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What eggs-actly are these young people up to? UTSA’s Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) brings math-minded junior and senior high school students to campus for eight weeks every summer.
The University honored its best and brightest at the annual Honors Convocation held March 28 in the University Center. Students and advisers from 18 honor societies and the University Honors Program were recognized during the ceremony.

During his speech to the assembly, Ashbel Smith Professor of Comparative Literature Steven Kellman recalled that a midlevel administrator had opposed the creation of an undergraduate honors program 20 years ago.

“He lost his argument, and UTSA’s University Honors Program thrives, along with honors programs in several individual disciplines.”

Recognized during the roll call were seven all-discipline honor societies: Alpha Chi, Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key, Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Order of Omega and the University Honors Student Association as well as college-specific honor societies.

The college honor societies were Omicron Delta Epsilon (College of Business), Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity and Sigma Tau Delta (College of Fine Arts and Humanities), Alpha Epsilon Delta, Sigma Gamma Epsilon and the Engineering Honor Society (College of Sciences and Engineering); and Chi Sigma Iota, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Alpha Theta, Psi Chi and Sigma Delta Pi (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences).

Students and academic scholarship recipients from the University Honors Program received additional recognition. “Equipping the unprepared for college work is still a challenge,” Kellman said, “one that is the responsibility of high schools and grade schools at least as much as a university. But recognizing and encouraging excellence is not incompatible with the mission of an institution created to provide equal opportunity. In fact, it is its fulfillment.”

— Lynn Gosnell

Americanos: Latino Life in the United States is a traveling photographic exhibition depicting life in various Hispanic communities across the nation. The photos, taken by 30 prize-winning photojournalists, will be displayed in the Institute of Texas Cultures’ Lower Gallery through July 30. Americanos was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives and is part of a collaborative effort with Olmos Productions. The show is part of a cultural tourism partnership between the Institute of Texas Cultures, the Alameda Theater and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. The exhibition is free and open to the public.

Honored students

“Aristotle imagined the entire universe as consisting of potentialities in the process of being actualized. Acorns exist to become trees. But what will be the arc of an individual human life?”

La Vida Latina

First Communion Day, by Antonio Perez
Faculty honored for teaching, research and service to students

Eight faculty members were lauded for achievements in teaching, research and service at the 2000 Faculty Honors Convocation in May.

Michael Almeida and Matthew Wayner each received the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for research. Almeida, associate professor of philosophy, has published 10 articles and three reviews in the past 10 years, and he recently completed one book and is at work on another. Wayner, the Jane and Roland Blumberg Professor of Life Sciences, is credited with helping to transform the division from primarily its strong research component.

Recognized for their accomplishments in Core Curriculum teaching were Ronald Ayers, associate professor of economics, and Patricia Brewer, senior lecturer in the Division of Life Sciences. Ayers is a sought-after teacher of Introduction to Political Economy, and he recently became co-director of the UTSA Center for Economic Education. Brewer has taught a variety of core courses required by both biology majors and nursing and physical therapy students. She has been instrumental in the effort to establish the biology degree at the Downtown Campus.

Steven Levitt, associate professor of communication, earned the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Service. Levitt overseeing the creation of the communication degree, which has grown to about 550 majors in five years, and is working to establish a master’s degree in communication.

Three faculty members received the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching Excellence. Mark Allen, associate professor of English, consistently receives high student approval ratings. He is a past recipient of the Chancellor’s Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

Molly Lynch, visiting assistant professor of psychology, is another favorite among students. For two years, she has averaged a score of 6.68 on a seven-point scale for classroom teaching. James McDonald, associate professor of anthropology, is known for designing courses that address practical skills such as résumé writing and research design. He is a sought-after advisor, and his courses also are popular with non-anthropology majors.

McDonald was honored with the Chancellor’s Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

— Roxanne Llewellyn
In the Loop

Student Profile

Jennifer Black

“The week before the semifinals, [Metropolitan Opera staff] were very nurturing. The second week, they had us stand on our own a little more.”

Those weeks were filled with coaching sessions—singing coaches, foreign language coaches and movement coaches. Black was the first of the 10 finalists to take the Metropolitan stage for the audition. Professional opera hair and makeup bolstered her confidence, but she still found the performance nerve-wracking. Her motions as she sang Dvorak’s haunting Song to the Moon involved looking down.

“I saw the audience. It was a full house—thousands,” she recalls. Although Black was not one of the five Grand Finalists, she was pleased with her performance. “The important thing was that there were a lot of very important people there. I got heard.”

