuring the certifications, the SAI members visited the facilities to participate in providing music for the patients. “One of our favorite encounters was with a resident who was so quiet, didn’t speak, didn’t move,” Hailey said. “She just sat still with her head hung low. Once we administered the music to her she began to sway back and forth, hum, and became alive in the music.”

To spread awareness of Music and Memory, SAI students from UTSA presented a session on the organization at the Sigma Alpha Iota National Convention in St. Louis. Led by their patroness, Dr. Diana Allan, these students challenged other members from across the United States to support similar projects in their communities. During the convention, the chapter was also recognized and awarded the National Collegiate Service Award for their work with Music and Memory.

Music marketing major Hailey Smith even started an official Music and Memory organization on the UTSA campus in Spring 2016. During her senior internship with Music and Memory, she decided that “creating a student organization on campus would be a great way to get more of the student body involved without requiring them to be part of a Greek organization.”

Now a UTSA graduate, Hailey wants to use her passion for nonprofits “to make music accessible to people who need it and wouldn’t otherwise have access to it.” The campus organization she founded, currently led by Jyron Joseph, is excited about welcoming new members.
GENE DOWDY: ENHANCING STUDENTS’ EDUCATION WITH REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

When Gene Dowdy, professor of music and director of orchestral studies at UTSA, agreed to play violin for the annual Symphony of the Hills 2013 Pops concert, he did not expect to substitute for the conductor on the day of the performance. Due to a family emergency, the conductor did not show up for the rehearsal, and the orchestra asked Dowdy to step in. He conducted in front of a full house that night, and shortly afterwards, he was appointed as the orchestra’s associate conductor and associate concertmaster.

Now Professor Dowdy has been named as the new conductor and artistic director of the Symphony of the Hills. He views the position as a great opportunity: “To conduct a regional professional orchestra is a wonderful complement to my position at UTSA.” During his first season as conductor, Dowdy has been able to offer interesting programs that connect to the local communities, including two children’s concerts for over 1,600 elementary students from Kerrville, Comfort, Fredericksburg, and surrounding areas. He has featured several UTSA music faculty and students in performances, giving them opportunities to play in a new environment.

Dowdy has been able to incorporate many of his experiences in developing orchestra programs and working with a symphony board of directors into his UTSA courses. In his advanced conducting class, he includes students in planning and choosing music for Symphony of the Hills concerts, even involving them in creating publicity releases for symphony events. “As a university professor, I feel obligated to include real-world entrepreneurial opportunities for my students,” he said. “It is not enough to just be a good conductor—we have to sell our product to the masses.”

Professor Dowdy’s position with the symphony also enhances his one-on-one instruction. “I had a discussion with a graduate conducting student about how to conduct the Overture to Handel’s Messiah,” he recalled. “He actually drove up to Kerrville and attended a Symphony of the Hills rehearsal to observe how I worked with the group on that piece of music. During the breaks, he and I discussed further options and he was able to provide input.”

RACHEL PODGER’S RESIDENCY: BRINGING SCORES TO LIFE

When internationally renowned Baroque violinist Rachel Podger came to UTSA for a one-week residency, she not only lectured and performed, but she also aided Stacey Davis, associate professor of music theory, with research on violinists’ expressive interpretations of Bach’s solo string works.

As one of today’s leading interpreters and performers of Baroque music, Podger brought live, expert interpretations to UTSA in two solo recitals, a performance with the UTSA student chamber orchestra, two master classes, a Baroque performance practice lecture, and an improvisation workshop. “Performers are a channel for what is here on the page,” she said, “and the composer has done all the work. And we just need to understand that language . . . portray it, deliver it. And we need to move the listener.”

Between events, Podger could be found working with Professor Davis. They collected interview, analysis, and recorded-performance data and studied how Podger made expressive choices relative to the language and structure of the music. The two examined the way an expert performer is able to precisely and consistently execute a certain interpretation across multiple performances of the same piece, while also allowing for spontaneous creativity during a live performance.

Davis noted that the insights she gained through her research and working with Podger “can help all those who study, teach and perform these pieces better understand the relationship between style, structure, expressivity and creativity.” She presented the results of this research in July 2016 at the International Conference on Music Perception and Cognition and at the International Conference on Baroque Music.

At UTSA, the research component of the residency was highlighted by a lecture by Davis and Podger as part of the Donald Hodges Lecture Series. Davis and Podger engaged in a dialogue that focused on the analysis and performance of implied polyphony, which is the suggestion of multiple voices within a completely monophonlic (single-voiced) texture—a particular melodic feature in Bach’s solo string repertoire.

“It is one thing for students to listen to recordings of elite performers and appreciate their artistry,” Professor Davis said of Podger’s lectures and classes. “It is another thing for them to hear that performer’s insights about the relationship between style, analysis and expression and then have that artist help them apply those insights to their own performances.”

Jackson Mankewitz, a student who attended Podger’s master class, agrees. He said that her instruction “made me feel confident about my playing and inspired me to continue improving. Playing in the master class with Rachel Podger will probably be the highest point in my education at UTSA.”
Music students across all campuses are known for spending hours in the practice rooms. However, some UTSA students are also spending their time analyzing experimental data, visiting medical clinics and examining specimens at the UTHSC anatomical dissection lab.

This is all part of the Department of Music’s master of music in voice performance and pedagogy. The degree, on top of preparing students to be performers and teachers, is also designed to give students an understanding of vocology, the study of the structure, function, acoustics, training, health and care of the voice. Professor John Nix, who founded the program with Professor Linda Poetschke, said that “we saw this program as a way to start something unique.”

Students in the program take classes in vocal anatomy and physiology, motor learning applications in music instruction, and the lifespan development of the voice, as well as in choral instruction, music history and vocal performance. Students also conduct Institutional Review Board-approved research projects with human subjects and benefit from the program’s partnerships with surgeon Dr. Blake Simpson and speech pathologist Jill Green from the UT Medicine Voice Center and Dr. Omid Rahimi from the UTHSCSA Department of Cellular and Structural Biology.

Professor Nix explained that studying vocology gives students “a richer, evidence-based approach to the teaching of singing,” which is essential for future voice teachers and performers who need to ingrain healthy singing habits in their students and themselves.

As the vice president of the 150-member Pan-American Vocology Association, Professor Nix is an active promoter of the association’s mission to advance the scientific study of the voice for artistic and professional use. By spreading knowledge of vocology, he said, “we hope to help singers of all ages sing more expressively and more healthily. We want to encourage singing as a great wellness activity for all people—this is also a very exciting area of scientific inquiry.”

The program’s students hold the same appreciation for vocal research, and are currently publishing work in major journals, such as the *Journal of Singing* and the *Journal of Voice*, and are presenting at conferences, including the Pan-American Vocology Association symposium, the National Association of Teachers of Singing national convention, the Acoustical Society of America’s conference, and the Voice Foundation’s Care of the Professional Voice symposium. Students also appeared on National Public Radio’s *Science Friday* broadcast in May 2016 with Professor Nix.

