In this issue

John Miller Morris crosses academic boundaries ❖ Brackenridge lecturer unearths new ideas
Nevil Shed’s past lives ❖ John Phillip Santos’ family history ❖ ITC photo archives a vision of the past
The language of discovery

Sometimes it takes more than one academic discipline to understand a place. John Miller Morris’ award-winning study of El Llano Estacado combines history, linguistics, geography, biography and old-fashioned legwork to produce a breathtaking work of scholarship.


Our annual listing recognizes the generosity of friends, alumni, faculty, staff, businesses and foundations who contribute to UTSA’s educational mission.

Library holds keys to Texas past

The Institute of Texan Cultures library houses a treasure trove of historical photographs, books and ephemera where family, city and regional history can be found.

Departments

In the Loop

Welcoming President Romo; Brackenridge professor visits; Reading Place opens at Downtown Campus; and other campus news.

Campus Scene

What longtime UTSA staff member has played on a legendary NCAA Championship team?

Alumni News

Communication major Crystal Ragsdale ’96 offers advice to students coming up in the program—get to work!

Roadrunner Sports

Volleyball team wins Southland Conference; check out the Roadrunner men’s and women’s basketball schedule.

Calendar

Revealed—a snowball’s chance in South Texas; important campus dates and more.

Other Voices

A new department dedicated to writing and writers. This issue we offer a brief excerpt of John Phillip Santos’ memoir about growing up in San Antonio.
Ricardo Romo was installed as the fifth president of the University of Texas at San Antonio during a convocation Oct. 11 in the University’s Convocation Center.

As part of the installation ceremony, Romo received the University’s presidential medallion from UT System Chancellor William H. Cunningham. UTSA faculty and representatives of regional universities and colleges participated in the ceremony.

“Thirty years ago a new vision was born, when the promise of hope and opportunity was made to the citizens of South Texas of receiving a first-class university for San Antonio,” Romo said. “We, with all of your support, intend to keep that promise.”

A nationally respected historian, Romo is best known for his book, East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio, which chronicles the assimilation of the Latino population in Southern California. Romo previously served as vice provost for undergraduate education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Mark Yudof, president of the University of Minnesota and former provost of the University of Texas at Austin, delivered the keynote address.

“As we approach the new millennium, it’s a time of retrospection and introspection for individuals as well as university communities,” said Yudof. “With Dr. Romo at the helm, UTSA is poised to develop a new vision for this university based on his own moral compass.”

Romo received his doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles, his master’s degree from Loyola Marymount University and his bachelor’s degree in education and history from UT Austin, where as a track star he became the first Texan to run the mile in less than four minutes.
Interim no more — Bailey appointed new provost

Guy Bailey, who has served as interim provost since June 1998, was appointed to the permanent position of provost and vice president for academic affairs on Nov. 5. The appointment by President Ricardo Romo was effective immediately.

As provost, Bailey has responsibility for all academic programs at UTSA, including leadership for academic planning, the administration of the academic budget, academic policy development and implementation and all matters directly affecting the faculty.

Bailey, who joined UTSA as dean of graduate studies and associate vice president for research in 1997, is the author or co-author of more than 70 books, monographs and articles in the fields of sociolinguistics and dialect geography. He is also a professor in the Division of English, Classics, Philosophy and Communication.

Before coming to UTSA, Bailey was dean of liberal arts and professor of English at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He also has served on the faculties of Memphis State, Oklahoma State and Texas A&M universities.

DOE grant to boost math and science skills

UTSA has received an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to fund its new Upward Bound Math Science program. The program will help secondary students in South Texas attain the math and science skills necessary for success in college.

“Our goal is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in professional math and science occupations,” said Rita Cortez, TRIO program coordinator.

Upward Bound Math Science will target first-generation college students from Eagle Pass, Del Rio and Uvalde.

UTSA is also seeking approval to include San Antonio-area students in the Upward Bound Math Science program, Cortez said.

Some students in the academic-year program will qualify for a Summer Residential Program in which they live on the UTSA campus and participate in the PreFreshman Engineering Program. Intensive PREP curricula includes math and science, computer technology, scientific research, study skills and career development.

University and high school faculty as well as graduate students will serve as academic resources and mentors.

TRIO programs were established by Congress to help low-income, first-generation Americans enter college and graduate successfully. They are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

UTSA TRIO programs include Upward Bound, the Educational Talent Search and the Ronald E. McNair Scholarship program.

Proposition 17 passes; UTSA among beneficiaries

It may not have been the most exciting item on the Nov. 2 ballot, but Proposition 17’s passage signaled good news to students enrolled in the University of Texas System and the Texas A&M University System.