When Black returned to UTSA after her success at the Met, relaxation was not on the program. “We had The Magic Flute three weeks after I came back. Keeping up with classwork was difficult.”

She advises other aspiring opera singers to prepare themselves emotionally as well as musically and physically. “I was not emotionally prepared for how draining it would be.”

What comes next for the budding opera star? “I want to do the Met apprenticeship, but not next fall,” she said. “I want to finish my degree first. In fact, I’d like to take just one semester of only core courses, be a regular student for a change.”

— Susan Flynt England

Building Folk

Domingo Yruegas helps fabricate exhibits for the Institute of Texan Cultures, but for a few months out of the year his work with the production department takes him outside to the 20-acre grounds that surround the main building and exhibit floor. There he builds a gigantic temporary exhibit known as the Texas Folklife Festival.

For two years, Yruegas has acted as one of the crew leaders who ensure the safe and timely construction of the festival’s stages, booths and outdoor exhibit areas. In 1999, he became the construction team leader. As the supervisor of a team of up to 10 temporary workers, Yruegas leads a monumental effort—both the construction and removal of the four-day festival site. Yruegas’ positive attitude and leadership abilities are the reasons the Institute staff voted him Employee of the Year in 1999.

— Patty Burrus

¡Bravo!

Manuel Berriozábal, professor of mathematics, named a charter member of the Texas Science Hall of Fame, Yolanda Leyva, assistant professor of history, elected general coordinator for the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies; College of Sciences and Engineering undergraduates Ricardo Ramirez, Yesenia Rodriguez and Jacqueline Roman, recipients of scholarships from the National Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists (MAES), Youn-Min Chou, professor of mathematics and statistics, recently named a Fellow of the American Society for Quality for academic teaching in statistical process control, Bertha Pérez, associate dean for the Downtown Campus, one of 20 women chosen to participate in the National Hispana Leadership Institute this summer.
Roadrunners wrap up spring sports

By Rick Nixon

The winter and early spring seasons featured many individual and team accomplishments. To read more about Roadrunner sports, log on to www.utsa.edu/sports/index.html.

Basketball
For the 12th time in 19 seasons, the UTSA men's basketball team won at least 15 games and this year finished in third place in the Southland Conference (SLC) with a 15-13 record. However, UTSA came up short in its quest for a second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament after losing to Southwest Texas State in the first round of the SLC Tournament. The Roadrunners were well-represented on the All-SLC team, as sophomore Devin Brown, seniors Lloyd Williams and Leon Watson, and sophomore McEverett Powers earned accolades for their play.

With 10 new faces on the team and an interim head coach, the UTSA women's basketball team was inconsistent and finished in a tie for 11th place in the SLC standings with a 7-20 overall record. Center Keelah Wilson was the standout performer. She finished fourth in the Southland Conference. The team's top individual moment was senior rightfielder Ryan Smith's home run against Texas A&M, the first blanking of an Aggie baseball team in 204 games.

Despite the quick start, the Roadrunners would struggle the rest of the way, ending the season with a 17-37 record, 10th place in the Southland Conference. The Roadrunners were well-represented on the All-SLC team, as sophomore McEverett Powers earned accolades for their play.

Baseball
Highlighting the season was UTSA's win over Texas A&M, the first blanking of an Aggie baseball team in 204 games. The UTSA softball team concluded a season that saw UTSA win two regular season championships, a first for Roadrunner golf. Led by seniors Magnus Dohlvik, Randy Jones and Jimmy Muse, the team captured titles at the Oral Roberts and Sam Houston State Invitational.

Rae Rippetoe-Blair was named the head women's basketball coach in May. Rippetoe-Blair, who is the seventh head coach in school history, served as an assistant coach at Oklahoma State University for the past eight seasons. She replaces interim head coach Jeff Dow, who led the Roadrunners to a 7-20 record in 1999-2000 (see above).

Indoor Track and Field
UTSA faced the 2000 indoor track and field season with a pair of young teams. The men's team finished seventh in the 11-team field at the SLC Indoor Championships. Senior Kevin Youngblood was the Roadrunners' top performer. He won the 400-meter dash, placed in the high jump and anchored the 1,600-meter relay.

The women's team finished ninth in competition. The team was led by sophomore Tiffany Talbert, who finished second in the 60-meter hurdles, and junior Anita Gonzalez, who scored points in the one-mile and 3,000-meter events.