While the program does not train students to be voice therapists, it’s an advantageous degree for someone interested in both vocal research and performance. As Professor Nix explained, UTSA’s master of music in voice performance and pedagogy prepares students “for future study and work not only in teaching singing or working with choirs, but also to work collaboratively with a certified speech language pathologist in structuring training for a singer who has been in clinical care.”
WORK HARD, PLAY HARD: MUSIC BIZ DAY AND UTSA UNDERGROUND

During the last week of April, UTSA music students learned insider tips on making it in the music industry at Music Biz Day, and then showed off how much they already knew about the “biz” by marketing, organizing and performing in their own music festival—UTSA Underground.

On April 26, the Department of Music and Musicians of Business (MOB) hosted the Music Biz Day expo, which brought 30 music professionals from San Antonio and Austin to the main campus. More than 350 people attended this free, open-to-the-public event for panels on Music Retail, Music Blogging and Marketing, Nonprofits and Advocacy, Music Technology and Entrepreneurship, and more.

Dr. Stan Renard, who did much of the work coordinating the expo, said that the event was a rare opportunity because it “brings the music community to UTSA. This was the first time we did this event, and we were very well represented.” During Music Biz Day, students were able to ask questions and network with some of the most influential music professionals in Texas. Panelists included Country Music Award-winner Jack Ingram, Troy Peters from the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio, Clifton Miles from Dead Room Studio, Louis Glassner from San Antonio Strad, and Rich Oppenheim from the American Federation of Musicians. “Next year,” Dr. Renard said, “I want to turn Music Biz Day into a state event, and bring in people from Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston.”

Then, on Saturday, April 30, the second UTSA Underground Festival took place—another free event open to the public. At 8:00 p.m., 1,500 people descended into the service tunnels under the main campus to listen to the 18 featured bands, view the multimedia art displays projected onto the tunnel walls, and play festival games.

“This event was founded and organized by the students,” Dr. Renard said. “The first Festival was [a] music marketing class project, but now, the MOB student organization runs the event. It’s exciting to see how such a unique project has become so popular. Performers are already asking to sign up for next year’s festival.”

The four stages hosted a diverse program. One boasted hard rock and metal. Another, techno music and DJs. The outside stage presented country music. And the fourth stage, avant garde performances. Every act showcased UTSA student or alumni talent, with performers including bands such as Katrix, the Cole Breining Band, and The Uprising, as well as UTSA student groups such as the Latin Dance Society, the Brass Quintet, and the UTSA Jazz Band.

Both events will take place again next year on the same day: Saturday, April 29. “Music Biz Day is going to lead right into UTSA Underground in 2017,” Dr. Renard said. “With the anticipation already gaining momentum among the performers and attendees, it’s going to be one big, exciting, all-day event.”
RITUAL REMAINS

Anthropologist Seeks Explanation for Slain Ancient Bolivians

Sonia Alconini and Stephanie Schoellman
If you strolled into a Mesoamerican village during Pre-Columbian times, you would probably come across a tzompantli [tsom-pantli], a skull rack displaying the remains of vanquished enemies. According to an illustration in the Durán Codex (a sixteenth-century history of the Aztec culture), the skull rack resembled an abacus with heads laced through cords like beads strung in between wooden posts. Living in ancient times, you would understand that this macabre trophy case symbolized conquest and power.

If you were to detour through the Andes, you would have observed how the Nazca used human heads not only as portable war trophies but also their depiction in paintings and textiles as if they were growing sprouting plants. In a way, they also represented fertility. A trip to Tibet, meanwhile, would show you that the ancient Tibetans, too, held heads in high regard, fashioning them into drums to use in rituals to achieve spiritual enlightenment.

Fast forward to the present and Bolivia’s celebration of Fiesta de las Ñatitas (meaning “the little ones with turned-up noses” or “pug noses”). According to Smithsonian magazine, every November, indigenous populations decorate skulls, for which they are custodians, with vibrant flower crowns. They offer the skulls cigars, food and candy, hoping for blessings of wealth and protection. Explanations for human head extraction and decapitation in ancient cultures range from warfare boon to sacrificial fertility rites to ancestral blessings.

Most of what modern scholars know about these traditions has been gleaned through the interpretation of archaeological remains. Near the Peru-Bolivia border, Sonia Alconini, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at UTSA, discovered a ritual cache in Wata Wata, one the earliest ceremonial centers in the Titicaca basin. Along with Sara K. Becker from the University of California at Riverside, their bioarchaeology analysis revealed that those were the remains of two adult females and one male. The skulls are estimated to be nearly 2,000 years old and exhibit signs of extreme violence. “These crania were buried within a ceremonial setting and represent something of an anomaly in our present understanding of Central Andean cultures during this time,” they write in their co-authored article in the journal Latin American Antiquity.

Alconini and Becker explain that judging by the cut marks around the ocular cavities, the lower jaws and the cranium, these individuals were decapitated, scalped, defleshed as well as mutilated. The crania showed signs of blunt force trauma with various chop marks, cut marks, bone scrapes, and depressed skull fractures. The examination also revealed that these injuries were done around the time of death.

The eyes, too, were deliberately harvested, and “it is even possible that these people were alive during this process”. Similar practices had already been described in Andean Colonial paintings. Alconini and Becker also believe that the multiple cut marks represent efforts to cut through the orbicularis oculi muscle that encircles the eye socket, in order to extract the eyes. They further explain that “It is not clear whether this is a form of pre-death torture, ritual eye removal, or solely a result of the defleshing process.”

Alconini believes that the eye gouging was performed to prevent these individuals from seeing and communicating in the afterlife. She hypothesizes that either the individuals were powerful people whose influence needed to be ritually controlled, or dangerous social deviants who were punished through extreme acts of violence. Considering the arrival of the ancient Tiwanaku state to the region, it is possible that this ritual was associated to shifting balances of power in the region.

The death rituals have been recorded in iconography before, but Alconini’s anthropological find was one of the first corporeal testaments available for study. Thus, these three ancient skulls remain a powerful symbol, even today—epitomizing the fluctuating cosmologies of a people, time, and place.

Alconini’s research was funded by a National Science Foundation grant. She has published three books in English and Spanish on this topic, including research on the tropics of South America (see Faculty Books on page 32). Many of her graduate students have also joined her investigation efforts, thanks to support provided by the university. One of these students, Lynn Kim, recipient of the Alvarez International Study Fund, gratefully says that “the grant made it possible for me not only to accomplish fieldwork in Bolivia toward my doctoral dissertation, but also to create lifelong memories and friendships.”

