Launching A Top-Tier Campaign
Each year, more than 2,000 people become naturalized citizens at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

An email, a revolution and new technology merge to offer new possibilities to Egyptians.

Churchgoers take a leap of faith to a healthier lifestyle.

Five Texas photographers travel to China to share their vision of Texas.

Sports briefs, plus get to know Fabiola Arriaga, the first player in UTSA golf team history to be named Southland Conference Freshman of the Year.

Michelle Beadle ’02 talks about her life as a co-host at ESPN’s SportsNation.

Alumni Association scholarship recipient hopes to change the world, beginning with his home country.

We Are UTSA—A Top-Tier Campaign publicly launched on April 12 to a surprise fireworks display.

Profile of Leroy Alloway, M.P.A. ’03; plus updates on dozens of alumni and other campus and alumni news.
The Movement Starts Now

Maybe it was just a coincidence that a few months after a благодаря the force of a great story, a tide turned. Through the South on a civil rights exploration, I also found myself enveloped in history.

I was in Atlanta for a conference. I had a little extra time so a friend and I walked in downtown Atlanta. Down streets lined with crumbling brick buildings and graffiti-covered facades, we went to Ebenezer Baptist Church—where Martin Luther King Jr. was a pastor. It's a modest brick church, with a blue sign that looks eerily similar to that of the 10th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., where four girls were killed when a bomb exploded in 1963, and just one stop on the journey of enlightenment for the UTSA students (see story, page 18).

As I sat on a long, polished wooden pew, King's voice boomed out of speakers that must have been hidden somewhere. For just a moment, it was as if he was still alive, and I was one of his parishioners. It gave me goose bumps. Then brought tears to my eyes.

It was 1968 when King was shot at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn.—another one of the stops for our students on their civil rights journey. In the 13 years he led the modern civil rights movement. King is credited with accomplishing more toward racial equality than had been achieved in the three centuries before. But it's been 44 years since he was killed, and drop-in organizers said it's important that what King and countless others achieved isn't forgotten or taken for granted.

And it's critical that history doesn't repeat itself.

That's why our students traveled hundreds of miles by bus in the course of one week. That's why they sat for hours in hotel rooms, discussing their thoughts about race and discrimination in today's America. That's why we ended their journey singing freedom songs as they wound their way along San Antonio's East Side streets for the largest MLK March in the country.

The lessons they learned will continue long after the trip ended.

As one student said: “Words cannot describe how I feel, pictures cannot capture the growth, the change or the empowerment that I feel inside. But my actions will be a true testament of how impactful this trip was, and how appreciative I am of those who contributed to it. I will wait no longer; the movement starts now.”

Saludos,

Lilly Laurel

Executive Editor of Creative Projects

Creg Ennis

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Art Director

K. Rodriguez, Kyla Stephen, Cindy Turner

Marie French

The Sombrilla
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Please note: the stories you’ve seen here?

Think we’re doing? Got any comments about what we have on campus, University of Texas at San Antonio, One UTSa Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. Letters about the stories you’ve seen here?

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UTSA embarks on its first-ever capital campaign

By Lety Laurel

One hundred and twenty million dollars could buy 315 Lamborghini Aventadors, which sell for almost $381,000 apiece. It could buy a brand-new 64-gig iPad for every one of the 129,877 residents in the South Texas city of McAllen—with some left over.

Or it could provide 2,000 students like Dan Rossiter—a computer science major with a 3.9 GPA—a full ride at UTSA. The money could also be used to underwrite 120 endowed chairs like the one held by College of Engineering Dean Mauli Agrawal, a leader in his field.

UTSA officials are hoping the funds will secure scholarships, endowed chairs and much more.

photos by Mark McClendon
People need to know the long-term importance of the campaign...

60 to 70 percent of students who graduate from UTSA stay in the community and continue to contribute.