Golf
For the second time in four years, the golf team finished a single stroke away from winning the conference championship. The performance capped a solid season that saw UTSA win two regular season championships, a first for Roadrunner golf.

Tennis
The Roadrunner women ended the season with a 13-6 record and were represented on the All-SLC team in singles by sisters Louise and Eva Soderkvist, and freshman Svenja Fuhrig. The Soderkvist tandem of senior Louise and sophomore Eva was the conference choice in No. 2 doubles. The women's tennis team lost to UT Arlington in the conference match of the 2000 SLC Tournament.

The UTSA men's tennis team rallied to finish the season with a 7-11 record, advancing to the semifinals of the SLC Tournament before dropping a match to Louisiana-Monroe. Sophomore transfer Frederik Darmont was named the conference's Newcomer of the Year. Darmont, along with junior Andy Murillo and sophomore Justin Work, were named to the All-SLC men's singles teams, while in doubles Murillo and sophomore Todd Petty were the No. 1 tandem.

Softball
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Tennis
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Softball
The UTSA softball team concluded a record-setting 2000 season by finishing in second place at the Southland Conference Softball Tournament held in Natchitoches, La. The Roadrunners, who also finished second during the regular season, established a school record with 39 wins. The team also set conference and school records with 64 home runs this season. Junior Denise Briggs was named conference Pitcher of the Year. UTSA placed eight players on All-Southland teams, with Briggs, Chetse Connar and Amanda Michalsky each earning first team honors.
Gazing out the window is a favorite escape for some high school students who dream of the day they’ll be out of the classroom, heading somewhere more exciting. When Valérie Fuentes looked out of Lanier High School’s windows on San Antonio’s near West Side, she could see her destiny being constructed just down the street.

The freshman business management student says that UTSA’s Downtown Campus was her first choice when she considered going to college because of its diverse student population and its proximity to her home. Fuentes also liked the prospect of taking classes on a new campus.

“I wanted to be a part of that,” she says. “I’m seeing it grow.”

Fuentes is among two dozen students from San Antonio’s Lanier and Memorial high schools who have just finished their first year of college as part of a new scholarship program at UTSA.

ACE (Access College and Excel) is a collaborative effort between UTSA and USAA, the San Antonio-based insurance and financial services corporation.

The program includes a $1,000 scholarship, which is funded by USAA and is renewable for the student’s sophomore year. Each ACE scholarship student also is paired with a mentor from USAA, students and mentors meet at group socials three times a semester and are encouraged to develop relationships outside the group setting.

“We encourage them to exchange e-mail addresses. That’s what it’s about—having a friend to call on,” Gentry says. “It’s the support network that’s going to make this program successful.”

Valérie Fuentes has found a friend in her mentor, Janice Randolph, executive director of regional services for USAA.

“When Gentry invited her to be an ACE mentor, Randolph’s thoughts were of her own 20-year-old twin daughters. ‘Since they won’t listen to what I told them, I sure hoped she [Valerie] would,’ Randolph says. ‘I think she does listen to me. We like each other a lot…’ I think our personalities are compatible, and she doesn’t hesitate to tell me what’s on her mind.’ ”

Fuentes agrees. She and Randolph talk on the phone regularly about everything from school and careers to their personal lives. “We talk about funny little things. I can talk to her about boys,” Fuentes says.

Above all, Fuentes appreciates the fact that her mentor volunteers her time. Randolph comes to every ACE social and is always available to talk to her on the phone simply because she wants to.

“In their first semester, 10 ACE scholars achieved a 3.0 or better grade point average. ‘The rest all did generally well,’” Vásquez says.

For the 2000–2001 school year, the ACE program will renew scholarships for students who stay with the program and provide scholarships to 24 incoming freshmen, broadening its pool base to include Harlandale High School.

The $1,000 scholarship certainly helps the students, many of whom work in addition to going to school in order to supplement their family income.

But the core of ACE is probably the mentoring program. Though students and their mentors meet officially at the

The emphasis of the ACE program, Gentry says, is “identifying students that had the potential but perhaps wouldn’t get to college.”
Personal and powerful

Books on business, narrowly defined, are not on James Gaertner’s recommended reading list. Instead, topping the list for the retiring dean of the College of Business is an insightful autobiography of a remarkable person.

**Personal History**, the autobiography of Katherine Graham, the former publisher of the *Washington Post*, is a dramatically honest, well-written and significant record by a woman who both witnessed and shaped her times. It provides insight into how an important business is run with honor, courage and determination.