For further details about Becker and Alconini’s excavation, see their article, “Head Extraction, Interregional Exchange, and Political Strategies of Control at the Site of Wata Wata, Kallaway Territory, Bolivia during the Transition Between the Late Formative and Tiwanaku Periods (A.D. 200-800)” in Latin American Antiquity (vol. 26, no. 1, 2015).
The American Dialect Society (ADS) is one of the oldest academic societies in the field of language and linguistics. Founded in 1889, ADS describes itself as “dedicated to the study of the English language in North America, and of other languages, or dialects of other languages, influencing it or influenced by it.” Its journal, American Speech, founded in 1925, has been around so long now that it has become an archive of the very thing it studies.

ADS held its first Word of the Year (often referred to as “WOTY”) event – and it really is an event — at its 1990 annual meeting in Chicago’s Palmer House. In the beginning it could be held in a small room with about 30 people. Now the WOTY event is better suited for a ballroom, since it draws hundreds of people, including reporters from around the world, and can be quite raucous. Even though other groups have started announcing their own WOTY, such as Oxford University Press (2004) and Merriam-Webster (2003), none are done with the flourish and flair of ADS.

The process for choosing the WOTY takes two days. On the first day of the annual meeting, people gather to nominate words in different categories, such as most useful, most unnecessary, most outrageous, most euphemistic, most likely to succeed, and least likely to succeed. Nominators can add categories to the usual ones. There have been years that featured election-related words, “occupy” words, and fan words as well as newly created categories for hashtag of the year and emoji of the year. After the Thursday meeting, a ballot is created with the nominations.

On the second day, ADS members and any others in attendance at the meeting gather to vote for the words on the ballot, suggest additional words, and advocate for their choices with eloquent, funny, wise or other types of speeches to the cheers, laughs and murmurs of the audience. In some respects, it reminds me of the British Parliament. Seldom are words nominated without fanfare. All voting is done by a show of hands, and the designated vote counters are noted lexicographers and language scholars. Words with a clear majority of the votes are the winners, which sometimes means run-offs are necessary.

The criteria for words nominated for ADS’s WOTY are as follows:

- They can be a single word, compound word, catchphrase, or other lexicalized form, such as a hashtag, emoji, or affix.
- They do not have to have been created in the current year but instead can be older words that are newly popular and with a new twist.
- They must be used widely or prominently.
- They must be reflective of popular discourse or preoccupations.

After the voting is done for all the WOTY sub-categories (e.g., least likely to succeed, most euphemistic), the audience then nominates words from the sub-categories or nominates completely different words to create the ballot for Word of the Year. The ADS Executive Secretary and the American Speech “Among New Words” editor decide which words to trim from the list due to not meeting the criteria or not garnering enough support from the audience, usually as determined from its level of rowdiness.

At the January 2015 meeting, I vigorously lobbied for the first ADS hashtag of the year as well as the 2014 Word of the Year to be #BlackLivesMatter – it won both awards. At the January 2016 meeting, the singular they was voted the 2015 Word of the Year. The pronoun they is used in the singular by people who make a conscious choice to not be restricted by the traditional gender binary of she and he and by those in solidarity with and respect for such a position, such as newspapers.

The January 5-8, 2017 annual meeting will be held at the JW Marriott in Austin, Texas. If you are interested, join in the fun.
2015 – they
Gender-neutral singular pronoun for a known person, particularly as a nonbinary identifier.

2014 – #BlackLivesMatter
Hashtag used as protest over blacks killed at the hands of police (esp. Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and Eric Garner in Staten Island).

2013 – because
Introducing a noun, adjective or other part of speech (e.g., “because reasons,” “because awesome”).

2012 – #hashtag
A word or phrase preceded by a hash symbol (#), used on Twitter to mark a topic or make a commentary.

2011 – occupy
Verb, noun, and combining form referring to the Occupy protest movement.

2010 – app
Application program for a computer or phone operating system. As in “there’s an app for that,” an advertising slogan for the iPhone.

2009 – tweet
Noun, a short message sent via the Twitter.com service, and verb, the act of sending such a message.

WORD OF THE DECADE: google
Verb meaning “to search the Internet.” Generic form of the trademarked “Google,” the world’s dominant Internet search engine.

2008 – bailout
The rescue by the government of companies on the brink of failure, including large players in the banking industry.

2007 – subprime
An adjective used to describe a risky or less than ideal loan, mortgage or investment.

2006 – to be plutoed
To pluto, to be demoted or devalued.

2005 – truthiness
What one wishes to be the truth regardless of the facts. (From the Colbert Report with Stephen Colbert, a mock news show on Comedy Central.)

2004 – red/blue/purple states
Red favoring conservative Republicans and blue favoring liberal Democrats, as well as the undecided purple states in the political map of the United States.

2003 – metrosexual
Fashion-conscious heterosexual male.

2002 – weapons of mass destruction
WMD, sought in Iraq.

2001 – 9-11, 9/11 or September 11
Terrorist attacks on that date.

2000 – chad
A small scrap of paper punched from a voting card.
We invite you to flex your creative muscles and color the illustration on this and the following pages.
How do feminism and geography intersect? As feminist scholars investigate gender and power structures in literature or social studies, feminist geographers explore the relationship between gender and space. For example, one might research the way residents of a particular area experience prejudice based on their race or class and how that prejudice manifests geographically. Modern feminists scholarship goes beyond gender, an analysis may look at how race, class, economics and even sexuality intersect with gender to understand a person’s more nuanced experience in the world.

At UTSA, Assistant Professor Nazgol Bagheri is leading explorations in this field. She was born and raised in Tehran, Iran, and on her beginnings as a feminist geographer, she says, “I started to enjoy the complexity of urban landscapes in high school when I observed the city while riding the bus.” This grew into her current research interests, which are in navigating interdisciplinary terrain in geography, urban planning and social anthropology to develop a working theoretical model to account for changes in use and design of public space and the unique relationships among the aesthetics of modern planning, the gendering of spatial boundaries and the contingent nature of public space in Middle Eastern contexts.

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“Feminists think in terms of gender; they use gender as a proper category of analysis,” explains Bagheri. “Geographers think in terms of space; we look for spatial patterns and connections between things.” Feminist geographers combine feminist theories and analyses with investigations of spatial patterns to understand how gender relations are mutually structured. As feminism encompasses a wide range of intersections between gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and languages, among other constructs, feminist geographers explore
these intersections within the physical spaces we occupy.

How and where might feminist geographers put these theories into practice and conduct research? Bagheri provides an example: “When studying San Antonio’s access to local community gardens or parks in the city, feminist geographers go beyond the spatial distribution of those gardens or parks to consider how minority groups define ‘access’ or how they use these places in their everyday life. What do these places mean to them; are they merely a place for growing food and exercising, or a more socio-cultural place to connect with their community? What facilities such as public transportation might they have to get to those urban amenities?” Historically, feminist geography has emphasized the relationships among gender, class and public spaces or transportation. Research might uncover inequalities between the types of access women have for employment in neighborhoods or suburbs on different sides of the same city. Revealing these inequalities could have the potential to impact public policy, urban planning and marketing.