Proposition 17, which will generate an additional $30 million from the Permanent University Fund, was approved by more than 60 percent of voters statewide. The vote means the fund’s investment managers can take advantage of broader investment strategies and increase the proceeds available for programs and facilities at PUF institutions.

UTSA will be eligible to receive several million dollars a year in new capital funds. Plans call for using the funding for new facilities, equipment and library materials, thus reducing the potential financial burden on students.

Fall enrollment breaks record . . . again

The news is beginning to sound like a broken record, but enrollment continues to increase at UTSA.

Census-day tallies for fall 1999—taken on the 12th class day—showed 18,606 students taking 193,564 semester credit hours, a gain of 209 students over last fall.

“The increase reflects greater numbers of transfer students, which are up nearly 10 percent,” said John Brown, interim associate vice president for enrollment services.

Enhanced recruitment efforts, more degree program offerings and innovative programs for student success and retention are also part of the equation, he added.

Numbers of first-time freshmen are down slightly over past years, possibly linked to the state-mandated “top 10 percent” rule that requires the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University to accept the upper 10 percent of all graduating high school seniors in Texas.

“UTSA’s freshman pool, without question, included students who opted for one of these institutions this year,” Brown said.

Total enrollment for the UTSA Downtown Campus grew by 135 to 3,092 students, about two-thirds of whom also take classes at the 1604 campus.

Although UTSA continues to attract the majority of its students from Bexar County, the number of students from other counties rose by 5.5 percent. The number of international students attending UTSA increased by 17.2 percent.
Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, noted scholar of art and culture of the ancient Scytho-Siberians, spent two busy days on campus as this year’s Brackenridge Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities.

Her visit coincided with the opening of “Gold of the Nomads: Scythian Treasures from the Ancient Ukraine” at the San Antonio Museum of Art, an international touring exhibition of exquisitely wrought gold objects once belonging to the nomadic Scythians. The exhibit, which features objects excavated in the past two decades, will continue through Jan. 30. The objects are on loan from museums in Kiev.

During her classroom visits, faculty seminars and public lectures, Jacobson-Tepfer drew from archeological fieldwork, historical records and observations of contemporary Central Asian nomadic cultures to try to “strip myth and ideology from the historical data” on the ancient Scythians. “Esther Jacobson’s talk to my Introduction to Ancient Greece class gave my students a completely different perspective on Herodotus, whose work we had been reading,” said John Rundin, assistant professor of classics. Because the Scythians had no written language, clues to their lives can be gleaned from the archeological record and from ancient texts written about the Scythians. For the past five years Jacobson-Tepfer has spent summers conducting fieldwork in the Altay Mountains of Mongolia, with the goal of shedding new light on the origins of the Scythian people.

Much of her research focuses on surface archeology such as rock art, standing stones and altars found throughout the vast and empty landscape of northern Mongolia.

The name Scythian is often applied in a broader sense to many of the scattered ancient peoples who inhabited regions that stretch from the Carpathian mountains in Eastern Europe in a broad band through the Euranian interior clear to the Altay Mountains in Mongolia and Siberia.

The Scythians left a rich archeological legacy in the Black Sea area. Burials in the area of the Kuban River and in Ukraine and Crimea have been particularly abundant in finely wrought objects of gold and other precious materials.

In conjunction with the Jacobson’s visit, the College of Fine Arts and Humanities presented a six-week lecture series exploring this little known ancient culture. Faculty participating included Paul Alessi, John Rundin, Carol Justus, Bridget Drinka, Jim Gallagher and Chaddie Kruger.

Since 1987, the George W. Brackenridge Foundation has funded annual visits by distinguished scholars from the humanities. Previous Brackenridge Distinguished Visiting Professors include Jacques Barzun, Joan Ferrante, Coleman Barks and Houston Baker Jr.

Reading Place brings young readers and student teachers together

The written word takes center stage at the UTSA Reading Place/Plaza de Lectura, a new center for reading improvement that opened in October at the Downtown Campus.

Sponsored by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Reading Place will bring UTSA education students together with local children who need to improve their reading skills. Undergraduate education majors working toward a reading specialization will tutor children from local elementary schools for an hour each week to assess and identify reading problems.

Similarly, graduate students will get hands-on experience in the art of teaching reading. In the spring, several classes of nonreading majors in the education program will also use the center for fieldwork experience.

“I had a very long waiting list as parents heard about the program and wanted to get their children enrolled,” said Miriam Martinez, assistant professor of education. “As we expand our service, we’ll be able to fill those needs.”