In April, UTSA made history by embarking on the first capital campaign in the university’s 45 years. The goal is lofty: to raise $120 million by 2015 to fund scholarships, and faculty research, support new institutes and centers, and enrich the student experience. Officials went public with the campaign after reaching more than 78 percent of the goal.

First came a $2.5 million gift from Valero Energy Foundation for graduate student research support. That was matched in full by the Texas Research Incentive Program, resulting in one of the university’s largest corporate gifts.

Then came a megamicroscope. With $12 million from the Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, UTSA acquired the world’s most powerful microscope, which can magnify objects 20 million times their original size.

“I knew we were on our way,” said Marjie French, vice president for university advancement. “The Kleberg investment gave us momentum. It gave us a shot in the arm and we could say people really believe in us. They want to invest in us a big way.”

But it was a surprise gift from the estate of a retired school teacher, Mary K. McKinney, that provided the biggest boost—up to $28 million for student scholarships.

“This has already begun transforming students’ lives,” French said. “When UTSA embarked on the path to becoming a Tier One university, joining elite research institutions in the country, it became apparent that more support would be needed. At the same time, state funding continued to slump even as operating costs increased.

“There has been a steady decline in state funding going on for about 20 or 30 years now,” said Provost John Frederick. About 28 percent of the university’s more than $400 million budget is funded through state appropriation. So when you see a decline in state support and an increase in real expenses, the only place you can make that up without help is by raising student tuition and fees.

“But we are fully understanding of the quantity it puts our students in in an economy that is struggling to come out of a recession. We know that families of students are struggling to make those ends meet and struggling to meet the cost of higher education.”

So French and her team came up with a plan. University officials identified where money was needed most and set a goal of raising $120 million. After extensive research, they determined that the majority of the funds would go to attracting and retaining outstanding faculty, offering more undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships, establishing and supporting more centers, institutes and programs, and enhancing student life.

Every penny donated to the university since 2009 has gone toward the capital campaign, and that will continue until 2015. “People need to know the kingdom importance of the campaign to students and the community by what’s learned and later accomplished by the people who attend school here,” she said. “Sixty to 70 percent of students who graduate from UTSA stay in the community and continue to contribute. We know they’re not only helping for today, but they’re helping for tomorrow.”

At the campaign’s end, UTSA will look more like a Tier One university with even more faculty members who are leaders in their fields as well as equipment and facilities to better support cutting-edge research. And more students will get the financial support they need to have access to the best the university can offer.

“So I think the role a capital campaign can play is to help those students achieve their dreams of education by relieving a little bit of the extra strain that our costs might put on them,” Frederick said. “The difficulty in any kind of economic recession is [that] money runs dry but our needs don’t. This is an area where I think our friends in the community really make a huge difference.”

And with the community wanting us to be very, very good because we’re transforming a lot of lives, she said. “But, Bodenstedt added, there is still more to do. “Historically we haven’t invested as much as a community in UTSA as we should.” He said “it’s time that we do. Our future depends on it.”

Jeff and Lorettta Clarke graduated from UTSA more than 20 years ago, yet they remain committed to ensuring students have greater access to higher education, strengthening significantly the university’s capabilities and providing an environment where students want to come.

“We were both first-generation college graduates and the opportunities are [what] drive us to want to help others go to college,” said Lorettta 19. “And they are focused on providing other first-generation colleagues with the same prospects. “As long as there are great quality professors and there is a great curriculum and strong, then the kids can learn and that is going to make a difference,” added Jeff ’86.

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Web Extra:

In April, UTSA launched the first capital campaign in the university’s history. To watch a video about the goals of the $120 million campaign, go to giving.utsa.edu.

Milestone Makers

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The naturalization ceremony is bathed in a 360-degree venue. Before him sit more than 200 men, women and children from 50 nations. Behind him, U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez smiles proudly. Two colorful flags frame the moment. The naturalization ceremony is bathed in red, white and blue.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” Agha said, “America is a unique country. It is a country where, in the words of William Ward, if you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it. Only in this country could the son of a broken family, at times subsisting on food stamps, go to the best universities of the land because he was smart, and eventually rise to become the president because he was able.”