Katherine Meyer Graham was born in New York in 1917, the child of a wealthy Jewish businessman and his socialite wife. Graham attended some of the best preparatory schools and later graduated from the University of Chicago. After her graduation, she began work in her lifelong vocation, journalism.

Two key events occurred in 1935. First, he helped found the Wilderness Society. Second, he purchased 80 acres of land that had at one time been forest but later was logged, overgrazed by dairy cows and left decimated. Leopold, along with his wife and children, began the process of restoring the land. He not only kept detailed records of what occurred such as the blooming of the draba, a small wildflower, or the first appearance in the spring of an upland plover, but he developed the concept of a land ethic. He writes, “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the aesthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture.”

Leopold could not find an ethic dealing with humans’ relationship to land and the plants, animals, insects and other creatures that live upon it. His land ethic merely asked that soils, water, plants and animals—the land—he included as members of the community, with a right “to continued existence, and, at least in spots, their continued existence in a natural state.”

Also recommended by Henderson: Eric Freyfogle’s *Bounded People, Boundless Lands: Envisioning a New Land Ethic* (Island Press, 1998). This book by a law professor expands on Leopold’s ideas. It calls for people to tell “good stories, stories about how people and land come together.”
Graham deals honestly and sensitively with the tragedy of the death of her husband, Phil Graham. He was a Harvard-educated lawyer, a brilliant and charismatic confidant to both John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. However, at the pinnacle of his life, he began to plunge into a mental illness that culminated in suicide.

On the public side, Graham tells how she, Ben Bradlee and others (including Robert Woodward and Carl Bernstein) worked through the maze of the Watergate and Pentagon Papers affairs. Her great admiration and affection for her colleagues at the Post are evident throughout her account of this extremely difficult time. Graham’s friendships and associations with influential people, from Warren Buffet to Truman Capote, are also recounted in fascinating detail.

This story of overcoming personal and professional challenge and ultimately coming out on top is a compelling read. Also recommended by Gaertner: The Twilight of Sovereignty by Walter W. Wesley (Replica Books, 1997). Written by a successful and progressive business executive, this book looks at how technology impacts international business and subverts geopolitical boundaries.

Tall-ship sailing

Weldon Hammond, interim dean of the College of Sciences and Engineering, sticks to a water theme for his reading recommendations. A retired captain in the U.S. Navy, Hammond used to “drive ships for a living,” he says. He is one of the millions of enthusiastic fans of Patrick O’Brien’s novels.

Patrick O’Brien’s stories of the Royal Navy back in the 1800s are my light reading. O’Brien is the author of a fascinating series of historical fiction novels usually referred to as the Aubrey-Maturin series, which is available in hardback, paperback and audiobook. They are set during the time of the Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century and feature two main characters—Jack Aubrey and Stephen Maturin. The first book is called Master and Commander.

The books are scrupulously detailed accounts of a bygone era and feature the spectacularly beautiful tall ships of Admiral Nelson’s Royal Navy. O’Brien researched original ships’ logs to create the sailing life in arcane historical detail. He has taken some liberties, for example, some ships appear in the wrong places and some characters appear somewhat out of historical context, but the general idea of the settings is true.

I’ve read about half of the 20-volume series and am trying to conserve them. O’Brien was working on the 21st book when he died suddenly in January. He was 85.

I also recommend A Sea of Words: A Lexicon and Companion for Patrick O’Brien’s Seafaring Tales by Dean King (Henry Holt, 1997). If you want to truly appreciate the historical terms used in the series, you need the lexicon.

Before O’Brien achieved his immense popularity, E. M. Forster was the best-known writer of naval fiction. So I also recommend Forster’s Capt. Horatio Hornblower series, an enduring classic and a great escape. Also recommended by Hammond: Forensic Engineering: Environmental Case Histories for Civil Engineers and Geologists by Gerard Shuirman and James E. Slosson (Academic Press, 1992). Learn from disaster. This book details eight case histories of environmentally related failures due to ground movement and flooding. Hammond assigns these real-life stories to his classes.

The play’s the thing

Alan Craven, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities and a avid Shakespearean, recommends seeing some plays by his favorite author this summer.

There is no more enjoyable summer experience than seeing a Shakespeare play—or two or three. So instead of a reading list, here’s my summer viewing list—of Shakespeare, Shakespeare and more Shakespeare.