In the Loop news items by Wendy Frost, Elizabeth Green and Lynn Gosnell
Campus Scene

San Antonio, 1999

"Dee-fense!" calls the coach before stamping his feet twice on the basketball floor. "K.Y.P!" he yells to the class of male and female students about to wrap up their weekly scrimmage. When the buzzer sounds and the bedraggled students walk off the court, the 6’8” former basketball forward-center calls out again, a little more quietly this time.

"Good game—Coach Shed loves a game like that."

At 57, Nevil Shed still radiates youthful enthusiasm for a good game. UTSA’s coordinator of wellness and recreation helps oversee an active intramural program that includes basketball, flag football, soccer, softball, tennis and table tennis, among other sports. Part coach and all motivator, he’s got a job that puts him in touch with thousands of UTSA students.

"In rec sports, we deal with everybody—faculty, staff and, most important, the student body," he says, adding, in a voice that reverberates off the cinderblock walls, "I love my job!"

As Shed talks, students wander in and out of his modest office in the basement of the Physical Education Building. A student assistant is trying to finalize a roster for an intramural football tournament, another student wants to compare impressions about the previous night’s Spurs game, a student referee is summoned for a pep talk. In each interaction, Shed manages to be easygoing, polite and direct all at once.

"They know me," he says.

That’s an understatement, according to Suzy Gray, the Wellness and Recreation Program’s director and Shed’s supervisor. "Students are drawn to him like a magnet," says Gray, who first met Shed when both were volunteering for a Special Olympics tournament about a dozen years ago. "He’s one of the jewels of the campus."

Shed’s office—he has another in the Convocation Center—is filled with photos and memorabilia from his 1966 NCAA championship basketball team, Texas Western (now the University of Texas at El Paso).

The students take little, if any, notice of the black and white prints and faded color photos hanging somewhat haphazardly along one wall. They’d have to look hard to see the 15-year-old UTEP basketball poster in the corner that bears an scrawled inscription by Shed’s college coach, Don Haskins. It reads, "Nevil—Thank you so much for your great years of play—I appreciate you so much. Thanks again. Your Daddy Coach Haskins."

They may or may not notice the national championship ring that never leaves his left hand.

And though he doesn’t talk much about it to students who are mostly too young to remember the Civil Rights movement, who think basketball history begins with Michael Jordan and who never heard of a coach named Adolph Rupp, Shed never forgets that he was part of a team that made a difference in college basketball.

New York City to North Carolina and back

Shed’s father, James, worked as a Pullman porter for the Pennsylvania Railroad. His mother, Lillie Mae, worked as a seamstress making lamp shades. They provided a loving and stable home for their two children.

"The one thing I was surely taught was the value of work and the importance of religion," said Shed, whose deep voice sounds as if it could have found a home in the pulpit.

Shed’s peers, teammates and opponents during his formative years included some of the biggest names in the sport, including Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), Wilt Chamberlain, Connie Hawkins, Billy Cunningham, Roger Brown and Earl "The Pearl" Monroe.

After earning all-city honors at Marris High School in the Bronx, Shed was heavily recruited by colleges. "I was offered more than 100 scholarships coming out of high school because Nevil Shed does not sound like a black man’s name," he recalls. "There were more than a few scholarship offers taken back after they found out I was black."

He enrolled at North Carolina A&T University in Durham, only to leave within the year after a disagreement with his coach and numerous unpleasant experiences in the segregated South.

Returning to New York, Shed found work in a hotdog stand. A friend told him about Texas Western College in faraway El Paso. It sounded like a good place to make a new beginning.

Gone to Texas

Nicknamed "the Bear," Coach Don Haskins stressed relentless defense and deliberate offense. He also didn’t care about the color of a player’s skin. Haskins’ players were recruited from city courts all over the
Kentucky Wildcats coach Adolph Rupp, before the finals. No one, except maybe "whooping dogs" were appended to Haskins’ team on all season were Dave "Big Daddy" Lattin, Bobby Joe "Slop" Hill, Osten "Little D" Artis, Willie "Iron Head" Worsley, Harry "the Cricket" Flourney, Will "Scoops" Cager and Nevil "the Shadow" Shed. Haskins inserted 5-6 guard Willie Worsley into the starting lineup in place of Shed to help the Miners keep up with the quicker Wildcats, who were led by future NBA players Pat Riley and Louie Dampier. It was the first time Shed had not started all year. The gamble worked. Worsley scored eight points and grabbed four rebounds. Shed tallied three points and three rebounds. After Kentucky took a 1-0 lead, Haskins that his team was "undisciplined.” Even his players have stated that they were fairly oblivious to the race issue at the time.