Nowhere else in the world is this possible, I guarantee you. This is still the land of hopes and dreams, and there is no other idea of a country like this, perhaps since the days of the Roman Republic.”

—IRFAN AGHA—
PAKISTAN BORN U.S. DOCTOR

Irfan Agha is only 44. Yet he felt the same pull toward naturalization he weaved across nations to reach a single destination—a desire for citizenship. Claude Le Saux shared her journey with fellow petitioners. She left France in 1996 to complete post-doctoral studies at the University of Hawaii. Le Saux never went back.

She moved to Texas and raised a family in San Antonio. A 16-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son attend St. Mary’s Hall college preparatory school. Today, Le Saux is a professor of medicine and cardiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center. “After spending so many years here,” she explained, “I wanted to become part of where I live.”

The ceremony completed, Dr. Agha and the other brand-new citizens left the auditorium to continue their pursuit of the American dream.

Naturalization ceremonies at the ITC date to at least the early 1980s. Over the years, presiding judges have also administered the oath of citizenship in some unusual circumstances. Some immigrants became citizens on their deathbeds. In 1999, when U.S. Magistrate Judge John Primomo swore in 107-year-old Mexican immigrant Ruperta Ureña Hernandez at a Fort Sam Houston-area home, Hernandez became the oldest naturalized citizen in U.S. history.

Irfan Agha is only 44. Yet he felt the same pull toward naturalization as Hernandez had. As Lee Greenwood’s “American(o) Pride” played on overhead video screens, his eyes and those of many others lifted to watch a slideshow of photos.

The ceremony completed, Dr. Agha and the other brand-new citizens left the auditorium to continue their pursuit of the American dream.
Perfect Timing
An email, a revolution and new technology merge to offer new possibilities to Egyptians

BY SHERRIE VOSS MATTHEWS

In the wake of Hosni Mubarak’s overthrow, Associate Professor Christopher Reddick is assisting Egypt’s effort to change the relationship between Egyptians and their government.

In 2009, Hisham Abdelsalam searched through the scholarly work of researchers and experts on the potential of e-government, a system that uses internet-based technology to enhance interaction between citizens, business owners and government. Abdelsalam, an associate professor at Cairo University in Egypt and director of the Decision Support and Future Studies Center, wanted to explore how technology might offer Egyptians greater access to local, regional and national government information and improved governance of the country.

Reddick, who is on tenure-track at the University of Texas at San Antonio, had been working on research in similar areas from an earlier time. Reddick’s Handbook of Research on Strategies for Local E-Government Adoption and Implementation: Comparative Studies, a two-volume collection of studies on the impact of e-government in 25 countries, led to Abdelsalam’s note to Reddick, asking if he would participate in his project, LogIn2EGYPT.

The project, headed by Abdelsalam and his center, examined how the country could increase access by Egyptians to government data and services through websites and mobile phones. LogIn2EGYPT is funded through a grant from the International Development Research Centre of Canada. Reddick now serves as consultant for LogIn2EGYPT and has developed surveys and assisted in the research and writing of several academic papers for the project. In the summer, he traveled to Egypt for a two-day workshop, where he explained how e-government tools could assist the wider populace as well as the country’s leaders in developing a more efficient and effective system of government.

The project’s timing turns out to have been ideal. The 2011 Egyptian Revolution, in which dissidents overthrew president Hosni Mubarak, was an opportunity for change and transparency in the country, Abdelsalam said. There was a shocking amount of organized corruption under the Mubarak regime that was exposed, he added.

Throughout Egyptian society, voices are... calling for a law ensuring freedom of disclosure and access to information, Abdelsalam said. “There have been a notable number of journal articles, TV…talk-shows and conferences going around this critical issue.”