On a regional scale, Bagheri explains that a feminist geographer may include stories of, for example, a single mother’s struggle to provide healthy food choices for her children through studying how race and class affect people’s access to those healthy options, an issue that also includes political considerations. Location and geography impact a person’s ability to navigate their environment, reach important destinations such as grocery stores or farmers markets, and overcome any obstacles on the way. “Then, on a more global scale, a feminist geographer may explore the cultural and social conditions that affect the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments around the world—why do women in Norway and the Philippines have a higher chance of getting in public office than those in the USA or UK?”

Bagheri sees feminist geography as a way to champion the voices of varied minority groups, including women, as well as a chance to study human complexity and diversity. “In feminist geography, we care about situating knowledge in the context; we consider how knowledge production is often a political process with unbalanced power relationships.” She explains how her work in Tehran raised new research questions: “When studying spaces in Tehran, I had to ask whose public spaces we were talking about. Based on whose experiences, how do we build new theories? Are we including all users in our understanding of public spaces or do we limit ourselves to a limited study group? And how do we make sure we are including a diverse range of users’ stories?”

Research done by feminist geographers highlights the subtleties in our environment that often go unnoticed. “As we value residents’ experiences and emotions, we tend to talk and engage with people more. Feminist geographers often seek new ways of seeing and critiquing dominant systems,” Bagheri explains. “To this end, we often use mixed-methods approaches.” Her main method of research is Qualitative GIS (QGIS), which combines the spatially referenced data of GIS with qualitative data such as photographs,
architectural sketches, mental maps, social behavior maps, audio and video records, field notes, interviews and stories gathered through qualitative ethnographic methods. Ultimately, combining these methods offers new ways to understand individuals' lived experiences. “QGIS challenges the dualism separating quantitative and qualitative geography and encourages geographers to collaborate more, to listen and respect their research subjects, and to appreciate the complexity of geographic phenomena and processes,” Bagheri says.

One way QGIS is being put into practice is by studying how residential groups form a sense of belonging to places. How does this inform neighborhood design and maintenance, which then reflects these individuals’ identity, social practices and community? Then, how might this information be useful for understanding how minorities are affected by public policy? “This type of GIS can be extremely illuminating when it comes to informing the public and changing policies directed toward or excluding social minorities.” Bagheri reminds us, however, that at the end of the day GIS is just another tool that geographers, urban planners, environmental scientists, geologists and anthropologists use to represent data and better understand today’s realities; it is not a solution to problems highlighted by the research.

Bagheri’s goal, then, is to expand GIS knowledge to other disciplines beyond geography, especially in COLFA. “Dean Gelo has been extremely generous and supportive of GIS technologies, so that we have been able to open our COLFA GIS lab, equipped with the latest version of GIS software, to faculties and graduate students.” Indeed, several COLFA faculty members have started exploring GIS in their own research. “I am very interested in training non-geographer colleagues and Texas teachers to take advantage of the ArcGIS resources online. I have been offering summer GIS workshops for faculties, funded by the UTSA Office of the Vice President for Research.” These workshops have introduced new methods to faculty and have connected faculty with similar research interests across disciplinary boundaries.

For Bagheri, to be a feminist geographer also means advocating for and supporting women and minorities in STEM fields, and those who want to conduct this research. “Since there are few female GIS experts or professors in American academia, I see myself as a role model to my students. I have been honored to work with a wonderful group of graduate students who have recently joined our new master’s program in geography.” The impact that GIS and feminist geographers can have locally, regionally and globally is multiplied by the potential for GIS to cross disciplines within and outside of COLFA. Bagheri knows that working with her will “not necessarily make students feminist geographers,” but nevertheless, she says, “I hope they become more sensitive to topics such as spatial inclusion and exclusion, which is the main theme of feminist geography.”
Most of us associate museums with oil paintings or dinosaur bones, or perhaps with a traveling exhibit of ancient Egyptian mummies. But museums today perform an incredible array of functions designed to educate, challenge and inspire diverse populations and age groups. They introduce broad audiences to cultural and natural histories; they support research programs on myriad subjects; they preserve artifacts and provide insight into significant narratives, community values, and rituals. Museum visitors may enjoy contemporary iterations of wall displays and protective cases, but can also attend increasingly popular festivals and special events, films and dramatic demonstrations, and games, arts and crafts with an educational focus.

To prepare UTSA students for careers in this burgeoning field, COLFA's new museum studies minor (MSM) welcomed its inaugural cohort in Fall 2015. MSM is attracting students from across COLFA's disciplines in the liberal arts and social sciences. Dr. Scott Sherer, associate professor of art history and criticism, is serving as the inaugural coordinator, and Dr. Bryan Howard, director of research, exhibits, and collections at the Institute of Texan Cultures, is bringing his expertise to the foundations course. As an interdisciplinary program, MSM provides an introduction to the history and practices of museums and exhibitions, including today's range of interactive museum technology. MSM students pursue courses and electives in their major fields and augment their studies with a focus on museum fundamentals and with practical experiences via internships. Partnerships with area institutions provide UTSA students with opportunities to learn skills and gain significant pre-professional experience as they contribute to research projects, exhibition development, public programs, and marketing and administrative endeavors.

For example, the expansive mission of a world-class organization like the Witte Museum offers interns a range of opportunities to learn about the processes of creating and welcoming both generalist and academic audiences to historical and cultural programs. Students develop their research skills with first-hand investigation of artifacts and collaboration with experts, and professional staff members generously organize projects and schedules to introduce students to behind-the-scenes procedures that link curatorial content development to community events. UTSA students develop portfolios that include rigorous scholarly reports, accessible exhibition materials, and critical reflections regarding their own professional goals.

In spring 2016, Dr. Sherer organized a special topics course, Creating Cultural Histories. Students had the challenge of producing an exhibition for Gallery 23 in the University Student Center, from debating potential themes and concepts and developing curatorial premises to securing and creating materials for display. In the period from the first class meeting to an installation date scheduled for the week after spring break, students developed the theme of “Friendship,” asking potential viewers to explore the subjective and collaborative ways we define friendship, lose friends and make new ones. Artifacts and wall text reminded visitors that everyday objects, such as a watch that had been a gift or an old cream dispenser, are shaped by our relationships with others. Creative entries suggested the significance of shared interests, such as the way new mothers become friends during their kids’ play dates. Video projects demonstrated how romantic films influence expectations about strangers, as well as how today’s social media platforms generate a range of “connections” in a #hashtag #world.

Considering both the possibilities and the barriers to creating and maintaining friendships, these MSM students developed an exhibition targeting the relationship between individual and collective experience — an interaction that is at the center of many projects developed by museums today.