The seven black members Haskins relied on all season were Dave “Big Daddy" Lattin, Bobby Joe “Slop” Hill, Osten “Little D” Artis, Willie “Iron Head” Worsley, Harry “the Cricket” Flourney, Will “Scoops” Cager and Nevil “the Shadow” Shed. Haskins inserted 5-6 guard Willie Worsley into the starting lineup in place of Shed to help the Miners keep up with the quicker Wildcats, who were led by future NBA players Pat Riley and Louie Dampier. It was the first time Shed had not started all year.

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Maps and images of the Texas frontier offer glimpses of the geography and the geosophy of explorers. Top right, Canadian River near Camp 38, chromolithograph by T. Sinclair after Heinrich Mollihausen, 1850; center, Map of Texas Shewing the Grants in Possession of the Colorado & Red River Land Company, colored lithograph map by unknown artist, ca. 1835; right, Border of El Llano Estacado, lithograph by Henry Lawrence after unknown artist, 1853; bottom right, A Conical Hill, 500 Feet High, chromolithograph by Heinrich Mollihausen after field sketch of Jules Marcou, 1856. More complete historical information on the sources of these maps and images can be found in Morris' book. Facing page under text, Mapa del Nuevo México por el cosmógrafo Enrico Martínez, by Enrico Martínez, ca. 1602. This is believed to be one of the earliest extant maps of the trans-Mississippi West based on travelers' observations. Black and white versions of these maps appear in Morris' book.
Imagine a landscape so vast, flat and void of trees and structures that it resembles the middle of an ocean more than any place on dry land.

Now imagine crossing such a place by foot or on horseback, with little knowledge of where you are or where you're headed.


By translating texts of diaries and reports, Morris reconstructs a landscape as fascinating and frightening to of Hispano and Anglo-American explorers as the landscape of Mars is to us today.

"It's the largest flatland in North America with one of the richest timelines," he said. "Yet people still don't know much about it."

While glowing up along the edge of the Llano in the Texas Panhandle, Morris said he developed many ties to the landscape through reading works by western writers such as J. Frank Dobie and camping on the Llano as a Boy Scout.

Hoping to invite a renewed appreciation for the environmental issues the Llano faces, Morris said he set out to rediscover a big chunk of Texas and New Mexico. The vast territory—far from power centers of the evolving countries of its explorers—was one of the last frontiers of North America.

Even though it had been one of the first sites in America to see European exploration, it was one of the last to see Native Americans dispossessed.

This treeless borderland, Morris said, is full of romance and intrigue, mirages and illusions. It has intrigued visionaries from Coronado to Georgia O'Keeffe.

Morris originally subtitled the book "Language and Landscape" because of the difference in Hispanic, Native American and European perceptions of the landscape. Names given to certain features, by very different visitors, made impressions on those who saw the Llano either as wealthy with buffalo and gold or dangerous and void of life.

Reviewers have commented on the book's readability—something that surprises those expecting a dry, scientific account, as featureless as the landscape itself.

"It's been called 'loving prose,' which I really like," Morris said.

The book is divided into four parts, half examining the region from the western approach of Hispanic explorers during the 16th–19th centuries and the other half exploring the eastern approach of Anglo-American explorers.

Part One, "Lo Llano: Coronado and the Llano Road to Quivera, 1536–1542," focuses on the famous and infamous expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado (1540–42). By retranslating historic texts and engaging in his own trail detective work, Morris proposes a location for Cona, one of the lost landscapes of Coronado's Trail.

Part Two, "Geography and Geosophy of Spanish Contact, 1542–1860," leaps far into Spanish exploration of the northern frontier of New Spain after Coronado's return. Sporadic expeditions gave way to more strategic military, religious and trading expeditions. Morris' discussion of the imaginative liberties taken by European mapmakers reveals the truly political nature of cartography.

In Part Three, "The Illimitable Prairie: Anglo-American Imagineers and the Romantic Discovery of the Llano Estacado, 1803–1844," Morris shifts his attention to the rediscovery of the land by explorers from the East looking to improve trade routes and shore up political boundaries.

With a very different set of eyes, these explorers reinvented the landscape anew. Their Llano was simultaneously grand, remote and terrible, a "great American desert" brimming with danger.