The recent uprisings have led to the possibility of more open government than Egyptians have experienced during the 40 years of Mubarak’s rule. Team members hope they will be able to acquire database records from some government agencies so they can begin to build prototypes of online web-based systems that Egyptians can use to request information, similar to the U.S. website www.data.gov. There is no open records law in Egypt, so the LoGIn2EGYPT team will have to rely on their ability to persuade governmental authorities to release the data.

“How can e-government change corruption? Instead of [seeking help at] a counter, services can be done online, which reduces the ability to ask for bribes,” Reddick explained.

Because 70 percent of Egyptians have access to mobile phones, “this could be the next wave of e-government,” he said.

However, there is still a lot of research to do before usable e-government tools can be developed. Reddick said the next step will be further surveys of national government officials, Egyptian citizens and the business community to examine the feasibility of open government data for Egyptians. Abdelsalam and Reddick wait word on a second grant from the International Development Research Centre. If they receive funding, the next phase of the project will begin, which will ultimately lead to a prototype website that will allow the average Egyptian citizen access to government data.

Reddick said such a site would benefit all Egyptians, and the government itself. “To be a democracy, you have to be open,” he said.

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Hisham Abdelsalam, associate professor at Cairo University in Egypt and director of the Decision Support and Future Studies Center

Last year we expanded our research programs at UTSA by recruiting top faculty and by focusing on our five areas of research strength: health, cyber security, energy, sustainability and human development. When our students have access to scholars who are at the top of their fields, they have the power to transform their lives so they can make a positive and significant impact on our state, our nation and our world.

—President Ricardo Romo

The total number of faculty members for the 2011-2012 academic year, including 614 professors who are tenured or are currently on tenure-track.

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BY THE NUMBERS

1,435

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That ability to concent-
rate on the life of the
mind, that’s the most
precious and attractive
thing that perpetuates
our studies. It allows
the thinking and saven-
ness to continue from
one generation to
the other. Our students
now have a place to go
and just think about the
contributions that came
before.

—Don Gots,Dean of the
College of Liberal and
Fine Arts, speaking at the 5th
Evelyn Boles Lecture for the
African American Studies
Minor.

“IF WE ARE OVEREATING,
NOT WATCHING OUR WEIGHT AND
NOT EXERCISING, WE ARE NOT
BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE
GIFT THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.”
—REV JOSE MONTANEZ
PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL CHURCH OF
Health.

The program combines these
messages with exercise sessions
for children and adults, health screenings,
and nutrition and cooking classes.

“The Bible calls upon us to take
care of ourselves and our bodies be-
cause we are temples of the Holy Spir-
it,” said Central Church of God pastor
Jose Montanez, head of one of the par-
ticipating congregations in last year’s
pilot project. “If we are overeating, not
watching our weight and not exercis-
ing, we are not being good stewards
of the gift that God has given us.”

His West Side church is in an
area marked by high rates of pov-
erty. He estimated that one-third
of his 350-member congregation is
overweight or obese.

The pastors who participated each
appointed a steering committee to work
with the researchers in develop-
ing health messages in these com-
munities as important forums.

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university of Texas Health Sci-
tenlive Center at San Antonio, worked
with two West Side San Antonio
churches last year to develop and test
a new model of obesity prevention.

With grant support from the San An-
tonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI),
they combined biblical teachings
about health and stewardship with
21st century science about nutrition
and fitness. The program harnessed
families’ spirituality and faith to tackle
the challenge of lifestyle change.

Preliminary measurements from
a six-month pilot study show encour-
aging results. Children and adults be-
came more aware of the importance
of good nutrition, they exercised more,
at more fruit and vegetables and low-
er sugary drinks, and their abdominal
fat measurements declined.