For more information about the College of Liberal and Fine Arts Museum Studies Minor, see http://colfa.utsa.edu/colfa/museum-studies-minor

Photo: from the student produced exhibition “Friendship”
When Sanah was in ninth grade, she decided not to wear a wig anymore.

As a child, first-generation student Sanah Jivani was diagnosed with alopecia, an autoimmune disorder that causes one’s cells to treat hair like a disease and attack it. Even though the disorder does not cause pain or affect physical health, suffering complete hair loss as a seventh-grade student took a huge emotional toll on Sanah.

“For a year and a half, I fought depression. My grades went down. I felt I had no future,” she said. “I knew I had two choices: either change something about my perspective or continue on a dark, negative path. Self-love didn’t come overnight, but eventually, I learned to love myself.”

Now, UTSA sophomore Sanah runs the nonprofit “Love Your Natural Self Foundation,” founded on her firm belief that loving oneself is just as important as loving others. The main goal of the foundation is to help other people feel empowered and confident about who they are. Whether it is a teen suffering from acne, an adult searching for a job or a child being bullied at school, Sanah is determined to encourage them to love themselves.

This is why Sanah created a new holiday to go along with her nonprofit. It’s called “Natural Day” and takes place on February 13, the day before Valentine’s Day. On Natural Day people can celebrate and be proud of who they are. The goal is to banish any self-negativity. Sanah stressed the importance of this holiday: “I know that the moment people learn to love themselves, their worlds will open up. If there is any way I can help them see the light, I will do something about it.” For Sanah, seeing oneself in a positive light is the first step toward seeing the world in a positive light.

Already, Sanah has spoken across the nation and has created numerous “Confidence Curriculums” that are used in 45 schools in 28 countries. While the content of these curriculums can be as diverse as their targeted audiences, such as helping survivors of human trafficking or giving adults financial skills, each lesson plan includes personal stories and interactive activities. The goal is to reach out to and influence as many people as possible.

When Sanah first started the “Love Your Natural Self Foundation,” she wanted to be the one who always spoke about the topic. But, she’s since learned that the best way to help the foundation grow is to let other people at the schools using her curriculum share their personal stories. She said, “It’s much more influential if your classmate or friend, someone you know, speaks up about self-love. I want to let people know their voices can make a difference.”
“I knew I had two choices: either change something about my perspective or continue on a dark, negative path. Self-love didn’t come overnight, but eventually, I learned to love myself.”

SANAH JIVANI

To strengthen her own voice, Sanah is pursuing a double major in communication and sociology. Her interest in nonprofit organizations and social activism has led her to want “to understand social problems and speak out against them.” This is why Sanah was so excited to be one of the five nationally selected students for the FirstGEN Fellowship. This fellowship granted her an internship opportunity in Washington D.C., where she worked with the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law for the entire summer this year. “I’m grateful for the experience of living, working, and interning in D.C.,” she said. I was able to apply what I’ve learned. I’m excited to explore the area of public policy. It will help me decide where I’ll go next.”

Dr. Ann Eisenberg, then dean of the UTSA Honors College, was especially helpful in showing Sanah how to craft a degree that would help her accomplish her dreams. Sanah said that Dr. Eisenberg “listened to each one of my goals and made a plan according to those goals. She really took me under her wing.” Even though combining academics and social activism seemed difficult to Sanah at first, Dr. Eisenberg helped her structure her degree to advance her life goals.

As a full-time college student juggling classes and a nonprofit, Sanah works hard to run her foundation while maintaining her 4.0 GPA. But appreciation for the skills she’s learning at UTSA has helped her stay focused: “This degree and education are so valuable. Not everyone gets to study at a four-year university. Think of all the good I can do in the world with this!” She understands that the work she puts into her studies will make her an even better spokeswoman for self-empowerment in the future.

Sanah has already positively influenced many lives through her foundation, including that of another young girl diagnosed with alopecia. A few years ago, the then-seventh-grader posted a picture of herself on social media. “This kind of blew my mind,” Sanah said. “She was the same age as me when she lost her hair, and she decided to go natural because of my movement.” This was a full-circle experience for Sanah. She said that whenever she feels like she’s not making a big enough change in the world, she thinks of this girl and remembers that “even if I can make a change for one person a year, it’s worth it.”

Sanah wants to encourage other UTSA students to find their passions and work to develop the skills that support them. At first, a student should explore and try new things, “but the minute you find something that you’re passionate about, you should never let go. Never settle for something less than your biggest dreams,” she said. With enough hard work, belief, and diligence, Sanah thinks that everyone can make a difference for him- or herself and for the world.

Sanah discovered that a loving attitude is the best way to combat negativity—both inside oneself and in the outside world, and that having faith is the most important step in realizing goals. For herself, Sanah said, “I truly with all my heart believe in the idea of Natural Day, and I’m not going to stop until Natural Day is on every calendar around the globe!”
A DREAMER AND AN OBSERVER
THE UNFORESEEN BENEFITS OF A SOCIOLOGY DEGREE
“Don’t narrow your vision of your career to one field, unless that is truly something you are already in love with.”

TIM MORROW

“I never in my dreams imagined I would be sitting here today,” says Tim Morrow, CEO of the San Antonio Zoo and UTSA sociology alumnus. Indeed it is his dream job; having worked for Fiesta Texas, SeaWorld, Discovery Cove in Orlando, Florida and various other parks for SeaWorld, the San Antonio Zoo is a perfect fit. However, when he first started out, he had no idea he’d end up here.

Morrow began his studies at San Antonio College in law enforcement and correctional science in the 1990s, following in the footsteps of his father, who worked at the FBI. During this time, Fiesta Texas was finalizing its park and looking for staff. “I thought it would be a great place to make some new friends for a summer. As it turned out, it was, and I kept coming back.” After completing his associate degrees from SAC, transferring to UTSA, and enjoying several summers at Fiesta Texas, he found himself at SeaWorld in 1996. The next year he graduated from UTSA with a degree in sociology. “SeaWorld is where my career blossomed,” says Morrow, who was responsible for many expansions and a variety of operations at that theme park. In 1999, he moved to Orlando and opened Discovery Cove, a resort at SeaWorld where guests can swim with dolphins and connect with other marine life. “This is where my operational background and learning about animal care design came together.”

Morrow is a “lover of all things Texas,” however, and decided to move back to SeaWorld’s San Antonio location. As director of operations for the next 13 years, he had a wide range of responsibilities, from front gate to rides, from food and merchandise to social media. In addition, Morrow led the design and implementation of popular attractions like the Sesame Street Bay of Play, Journey to Atlantis, Lost Lagoon Lazy River and slide expansions. In 2012, he led the design and operation of the Aquatica resort-style waterpark, formerly the Lost Lagoon Waterpark, and was promoted to vice president of Aquatica. Before leaving SeaWorld, he also led the design team for Discovery Point, a new dolphin experience.