The last section of the book, "The Great Zahara: National Exploration and Environmental Discovery, 1845–1860," takes up a region that has been partially subsumed by the United States. Into this feared expanse went railroad surveyors, map-making expeditions and visionaries such as Captain John Pope, who reasoned that the arid landscape hid an untapped aquifer.

Morris' book has garnered a number of major awards, including a prestigious Spur Award from the Western Writers of America; the T. R. Fehrenbach Book Award of the Texas Historical Commission; the Texas Institute of Letters Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award; and the Kate Brounks Award of the Texas State Historical Association.

In addition to having the beginnings of another manuscript, which may be a sequel to El Llano Estacado, Morris is working on books about early Texas photographers and about the "real" Texas Rangers of the 1880s.
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Richard R. Hurd '88 BA

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The Janey and Dolph Briscoe Distinguished Professorship

The federal funding for the $1.8 billion Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, inventory controls and entrepreneurial of fields—computer science to build a foundation for a successful career.

Rose has gone from strength to strength in that most intensely entrepreneurial of fields—computer technology and services. In 1994, he and Trina Cooper co-founded Cooper Consulting, a computer systems business. (The couple married and now make their home in Austin.) The Roses have named their scholarship in honor of their fathers, Joseph A. Rose and Sr. Frank Cooper, both deceased.

Cooper Consulting, which grew from less than $250,000 to more than $8 million in sales in its first four years, puts 50-plus employees to work designing systems and providing technical consultants for state agencies.

Projects include financial systems for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, inventory controls and Y2K compliance for the Texas Department of Public Safety and contract work for many other agencies.

Rose shares success with computer science majors

By Stephen J. Cross

Like a lot of students at UTSA, Joe Rose (B.S.’88) worked his way through college. Now, more than ten years out from graduation, he’s easing students’ financial burden by funding scholarships for computer science majors.

“My involvement in computer science and math was truly the basis of my current success,” Rose says.

“I want to give back to UTSA by helping students majoring in computer science to build a foundation for a successful career.”
Educational philanthropist honored at Downtown Campus

By Sarah Nawrocki

On Nov. 5, the Frio Street auditorium at the UTSA Downtown Campus was dedicated to Sam J. Riklin, a longtime friend of UTSA and champion of education.

Riklin, who died in September following a lengthy illness, was president and CEO of Advertising and Marketing Services, Inc., a firm he founded in 1965. Plans had long been under way to honor Riklin’s support of the campus by naming the facility the Sam J. Riklin Auditorium.

An advocate of educational opportunities for young people, Riklin spearheaded a $1.3 million scholarship initiative for the Downtown Campus in 1996 and 1997. As part of this initiative, he personally sponsored 150 twoday scholarships for students.

“Providing educational opportunities for our kids is the best way to assure our community’s future,” Riklin said during the Downtown Campus’ 1997 opening. “I can think of no smarter investment than the one we make in education and improving the future of our young people.”

Riklin grew up in San Antonio and attended Brackenridge High School and St. Mary’s University before earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley. He continued his education at Stanford University, where he earned a master’s degree in accounting and economics.

“Sam wanted kids to have the opportunities our family did not have, and he believed in education as a solution to many problems,” said Riklin’s brother, Art. “He made it his mission later in life to contribute as much as he could to education, and to see that his projects would continue after him.”

In 1991 Riklin gave a leadership gift to launch a multimillion dollar campaign for Diploma Plus, a program designed to help high school students stay in school.

“I felt that a lot of kids, without the tools of education, would be demeaned so much in 16 or 20 years from now in low-level jobs that they’d never be able to share in the fruits of democracy, which I’ve been able to share in,” Riklin said in a 1996 interview with the San Antonio Express-News.

Diploma Plus is unusual in that it targets students who may not already be college bound. The program, offered through the Rotary Club of San Antonio, provides monthly financial assistance to high school seniors to help them spend more time studying instead of working. Although there are numerous scholarships rewarding high academic achievement, before Diploma Plus was established none were available to students who showed potential but were in danger of leaving school due to financial pressures. These students are often the first in their family to attend college.

Unlike many charities, Diploma Plus has minute operating costs. Riklin insisted that 100 percent of the funds raised go to students; his staff donates the administrative and marketing phases of the program.

“When my father developed the program, he wanted to be sure that as much money as possible went to scholarships, that very little was absorbed by the overhead of running the charity,” said Riklin’s son, Seth, who added that his father thought he’d be happy raising enough money for 35 scholarships over three years. “He never anticipated the success the program has seen.”

Diploma Plus has provided scholarships to about 1,200 high school students, more than 80 percent of whom have gone on to college.