My first-choice in venue to see a play is the new Globe Theatre in London, an exact reconstruction of Shakespeare’s original Globe on Bankside. Here the action takes place on a richly decorated stage that projects into the open-air theater’s central yard. Standing spectators surround the stage as in Shakespeare’s day or sit on benches in the galleries.

Also in London, the Royal National Theatre is featuring its own Hamlet, and, in an experimental venue, Ralph Fiennes stars at the Almeida Theatre in two very different treatments of political power in Richard II and the Roman play Coriolanus. Another summer tradition in London is the open-air productions of Shakespeare at Regent’s Park. An outdoor performance on a warm summer evening is an unforgettable experience.

England’s other center of Shakespearean performance is, of course, Stratford-upon-Avon in the three theaters of the Royal Shakespeare Company. A trip to Stratford could include some exploration of Shakespeare’s life and times to get you in the proper mood for viewing some of these plays.

Traveling the country this summer? There is an abundance of productions on this side of the Atlantic, such as the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in Boulder, the New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park, New York City, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland.

Closer still, Shakespeare visits the Houston Shakespeare Festival, University of Houston, the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, and Fort Worth’s Shakespeare in the Park. San Antonio has its own fledgling Shakespearean summer season in the ¡Arts San Antonio! Shakespeare in the Park production of Romeo and Juliet, June 8-11.
They didn’t make Oprah’s list, but they certainly top ours. Recent publications by faculty authors reveal breadth of academic research.

By Rebecca Luther

Explore ancient civilizations with Río Azul (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999), written by Richard E.W. Adams, anthropology professor. Adams was part of an expedition that in 1962 discovered and initially explored the ruins of the Mayan city Río Azul, located in the forests of northern Guatemala. Adams returned to Río Azul two decades later, and, between 1983 and 1987, led a thorough investigation of the site, which contained remains dating from 900 B.C. to A.D. 850.

In his preface, Adams describes his exploration of Río Azul as “the most exciting, exhausting, exasperating, exhilarating project that I have ever undertaken.” But it’s certainly not Adams’ only recent project. “There’s always something in the pipeline,” he says. Two forthcoming books are Cities of Ancient Mesoamerica (University of Colorado Press), which Adams co-authored, and The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas: Mesoamerica (Cambridge University Press), which he co-edited. The latter, part of a series on the native civilizations of the Americas, traces the cultural history and evolutionary development of such groups as the Maya and the Aztec.

Félix D. Almaráz Jr., professor of history, profiles another historian in Knight Without Armor: Carlos Eduardo Castañeda, 1896–1958 (Texas A&M University Press, 1999). Castañeda served as librarian of the Latin American Collection and professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. He also was superintendent of the San Felipe School District in the 1930s and regional director of President Franklin Roosevelt’s Committee on Fair Employment Practice during World War II. Castañeda was the author of 18 books, including the definitive study, Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519–1950, and nearly 50 articles.

“In the world of academe Castañeda led a quiet and productive life, continually striving to perfect his style and technique as a Texas borderlands historian of first rank,” Almaráz writes. “Few individuals today, scholars or nonspecialists, are aware of Castañeda’s incredible struggle to overcome serious financial barriers and ethnic discrimination that threatened his ambition of becoming a university teacher and historian. As a lone, yet courageous precursor of the civil rights movement of later decades, Carlos clearly personified the ideal from which evolved the title for his biography—a knight without armor.”

Almaráz has another new book, Cisneros 2000: Faces of the Borderland, (Sundance Press, 1999), for which he wrote historical text to accompany the pen and ink drawings of his friend, artist and illustrator José Cisneros.
teams his family cheered for had names like Los Mineros.

“Daily railroad trains passing near our home, with their sched- uled, noisy transit to and fro, literally dotted the tracks with bits of fallen cargo. I remember the chunks of lustrous, black coal my childhood friends and I picked up on our frequent forays into the woods and onto the tracks,” Calderón writes.

In the book, Calderón discusses the establishment of the mines on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, changes in mining tech- niques, and the working conditions and labor activity of Mexican workers.

The seeds for Roberto R. Calderón's new book, Mexican Coal Mining Labor in Texas and Coahuila, 1880-1930 (Texas A&M University Press, 2000), were planted as he was growing up along the Texas-Coahuila border.

For Calderón, an assistant professor in the Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, reminders of the region's coal- mining roots were ever present during his childhood, even the Triple A baseball teams his family cheered for had names like Los Mineros.