Morrow says that the breadth and depth of his SeaWorld experience led him to where he is today. While we might wonder how someone who has worn so many hats in design and operations becomes a zoo director, he explains that his appointment is a byproduct of a change in thinking that has taken place. “In the past, zoo directors often came from within the ranks of the animal care staff. While this still happens, I think there has been a slight shift into a more businesslike operation of zoos and aquariums.” Because of this, Morrow says his degree in sociology, which deals with the study of social groups, has helped him immensely in this capacity.

Of his college experience, Morrow says, “When I attended UTSA I think we had about four or five buildings on campus.” He adds that before football and national recognition, even UTSA shirts were few and far between. He credits his degree from UTSA as the base for his understanding of what groups of people and individuals think, perceive, and react to. “One of the things I pride myself on is being able to take survey data and observations of behavior and putting myself in the position of a visitor,” he says. This ability is critical when handling the design of theme parks and zoos that will be visited by millions of people every year. Understanding how visitors experience a park is crucial to its success. “For our mission of conservation and education to be successful, we have to excel in the experience we offer our visitors to keep them coming back and learning about the animals in our care,” Morrow explains. Of the topics he studied in his UTSA coursework, he cites the building of surveys and the analysis of cultures as his favorites, even though at the time he might not have seen how they would help him in the future.

Morrow is excited to see how UTSA has grown and is getting involved with the Alumni Association to stay connected. To liberal arts and sociology students today, he says that the beauty of a COLFA degree is its versatility. “I always tell people [who ask about] school and careers to try out different fields to see where you feel you fit the best.” In Morrow’s work, understanding how brands and products connect to customers is essential, and this is an area that those with liberal arts degrees are poised to take advantage of. If he hadn’t joined the Fiesta Texas team that one summer 20 years ago, he says, he might never have landed at the zoo. “Don’t narrow your vision of your career to one field, unless that is truly something you are already in love with.” Words of wisdom from a widely experienced CEO who clearly loves what he does.
Donor Profile: Dwight and Connie Henderson

By Stephanie Schoellman
A slim glass roadrunner, poised in midstride with streamlined neck and tail, perches among fifty other roadrunner figurines. The surrounding flock, made of mixed elements—metal, clay, glass, wood, enamel, and even carved pecan shells—form one of Dwight and Connie Henderson’s many collections.

Dwight Henderson’s years at UTSA as Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, a forerunner of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, partly explains why this downy congregation roosts in the middle of his living room. “It was an easy thing to collect. People on campus started bringing things in.”

The glass roadrunner stands out, a translucent presence amid more opaque company. Dwight explains that it was given to him by Nevil Shed, who some may be familiar with from the film Glory Road (2006), which tells the story of how the Texas Western (now the University of Texas at El Paso) basketball team won the 1966 NCAA national title despite racial barriers.

“I was involved with the [UTSA] athletic committee,” Dwight says. “The NCAA requires every program to have a faculty-based committee associated with athletics, and I got to serve on the one here twice and chaired it a couple of times. We went to the first basketball game and have been going ever since.”
As Dwight explains, Nevil Shed worked at UTSA and is good friends with the Hendersons. “One day he comes walking into the office, and he looks around my shelves and says, ‘I’ve got a roadrunner you don’t have.’ It was pure glass. I’d never seen one like it.”

Dwight and Connie have acquired quite a few other collections as well, from paintings to pottery to glassworks to birds and fish—their shelves are filled with intriguing tokens of their life’s work and travels.

Dwight received all his degrees, including his Ph.D., in history at the University of Texas, Austin, and taught at Indiana University-Purdue, serving as Dean of Arts and Letters and later as acting chancellor. Connie, originally from Iowa, earned a masters degree in Art Education from St Francis University in Fort Wayne, and an MPA degree from UTSA. They met in September, were engaged by November, and married on December 24. “My grandmother had a little bit to do with it,” Connie says with a wry smile.

While they liked Indiana people, they did not enjoy Indiana winters. Dwight took a job at UTSA as the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (the former college name) in 1980 and oversaw many transformations of those departments and disciplines. He was also directly involved in creating a College of Engineering, which had been a department within sciences), including getting pay raises for the engineering faculty, as well as helping design the downtown campus. He retired in 2006, but continued to teach courses until 2013. The College of Liberal and Fine Arts Dwight F. Henderson Endowed Scholarship in History was established in his honor. Connie worked for SAWS (San Antonio Water System) serving on countless planning committees, and is now also retired.

After spending decades navigating the liberal arts, academic administrative duties, and the corporate world, both Dwight and Connie have accrued some wisdom and memories—and mementos.

Connie says, “With art, it applies to all kinds of fields because you learn to solve open-ended problems.” She points out that the fine and liberal arts are cross-disciplinary in nature, whether one is performing as an educator or artist or public administrator.

Dwight says that two of his most rewarding scholarly experiences were participating in the Kellogg nonprofit management program and Earthwatch. With Kellogg, he went to Argentina, where he was spellbound by the grandeur of Iguazu Falls. “If you ever get the chance, it’s
one of those places in the world that everyone should see. It’s a huge system of waterfalls that dwarfs Niagara. Part of it’s in Brazil; part of it’s in Argentina, and the river that flows into it comes out of Paraguay.”

Iguazu Falls was not the only place where he witnessed the power of compounded sources. Dwight also participated in three projects with Earthwatch: in Brazil, Costa Rica, and Mongolia. Earthwatch brings together a diverse group of experts to collaborate on a variety of projects. Dwight says, “You get to be in very interesting places with the scientists.” The teamwork also “opened my eyes to the way I think an awful lot of disciplines should work. What I encountered when I first started working with the archeologist was that no one claimed to know everything. If you were doing a site and you had to find out where this seed came from, you had a seed expert. If you had bones, you had a bone expert. The humanities, in general, could learn something from that, but we still tend to do things by ourselves.”

Pantanal “is this huge wetland in Brazil about the size of Kansas. We spent two weeks going out and trying to identify every bird possible in different sections of that huge ranch.”

In Costa Rica, “we ate in a cage so we had protection from the animals,” Dwight says with a chuckle. The couple who owned the ranch where the team was staying had gotten rid of their pigs, which meant there was no longer any pig food available. The troupe of howler monkeys that had grown accustomed to dining on the pig feed began “tearing roofs off of sheds. So the lady said, ‘Okay, I’ll feed them bananas.’ She started feeding them bananas every day. I have a picture of a sign ‘Please don’t feed the animals,’ and here’s this monkey sitting on top of it peeling his banana.”

In Mongolia, the team was run by the Denver Natural History Museum, and they were teaching the local people how to foster a natural park system in their own country. “Our task was to put radio collars on argali, which is a very large sheep. We’d stretch nets, and the Mongolian horsemen would find the argali and drive them to where we had the nets. When we netted one, we had about two to three minutes to do all scientific work. We had to take their temperature, measure their horns, determine their age, and check them out physically, while causing the least stress possible to the animal.”