Getting to this level of success was not easy, Rose admits. Before the endless working days that mark the true entrepreneur, he struggled through his junior and senior years.

“That’s why I wanted to create these scholarships. I know how tough it can be to make ends meet while working toward a demanding degree.”

In October, Rose met with the first three scholarship recipients—Kevin Jennings, Rita Arsenault and Jason Cochetti.

Richard Sincovec, director of the division of computer science, said, “We look for people who not just excel academically but have a strong ability to communicate, and who give back to the community through volunteering.”

Before coming to UTSA, Jennings worked for many years servicing medical equipment. He aims for graduate school and a doctorate. The scholarship helps financially, and with two kids approaching high school, Jennings is especially delighted about the lesson his kids may draw from the award: hard academic work can pay off.

Arsenault, a mother of two and one of the few women in the computer science program, is contemplating working in human services after graduation.

Cochetti was a telecommunications specialist in the U.S. Army before landing in San Antonio after a base closure.

A relative newcomer to the computer science field—he insists that before 1995 he thought computers were just for playing games—he is fast becoming an expert. He is active in Cyberbytes, the UTSA chapter of the national student computer science organization.

Rose acknowledges that a university degree—and a scholarship—can open doors to different kinds of success.

“Above all, I want to help my scholarship students build something challenging and meaningful from their education, and through that find their own happiness.”
Kendra Trachta, the new library director at the Institute of Texan Cultures, presides over a hidden treasure of documentary and historical materials pertaining to the life and lore of Texans.

A little too hidden, says Trachta, who wants to develop an online catalog of the photos, oral histories, books and other materials that comprise this unique collection.

"One of my main jobs is helping researchers access our materials, but I’m also organizing what’s here so we can move ahead," says Trachta, who holds an M.S. in library and information science from the University of Texas at Austin.

The holdings of the institute’s research library include 6,000 books (scholarly and popular works on immigration and ethnic heritage, ranching culture, architectural history and folklore; vertical files (newspaper clippings, correspondence and other published documents); archival and manuscript material (maps, business records, diaries, ledgers; tape-recorded and transcribed oral histories (more than 500 interviews conducted by volunteers between 1968 and 1997); audio- and videotapes (sound recordings, film and video produced by graduate students and institute staff); archival materials in microfilm and microfiche (early Texas newspapers, census data, city directories); and periodicals and photographs.

This photographic archive, a trove of 3.5 million historical and documentary images, represents a fragile and irreplaceable record of more than a century of life in Texas.

The archive includes photographs from the San Antonio Light (1924–93), and San Antonio Express-News (1940s–90), and the Zintgraff Photography Studio Collection (1930s to 1987), and a general collection that includes more than 40,000 photographs donated by individuals and institutions.

This general collection, pieced together...
to Texas past

over the past 20 years, documents “the changing cultural landscape in Texas,” according to the library’s guidelines.

The same phrase could aptly be applied to the entire archive, though it does not begin to reveal the breadth of images contained in the collection—of the famous and not-so-famous, special occasions and everyday life, the natural landscape, architecture and industry of the region. San Antonio figures prominently in these images, many of which reveal the ghost of a cityscape, lost in fact but preserved in these images and in many older residents’ memories.

“Some people who come in,” Trachta says, “are looking for a link to their past.” Approximately 50,000 4x5 negatives have been contact printed, with the prints filed in wooden and metal library card cabinets for easier use by patrons. Seventy-five percent of the images are available in negative form only. These negatives are kept in an environmentally controlled room, built in 1989, that is designed to preserve black and white negatives. Color negatives require colder storage.

Tom Shelton, who has worked with the photos since 1978, probably knows the archive and the history behind the photographs better than anyone does. Along with Trachta and staff member Chris Floerke, Shelton has helped place the collection’s photographs in the hands of such disparate sources as historians, architecture firms, magazines, television and music producers, academic presses and journals, publishers and individuals searching for records of family and business life.

Alice Sackett, another longtime staff member and librarian, helps organize negatives and prints, following standards set by the Library of Congress.

Together with a loyal core of about 25 volunteers, the staff must regularly attend to the Sisyphean task of cataloging, labeling, filing and other essential organizing tasks.

The photographs are the library’s biggest audience draw. On any given month, staff members field approximately 100 phone calls and e-mail queries regarding the use and publication of these images.

The public can purchase prints of most images, depending on copyright restrictions. The institute, well known for its educational and photographic displays on the exhibit floor, processes many photo orders in-house.

The library’s hours are noon to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Researchers may make appointments to use the library during the morning hours by calling 258-2228. The service-oriented staff recommends calling ahead so that they may retrieve materials in advance.