“I was surprised that, as adults, they could remember things that happened to them in first and second grade,” Orange says.

Orange collected more than 300 anecdotes, which she offers along with her own advice on how the bad situation could have been remedied or avoided altogether. Though the book covers broad areas such as teacher insensitivity, favoritism and classroom poli- cies, Orange believes many of the mistakes could be attributed to one underlying cause: the way teachers were trained in the “hickory stick” era. Her solutions are based on her belief that education should be: “as student-centered as possible and humanistic.”

Christopher J. Wickham, associate professor of German, takes a look at the changing culture of contemporary Germany in his book, Constructing Heimat in Postwar Germany: Longing and Belonging (Edwin Mellen Press, 1999).

The book explores the German concept of Heimat—a regionalistic sense of self, place and home—and how it has evolved from the country's conservative ideology in the 18th and 19th centuries to its cur- rent, more progressive leanings. Wickham traces the evolution of Heimat through the works of Germany's Liedermacher (singer-songwriters) and also the country's dialect poets.

“Many of the traditional elements of Heimat culture and Heimat writings are still there in the postwar culture, but they take a different twist,” Wickham says.

Though the book is geared toward scholars and students of contemporary Germany, Wickham says it was important to him to make the book accessible to an English-speaking audience. As such, he provides his own translation for all cited works. Ronald Binks, professor of visual arts, contributed the book's cover design and photographs.
Betty Jean Niel Dowdy, M.A., in education, is a reading specialist for North East Independent School District.

Daniel Villareal, B.B.A. in accounting, is division comptroller for operations and treasurer for North East Independent School District.

Lynn Albright, B.A. in criminal justice, earned an M.A. in human resources and is a 16-year veteran of the Dallas Police Department. Lynn has two daughters, Elizabeth, 5, and Alexa, 2.

Duncan Campbell Dixon, B.S. in applied science, has been a geologist at Raba-Kistner Consultants Inc. for 16 years. He is working on several Texas Department of Transportation contracts, including the San Antonio River Improvements Project. Duncan and his wife, Kathi, have two children and live in Boerne.

Marguerite Burkholder McCormick, M.Music, has been inducted into the San Antonio Women’s Hall of Fame. She was one of 10 women honored during the 2000 Induction Ceremony in March. Marguerite is the founder and artistic director of the Children’s Chorus of San Antonio.

Susan Schulte Shires, B.A. in English, M.A. in education ‘91, is teaching preadvanced placement/ Honors English 1 at Clemens High School in Schertz, Texas.

Earl (Ty) Tracy III, B.S. in biology, and his wife, Shari, were married last June. Ty has a veterinary pharmaceutical company, Fort Dodge Animal Health.

Elda Goss Miller, B.A. in early childhood education, M.A. in education ‘90, completed her master’s degree in library and information science from UT Austin in May. Linda is a librarian with Northside Independent School District.

Greg Dawson, B.S. in applied science, is division sales manager for Drees Custom Homes in Dallas. Greg and his wife, Kristen, have two children, Taylor, 6, and J.T., 4.

Elyce Childress Warns, M.A. in early childhood and elementary education, has been relected District 20 director of the Texas Classroom Teachers Association. She has served on the board since 1997. Elyce will represent her district, help set policy for the statewide association and assist leaders of TCTA local affiliates.

Holli Ann Swaycz Tickner, B.S. in biology, was promoted to hospital consultant for Roche Diagnostics in January.

Susan Pomenta Powell, B.B.A. in management, is a supervisory recreation specialist for the office of the program manager at the Saudi Arabian National Guard in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Susan and her husband, Larry, have been married for 16 years and have two sons, Adam and Jordan.

Sandra Mack Washington, B.A. in sociology, was promoted to major in July and serves as the brigade executive officer and operations/training officer for Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston.

Barbara Pagenkopf McCoy, B.B.A. in management, is a human resources manager at Contempo Constructors Inc. Barbara and her husband, James, have been married for 14 years. They have three children.

James E. Perna, M.B.A., is an investment adviser for Investment Professionals Inc.

Lawrence Wayne Morris, B.S. in biology, is a dentist in private practice in San Antonio. His wife, Natalia Terristo Morris, B.A. ’90 and M.A. ’92 in English, have one son, Stuart, age 16 months.

Judith Leal Boehme, B.A. in humanities, is a fifth-grade teacher for Hudson Independent School District and a second-year member of the San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers.
Profile

Between family and political history, an award-winning biography

Never underestimate the contents of your grandparents’ kitchen pantry.