In addition to Dwight’s Earthwatch work, he has been awarded two Fulbright scholarships, one to China and one to Germany. He and Connie have also traveled extensively to almost all of Southeast Asia as well as to countries in South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. “We haven’t found any place we dislike,” Dwight says.

On the way out of their house, we pass the collections once more. The eclectic menagerie embodies different histories, cultures, artistic schools of thought, and the Henderson’s globetrotting activities. Amid the traditional Chinese art, Mata Ortiz pots, and silk rugs from Istanbul, the roadrunners stand with aplomb.

When asked if there was another reason for collecting roadrunners other than for showing school pride, Connie says, “We like roadrunners to start with.”

Dwight adds, “It’s a creative bird, too. It has limitations. It doesn’t fly very well. The things it likes to catch, it basically runs to catch them. They are very quick. Many birds that have the ability to fly and catch the same things the roadrunner does, like the hawks, can see them from up above and dive to get them. To me, they have it easy. The poor roadrunner has to outrun dinner, so it has to be a bit more creative with how it catches it.”
Two COLFA students won District 5830 Global Education Grants to study abroad in 2016-2017. **Paola Martinez** will pursue a master’s degree in epidemiology at La Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, where she will focus on maternal and child health. Paola graduated in December 2015 with a B.S. in public health.

**Ghada Ghannam** will pursue a specialized graduate diploma in forced migration and refugee studies at the American University in Cairo. Ghada graduated in May 2016 with a B.A. in political science and English.

UTSA department of anthropology doctoral student and NSF Graduate Research Fellow **Chris Jarrett** has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad fellowship. With the funds, he will travel to Amazonian Ecuador to conduct fieldwork for his dissertation, preliminarily entitled “The Role of Certified Guayusa Commercialization in Lives and Landscapes in Amazonian Ecuador.”

**Milena Melo**, a UTSA doctoral student in the department of anthropology, has been awarded a Dissertation Fellowship from the Ford Foundation and a Minority Dissertation Fellowship from the American Anthropological Association. The fellowships will allow Milena to complete the analysis of her data and write her dissertation, which investigates the treatment experiences of undocumented Mexican immigrants in South Texas who suffer from end-stage renal disease.
Linda McNulty was chosen to participate in the visiting student program at Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, a program that accepts only 25 students from American universities each year. Linda, a UTSA Top Scholar majoring in classics in the department of philosophy and classics, is the first UTSA student to study in this program.

Allison Koch, a UTSA graduate student who began the doctoral program in environmental anthropology in 2015, has been awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation. The fellowship is the top award for beginning doctoral students in the natural and social sciences. This year, the NSF awarded only fifteen of these fellowships to cultural anthropologists nationwide. Allison will use the three years of funding to support her research on the relationships between local communities and scientific research stations in Panama.

Department of English undergraduate student Madison Chilton is a winner of a $2,500 Writing Across the Curriculum scholarship.

FACULTY

Catherine Clinton, the Gilbert M. Denman Endowed Professor in the department of history, has won a prestigious 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship for her project *Diagnosing Insanity: Union Soldiers and the American Civil War*. She was chosen from more than 3,000 applicants, based upon their prior and anticipated future achievement.

Michael Cepek, faculty in the department of anthropology, has received a prestigious American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship that will provide him with a year-long paid leave to write his forthcoming book, *Life in Oil*, which is now under contract with the University of Texas Press. The book will explore the effects of the global petroleum industry on the Cofán people of eastern Ecuador.

The graduate program in the Department of Communication was ranked 24th out of 200 master’s programs in communication globally by the Eduniversal Best Masters and MBAs ranking 2015-2016.

Omar Valerio-Jiménez, faculty in the department of history, received an NEH award for his book project *Remembering Conquest: Mexican Americans, Memory, and Citizenship*. The book will offer a reinterpretation of the Mexican-American War.

Augustine Osman, faculty in the department of psychology, was named an associate editor of Psychological Assessment.

COLFA Spanish linguistics professor, Francisco Marcos-Marin was chosen by the International Mentoring Program as one of its ten philology mentors for the 2016-2017 year. As a philology mentor, Marcos-Marin will converse with doctoral students in Spain via Skype, attend a mentor conference in Spain, and be featured in a film that highlights his professional career.

Eugene Dowdy, faculty in the department of music, was appointed as conductor and artistic director of the Symphony of the Hills in Kerrville, Texas.

President’s Distinguished Diversity Award

Sonia Alconini, Associate Professor of Anthropology

African American Studies Symposium Committee

• Rhonda Gonzales, Associate Professor of History

• Sonja Lanehart, Professor of English

• Joycelyn Moody, Professor of English

• Scott Sherer, Associate Professor of Art

• Deborah Thomas, Assistant to the Dean

President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in University Service

Rhonda Gonzales, Associate Professor of History

President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Community Engagement

Jill Fleuriel, Associate Professor of History

The Extra Mile Award

Victor Guerrero, Sr. Admin Associate, Department of Art and Art History

The Ricard S. Howe Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award

Bridget Drinka, Professor of English

ALUMNI

Eleazar Hernández, MA Art History 2012, has published his first book titled *Leading Creative Teams: Management Career Paths for Designers, Developers and Copywriters*. He was also named one of the nation’s top designers by Graphic Design: USA magazine.
Anthropology


Offers comprehensive coverage on human evolutionary biology, from basic evolutionary theory through the fossil record and primate behavioral ecology, to modern human variation in genes, morphology, physiology and behavior; provides accessible content on primate and hominin evolution, modern lifeways, health and culture; and introduces readers to over forty thought leaders in biological anthropology.

Anthropology

*Entre la vertiente tropical y los valles: Sociedades regionales e interacción prehispánicas en los Andes Centro-Sur*, edited by Sonia Alconini, Plural, 2016

Based on a workshop funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, this book is dedicated to revealing the complex political developments along the tropical mountains of South America. It also discusses broader processes of cultural interaction, exchange and the rise of social hierarchy.

English

*So Far*, Bonnie Lyons, Finishing Line Press, 2015

A poetry chapbook.

Psychology


Essays exploring the issues faced by veterans when they return to college.

Modern Languages and Literatures


Examines untamed feminine divinities that are powerful, independent, courageous and wise.

Political Science


Considers the complicated modern history of borders in the Western Hemisphere, examining them as geopolitical boundaries, key locations for internal security, spaces for international trade and areas where national and community identities are defined.
Anthropology

*En El Corazón de América Del Sur 3: Arqueología de Las Tierras Bajas de Bolivia y Zonas Limítrofes*

Translation:

*In the Heart of South America 3: Archaeology of the Tropical Lowlands of Bolivia and its Neighboring Areas*, edited by Sonia Alconini & Carla Jaimes Betancourt, Santa Cruz de la Sierra: Imprenta 2E, 2015

Compiles research by scholars working on the tropical lowlands of South America. It provides an overview of the rise of political complexity, rock art and ancient technology of a number of cultural developments of the Amazon, Chaco and tropical mountains.