Trachta, who has spent her first two months documenting the “points of access” to each photo collection, remains undaunted by the task before her.

“There’s so much potential here.”
Since Crystal Ragsdale (B.A. ’97) graduated with a degree in communication, she has worked, been out of work and landed her dream job. Now she has some insights to share with students who are about to embark on that journey known as searching for gainful employment.

“Wake up . . . and appreciate the knowledge that is being extended to you. You can’t go back. Life is not a test you can cram for.”

Secondly, to those who are genuinely studious, remember that the best students . . . are those who turn what they learned in class and read in books into consistent work habits,” she advises.

In particular, Ragsdale cites Amiso George, assistant professor of communication, for teaching her the skills that led to her current post as research director for local CBS affiliate KENS-TV. At the station, Ragsdale creates sales pitches and analyzes various media outlets.

Ragsdale went to interviews with a small portfolio of press releases, media kits and campaign pitches.

“That small portfolio, sheer determination to succeed and the public relations courses from UTSA are what landed this job that I love so much,” she said.

Tales of job success for graduates of UTSA’s unique communication major are partly responsible for the surge in enrollment in this relatively new major. This fall, 458 students have declared communication as their major.

“We’re the largest degree program in the College of Fine Arts and Humanities and still growing,” said Steven Levitt, associate professor of communication and assistant director of the division.

Levitt came to UTSA in 1991 to help create the program, which was up and running by 1994.

The degree offers four concentrations: speech, technical, electronic media and public relations communications. Of the four, the public relations component is the most popular with students. Levitt notes that UTSA’s public relations component takes a broader perspective than most journalism-based majors do.

“We look at public relations from a strategic planning perspective. We also have an very active internship program that places students in advertising and public relations agencies, radio and television stations, nonprofit organizations, health care systems and telecommunications companies,” he said.

Though the concentration in speech communication is fairly traditional, said Levitt, the technical and electronic concentrations reveal the program’s unique stamp. Technical communication includes coursework in writing and visual communication with applications for Internet and CD-ROM design.

The electronic media component focuses on the technical side of communications, including data networking, needs assessment and how technologies are put to use for communication.

“We have a strong emphasis on the use of technology for communication,” Levitt said.

He knows his program’s graduates not only do well in the job market, they also have shown an interest in pursuing graduate degrees. Plans to inaugurate a master’s degree in communication are also on the table.

To cope with the large student load, the department will hire three new faculty by next fall. Meanwhile, alumni such as Ragsdale are helping to spread the word about the program’s strengths.

“I’m fortunate to have had a great experience and great teachers,” she said.

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Balloon Fest ’99

Thousands of children enjoyed trick-or-treating among hot air balloons at UTSA Alumni Balloon Fest at Retama Park. Pilots in costume handed out candy while many parents served as balloon crew. The Halloween weekend festival, in its third year, is presented by ReMax Realtors.

By Elizabeth Green
Volleyball team captures Southland Conference title

Led by two-time Southland Conference “Player of the Year” Tamara Luckemeyer, the UTSA volleyball team captured its first Southland Conference (SLC) title, winning 16 straight matches and giving SLC “Coach of the Year” Katrinka Jo Crawford something to brag about.

“I’ve won other conference titles while I was at Lamar, but this one is extra special because it is the school’s first. I’m very glad to be a part of that,” Crawford said.

The Roadrunners’ run to the SLC title started on Sept. 25, when they defeated McNeese State 3-1 in Lake Charles, La. Fourteen matches later, they had yet to lose a match. UTSA’s win streak came to an end against nationally ranked Florida on Nov. 13. The team lost to McNeese State during the semifinal round at the Southland Conference Tournament on Nov. 19.

“I have a group of girls that work just as hard as any team I’ve ever coached and I’m very excited for them because they know now that hard work pays off,” Crawford said.

She has guided the team to a 65-55 record in four seasons. This was the Roadrunners best season ever.

Crawford is not the only one who is excited about the team’s achievement.

“I think when we see the banner hanging in the gym, it will hit us,” Luckemeyer said.