Amid dust cans of vegetables and papery onion skins, there could be an old metal file cabinet. The cabinet might be stuffed with folders of yellowing correspondence. Among the newspaper clippings and daily diaries, you might discover a letter from a former president of the United States. Wait! There could be dozens of letters, the record of a political friendship and clues to one of the most controversial election victories in U.S. political history.

It could happen.

Ask historian and educator J. Gilberto Quezada (M.A. in education ’??), Quezada, author of Border Boss: Manuel B. Bravo and Zapata County (Texas A&M University Press, 1999), made good use of such primary materials, as well as government and archival records in researching the life of a legendary jefe politico. Bravo, who died in 1984, also happened to be Quezada’s wife’s grandfather.

The book chronicles Bravo’s involvement in the creation of the League of Latin American Citizens in the 1920s, his rise to political power in Zapata County, his friendship with Johnson, whom he met in 1941, and with many other Texas and national politicians. It also illuminates Bravo’s role in Johnson’s victory in the 1948 Democratic primary for the Senate—the controversial election that made Jim Wells County’s Precinct Box 13 famous. Voting irregularities were also alleged in Zapata County.

In April, Quezada’s book received the Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award from the Texas Institute of Letters.

Quezada, an associate superintendent in the South San Antonio School District, has been an educator for 30 years. A native of Laredo, he earned undergraduate and master’s degrees in history from St. Mary’s University. As an undergraduate in the late 1960s, he was politically active in the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO).

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“We were sitting around, and some of my relatives asked me, ‘Why don’t you write something on the judge?’ I agreed to look into it, but I told them that I would have to be objective, like a historian.’

In the end, most members of the Bravo family agreed the account of this colorful era in South Texas politics was well-balanced. Quezada visits classrooms in the district preaching the message to students that they can achieve their goals—and perhaps a few will become writers like him. He often hands out a program called “Tips for Becoming an Author” that states, “Have perseverance. Never give up on your goals.” Sage advice from a seasoned educator and award-winning author. — Lynn Cogswell

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Martin [Jimenez] Saenz, B.A. in philosophy, is a financial specialist at First Union in Manassas, Va. Martin is pursuing his M.B.A. at Drexel University in Philadelphia. He and his wife, Amy, have a son, Justin Alexander, born in October.

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Never underestimate the contents of your grandparents’ kitchen pantry.

Amid dust cans of vegetables and papery onion skins, there could be an old metal file cabinet. The cabinet might be stuffed with folders of yellowing correspondence. Among the newspaper clippings and daily diaries, you might discover a letter from a former president of the United States. Wait! There could be dozens of letters, the record of a political friendship and clues to one of the most controversial election victories in U.S. political history.

It could happen.

Ask historian and educator J. Gilberto Quezada (M.A. in education ’??), Quezada, author of Border Boss: Manuel B. Bravo and Zapata County (Texas A&M University Press, 1999), made good use of such primary materials, as well as government and archival records in researching the life of a legendary jefe politico. Bravo, who died in 1984, also happened to be Quezada’s wife’s grandfather.

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Profile

Bilingual graduate in business to connect the Americas

“...begin your career in your dream job,” says Chuck Bagby (M.B.A. ‘87). Bagby, a senior vice president with American TeleSource International Inc. (ATSI), should know.

For six years after college, he worked as a missionary in South America before turning toward a career in business. The common denominator in these two seemingly unrelated professions is Bagby’s abiding interest in Latin American culture and the Spanish language. “I had to decide what language to study in eighth grade. I looked through a large atlas in the school library and discovered that the three languages that touched most of the world’s population were Chinese, English and Spanish. Spanish seemed to be my natural choice,” Bagby says.

He majored in Spanish literature at the University of Missouri and went to work for the United Church of Christ in Honduras and Argentina. While running a mission in Argentina (whose inflation rate ranged from 300 to 700 percent), Bagby’s interest in business was sparked when he noticed he could stretch the monthly budget by paying close attention to currency exchange rates. (During an international finance class at UTSA years later, Bagby was surprised to learn that taking advantage of different currency exchange rates had a name—arbitrage—and that some people even make their living through arbitrage.)

Returning to the United States, Bagby looked for ways to put his planning and project management skills to work in the business sector. He decided to pursue an M.B.A. and chose UTSA because its international business program emphasized Latin America. He and his wife, Robin, also felt that San Antonio would be a good place to raise a family.