Philosophy & Classics


Introduces theories of embodied meaning developed in the cognitive sciences to the study of Latin semantics.

Sociology


Presents the work of scholars from the United States and Mexico focusing on Mexican migration to the United States on key immigration policy issues from both a Mexican and U.S. perspective.

Anthropology


Examines the range of socioeconomic processes that took place in the ancient Southeastern Inka frontier, and the agency of the frontier populations in those situations. It also explores the mechanisms of expansion and conquest of pre-Columbian empires.

Philosophy & Classics


Examines the concept of theodicy, the attempt to reconcile divine perfection with the existence of evil, through the lens of early modern female scholars.
Near Term, Long Term, and Reciprocal Predictors of Violence Among Workers in Military Settings

Principal Investigator: Michael Baumann

Supported by a multi-year, $640,000 award from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs via USAMRAA, faculty in COLFA’s Psychology Department are leading a multi-university team in a longitudinal study of predictors of committing and experiencing aggression, and downstream behavioral and health consequences thereof, in the military workplace. Such studies are vital to determining whether targets/perpetrators become a certain way due to aggression, whether people who are a certain way are more likely to be targets/perpetrators, or both, which is in turn vital to designing effective methods of predicting and reducing workplace aggression.

The Institute for Health Disparities Research in COLFA was awarded two grants (Projects AHHA! and SHAPE) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Prevention totaling $2,319,375.

Principal Investigator: Thankam Sunil

AHAA

Funded for $900,000, Project AHHA! (Alcohol, HIV, Hepatitis Awareness) is a 3-year initiative to prevent and reduce substance abuse, HIV and hepatitis C among minority young adults ages 18-24 at the UTSA campus and surrounding 1-mile radius through evidence-based education, environmental (a social approach to change the campus culture on drinking and sexual practices) and HIV/HCV testing campaigns.

SHAPE

Funded for $1,419,375, Project SHAPE (Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education) is a 5-year initiative to prevent and reduce substance abuse, HIV and viral hepatitis (VH) among minority young adults ages 18-24 in the 78249 ZIP code of Bexar County. Project SHAPE is a community-based program involving apartments, hotels, the public library, and other local gathering spots to reduce high-risk behaviors through evidence-based education, environmental (a social approach to change the campus culture) and HIV/VH testing campaigns.
Ancient Maya Religion, Economy and Warfare: A Regional Study in the Mopan Valley of Belize

Principal Investigator: M. Kathryn Brown

Through a regional-based archaeological project in Belize, Central America, COLFA researchers and graduate students are investigating key social and political transformations in the ancient Maya civilization to better understand the development and collapse of this complex society. Supported by research grants from various sources including Alphawood Foundation, Brennan Foundation, National Geographic and UTSA, this research advances our knowledge of this ancient civilization and contributes to a broader comparative understanding of human society and history.

PIVOT for Academic Success

Principal Investigator: Rhonda Gonzales

PIVOT for Academic Success is supported by a $3.25 million Hispanic Serving Institution Title V Collaborative Grant. PIVOT’s four programs Prepare, Inspire, Validate, and Orient first-generation and transition students, uniquely supports them toward completion of undergraduate degrees.
FEATURED SPONSORED PROJECTS

6,000 Years of Hunter-gatherer Resilience and Territoriality: Isotopic and Genetic Analysis at the Morhiss Site, Texas

Principal Investigator: Robert Hard

Funded by the National Science Foundation for $254,444, this project uses the Model of Economic Defensibility (MED) to develop expectations for the ecological conditions that may have led to the emergence of territoriality on the prehistoric Texas Coastal Plain with specific emphasis on one of the longest-used mortuary locations in North America: the Morhiss site. The project builds datasets that will evaluate the assumptions of the MED over the long term and will advance understanding of the evolution of property rights in hunter-gatherer societies.

NSF Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science: The Evolution of Social Networks and the Robustness of Human Societies to Population Growth and Climate Change: A Deep Time Perspective

Principal Investigator: Robert Hard

Funded by the National Science Foundation for $998,350, this project combines an archaeological case study, mathematical modeling and social network analysis to understand how human societies can successfully cope with the interrelated forces of globalization, population growth and climate change, and why societies sometimes fail to cope with these interrelated forces. The research, centered on the prehistoric Texas Coastal Plain, is part of an emerging science of complex systems that seeks to understand why some systems display gradual change and others experience tipping points and cascades of rapid change.
John Sealy Jockusch

Loyal friend of COLFA John Sealy Jockusch, who passed away on September 4, 2016, days short of his 99th birthday, will be greatly missed. John is remembered as the consummate gentleman, unfailingly kind and positive, always dapper, and with a sly sense of humor. Born in Galveston of distinguished Texan families, John attended Rice University and attained the rank of Major in the Army Air Corps during WWII. He and wife Virginia Sue Pugh Jockusch loved to tell the story of their move to San Antonio on New Year’s Day, 1947, during a blizzard. He worked in investments with Dittmar and Co. (now Morgan Stanley) for 60 years. A civic leader of enormous energy and vision, John was a creator of the United Way of Texas and chairman of the Salvation Army, among many philanthropic ventures. As an Advisory Council member, John almost never missed a COLFA event, and he never tired of introducing his friends to the college. He established the John S. Jockusch Endowed Scholarship in the Liberal Arts in memory of cherished wife Sue, who passed away in 2009, and adopted the COLFA Urbino program, ensuring that interested students had the funding to study abroad. John’s model of the life well lived remains an inspiration to all who knew him, including the many UTSA students he helped over the years.

Sara “Sally” Matthews Buchanan

COLFA mourns the loss of Sara “Sally” Matthews Buchanan, 73, who passed away July 30, 2016. While achieving success in the advertising, travel, and restaurant industries, Sally was also a mainstay of civic life in her beloved home town of San Antonio. Her many commitments included leadership in the San Antonio Conservation Society, the San Antonio River Society, the Witte Museum, and the Classical Broadcasting Society, precursor of Texas Public Radio. As these commitments indicate, Sally was a zealous champion of the liberal arts in general and our college in particular. Kind and generous, she was always ready with wise advice, whether the subject was marketable skills for our majors or the best places for family vacations. Along with her husband Bob Buchanan, Sally was a faithful contributor to the COLFA Dean’s Circle, even calling to remind us if we were a little late with our annual solicitation. And the Kangaroo Court Restaurants of TX Scholarship is another important part of their legacy of giving to COLFA. Sally’s extensive library of art history books and photographs resides in the UTSA Art and Art History Department.
COLFA

Inspiring Creative Minds

Big Obscene pop Star
Brittany Ham
Art Department MFA graduate