The junior outside hitter has been the leader and “go-to” player for the Roadrunners all season and leads the team and the SLC in kills per game (5.08). She had her best match of the season in the victory over Stephen F. Austin, collecting 28 kills with a percentage of .383.
Winter 1999

CALENDAR

What's a snowball's chance in San Antonio? Very slim this year according to long-range weather forecasts. The weather phenomenon known as La Niña continues to produce above normal temperatures over much of the country's south-central region. Although not likely, the best chance of snow is in late December or early January, according to the Farmer's Almanac. It could happen.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Web site reports less than a thin inch of snowfall on Jan. 13, 1982. On Jan. 2, 1985, a 2.4-inch frosting heralded the whopping 13.5-inch snowfall of Jan. 11–13. (UTSA classes were not yet in session, though.) just over an inch was recorded Jan. 21, 1987. The most recent year NOAA reported snow in San Antonio is 1988, and then it was only a dusting.

On Jan. 17, 1982, UTSA President James Wagener closed campus when the white stuff started falling. Although it didn't stick, according to one witness, most staff and students hit the road. Staff photographer John Poindexter grabbed his camera and headed outside to record the rare moment.

“The students who did stay around found an opportunity to have a little fun on campus,” Poindexter said. Posing three students, he instructed them to “act like you're throwing the snowballs at me.” He snapped the shot a moment before the snow hit him.

The last laugh

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<td>14 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>JPL 4.03.08</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Commencement</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17–19 Food Representation in Literature, Film and the Other Arts Conference</td>
<td>9–April 14 Neo-Rococo Exhibition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Times TBA Downtown Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 or 25 (TBA) Doctors in Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 p.m. Ticket price TBA, Buena Vista Street Building Theater. Downtown Campus</td>
<td>9 Canadian Brass Special Concert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 458-5685.</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. Recital Hall. Tickets $50.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 American Institute of Architects</td>
<td>11 UTSA hosts Spanish competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Beaux Arts Ball</td>
<td>Call 458-4373.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 226-4979.</td>
<td>22 COFAH Advisory Council dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>24–25 Spring Opera Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Institute of Architects 2000 Beaux Arts Ball</td>
<td>8 p.m. Buena Vista Street Building Theater. UTSA Downtown Campus. Tickets TBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 226-4979.</td>
<td>Call 458-5685.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>26 Spring Opera Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIOAH Advisory Council dinner</td>
<td>3 p.m. Buena Vista Street Building Theater. UTSA Downtown Campus. Tickets TBA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. Business Building University Room.</td>
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AS USUAL THAT YEAR, UELA’S HOUSE WAS CROWDED WITH VIEJOS, THE OLD ONES, FOR A CHRISTMAS FIESTA. All of her brothers and sisters were there, along with my aunts and uncles. Most of my cousins were playing in the large backyard, lit up by a streetlamp Uncle Frank had installed just for the occasion. At these family pachangas, these gatherings of the tribe, I was always attracted to los viejos and the slow quiet that seemed to revolve around them.

Whether we were in one of our houses or encamped for an afternoon in one of San Antonio’s thick-gladed parks, their presence, confident and wise, made it feel as if we were all denizens of a secret Mestizo city, a world that existed parallel to the apparent physical lineaments of the city everyone else saw. There was a sense of ceremony around them: Uela; Madrina; Tia Pepa; Uncles Frank, Jess, Manuel, Chale, and Gilbert. Plates of aunt Minnie’s fresh Christmas bean and chicken tamales were especially prepared and set before los viejos, along with a Negra Modelo beer, poured into freezer-chilled fountain glasses. The tamales were delectable corn masa dumplings, some pork, some bean, some chicken, wrapped tightly in pale corn husks. A bowl was passed around with fresh jalapeños to be bitten raw, along with a mouthful of tamal. Among that generation, they ate chile into their nineties impervious to the stomach ailments that force many middle-aged Mexicanos these days to renounce the “fire of the earth,” as one uncle calls it. The room was quiet, except for the sound of them eating and gently sipping their beers.

Time took on a different quality around them. There was never any alarm. All could be witnessed. Everything could be endured. Elsewhere in our lives, we were careening through a century of accelerating atrocities and wonders. The bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the tremors of the 1960s over civil rights struggles and the Vietnam war, even the Apollo landings on the moon passed before the Garcías as if they were watching a long movie.

“We have to admit we like things to be easier than they were before,” Uncle Frank once told me. “But there will always be pain.”

Around los viejos, it seemed time was spiraling in cycles that eventually brought us around the same curving nebula of tales and trials. The grief of a new widow. An uncle leaning heavily on the tequila. Famine brought on by war, revolution, or a change in the weather. A grandchild crazed on drugs, with no respect for anyone. They gave you the sense that the story was always longer than just the tale being told. It didn’t matter how desperate these times appeared to be to others. They knew how the world could spin through long spells of grief and solace, need and succor.

That Christmas, the Garcías had a message drawn from their long years of witness:

This too shall pass.