After graduation, Bagby was hired by AT&T and ended up at its corporate headquarters in New Jersey. An opportunity to lead AT&T’s Latin American data communications operations brought the Bagbys back to San Antonio in 1995. In 1999, Bagby left AT&T for ATSI, a provider of international communications services between the United States and specific niche markets within Latin America, most notably Mexico. Through Bagby’s efforts, ATSI is funding a new research assistantship in the College of Business. The position will allow business students to learn about the telecommunications industry in real-world situations.

“The main idea is to open our doors and make the company a living laboratory for UTSA students,” Bagby says. “This has helped us fill timely research needs. Our CEO, Art Smith, had only one concern—are we limited to one research assistant?”

The program is working well. Last fall, information systems major Grace Xin conducted marketing research that helped guide the introduction of ATSI’s prepaid phone card service. This semester, M.B.A. students Monica Bejarano and Mauricio Gonzalez-Gomez began research for a comprehensive case study profiling the senior management team, management styles and strategic plans of the company. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without UTSA,” Bagby says. “It’s exciting to be connected with the University again—this time without having to cram for exams!” — Jim Eskin

Stay connected!

Very soon all alumni of record will receive an Alumni Directory Questionnaire; please complete the profile forms and return them to UTSA. Special recognition of Alumni Association Life and Regular members will be published in the directory.

There are three ways to submit Class Notes information. 1) Mail your news to the Office of Alumni Programs, UTSA, 6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619. 2) E-mail us at alumni@utsa.edu. 3) Log on to our Web site, www.utsa.onlinecommunity.com.
During the morning the temperature dropped steadily. We ate lunch in my tent, and afterward I broke into my store of Del Monte chocolate pudding, the one food item that experience had taught me was absolutely indispensable for backpacking. By the time we had gathered up our camp, slung it up on our backs, and headed out the trail for the South Rim, it was three o’clock. It must have been about thirty degrees, and it grew colder with every foot of altitude we gained. We moved into the clouds, following a canyon where all the trees were covered with frost. Another mile or so after that the trail opened onto a plain where the grass had been worn down into the sod by hundreds of horseshoes and Vibram soles. A few hundred feet farther on, where the plain ended, was the most magnificent sight in Texas. The South Rim is a sheer lava bank that looks out upon what a casual observer might take to be a sizable portion of another planet. I walked up to the rim itself and felt a flourish of wind behind me trying to shove the surface area of my backpack forward as if it were a sail. I took a few steps back and studied the view. The Chisos, the high, self-contained bastion in the center of the park, dropped and then surged outward to meet the desert and a field of remarkable landforms. Far off in the haze was the Rio Grande, and I could see the other mountain groups—Punta de la Sierra, Chilicotal, that part of the Sierra del Carmens known as the Dead Horse Mountains—as clearly as on the three-dimensional model at park headquarters. The mountains presented a tableau of arrested motion, an everlasting instant of geological time. The ancient rocks rose and subsided like waves, they pulsed with light, and the light itself seemed generated by the power of the wind.
The PreFreshman Engineering Program (PREP) draws more than 500 local middle and high school students to the 1604 and Downtown Campuses. These students will do something unique among their peers—spend eight weeks of their summer vacation, June 5 through July 26, studying principals of engineering, math and science. That’s not to say the summer program is all vectors and velocity.

Consider the egg and how it drops.

At the end of the summer program, first-year PREP students are assigned an experiment. They must figure out a way to protect an egg from breaking after dropping it 34 feet onto a cement target. To do this, each five-member team constructs an apparatus to protect the egg. Then the teams compete against each other. An egg must survive three drops to win. “They can’t use any prepackaged material,” says Jesse Garcia, a PREP instructor. “No gels, no packing material, no bubble wrap, rug padding or sponges.” Rubber bands are OK. So are marshmallows.

“When they come up with an idea, they have to sell it to the whole group. The kids make posters, write jingles, and sort of do commercials for their idea,” Garcia adds.

On the day of the contest, 34 groups assemble on the bridge between the Science and Arts Buildings. About half the eggs survive the first round; the percentage goes down from there. Perhaps one or two teams’ eggs will survive uncracked. PREP, the brainchild of UTSA mathematics professor Manuel Berriozabal, started in 1979 to give young people interested in careers in science exposure to a college environment. More than 1,800 students participate in PREP programs in San Antonio.

— Lynn Gosnell