Turning to churches is not a new
idea. Faith-based organizations have
long had a role in African American
communities as important forums
promoting social justice and political
change. More recently, churches have
emerged as major venues for deliver-
ing health messages in these com-

NEW FINE ARTS CENTER AND COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND BILINGUAL STUDIES OPEN}

FINE ARTS;
college of liberal and bilingual studies

—Dan Gelo,
deans of the college of liberal and bilingual studies,
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A View from Half a World Away

Five Texas photographers, including UTSA President Ricardo Romo, traveled to Shanghai last semester to display their work and unveil a view of Texas that many from the country have never seen. At the invitation of the China Photographers Association, Peter Brown, Al Rendon, Joel Salcido, Ansen Seale and Romo showed their photographs of ranches, vaqueros and rodeos in the exhibit Infinite Horizon: Visions of Texas.

The exhibit was on display at the 14th annual China International Photographic Art Exhibition.

“The five photographers featured in this exhibit have an eye for South Texas,” said Curator Arturo Infante Almeida, UTSA art specialist. “With patience and understanding, they have been able to capture small-town Texas in their lenses like nobody else. Their photos are poetic, and they will offer unique insight to all who see them on display.”

Donald Lien, director of the UTSA Confucius Institute, facilitated the trip and said Texas is largely unknown to the Chinese, and similarly, China is a mystery to Texans.

“This trip to China was meant to improve communications and understanding between Chinese and Americans,” he said. “One way to do that is to send photographs. Photos can tell us so much.”

Following the exhibit, the five spent two days taking photographs of the region. The group’s itinerary included a brief stop in Shanghai before heading to Lishui City. They spent a half-day in the rural town of Dhu Rong, where a village festival was underway, complete with outdoor theater and a performance of Chinese opera.

“I looked at the complexities of Chinese culture and society,” said Romo. “It’s an enormous country—80 percent rural—and we were all fascinated by the rural aspects. People go to Beijing and Shanghai. We went to a small town and got to see a play that’s been performed for hundreds of years. I like to look at small communities and how they unite and celebrate together.”

The trip also took the Texas photographers to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Tiananmen Square and the town of Wenzhou.

They returned with gripping images from the countryside—and the people—that they displayed at UTSA’s Institute of Texan Cultures through May.

“Many Chinese are familiar with American customs and the American way of life, but the Texas culture is foreign to them,” said Lien. “This exhibit and cultural exchange connected the two communities, bringing each culture to the heart of the other.”

//In Brief//

Viva Italia

UTSA has partnered with one of the oldest universities in Italy for a four-week summer course, The Classical World, to be based at the University of Siena. To be taught jointly by professors from both schools, the course will engage students in hands-on study of classical antiquity and explore major themes of the anthropology of the ancient world.

It is the first time that the school, founded as a public university in 1240, has allowed an American university to teach a course on the Siena campus for college credit toward an American degree without requiring an academic transfer.

Asian Festival turns 25

Avald crashing cymbals, pounding drums and popping firecrackers, participants greeted the Chinese New Year at the 25th annual Asian Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures on Jan. 28.

This year, the Year of the Dragon celebration featured groups from across a variety of Asian cultures, including mainland China, Korea, Japan, the Indian subcontinent and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. The groups shared their heritage through food, music and dance, cooking demonstrations, martial arts demonstrations and crafts.
Men's Tennis
The Roadrunners achieved the program’s first-ever national ranking in February, and that came on the heels of a 4-3 upset victory at No. 36 Rice on Feb. 11. It was UTSA’s first win against a ranked opponent since March 3, 2007, when the Roadrunners defeated No. 75 San Francisco.

Men’s Track & Field
Sophomore Ryan Warr was named February’s Southland Conference Player of the Month after registering a 21.07 stroke average and a pair of top-15 finishes, including tying for fourth with a career-best time of 21.33 at the Rice Intercollegiate.

ATHLETICS
HKS Sports & Entertainment management was selected to design UTSA's new athletics complex, which will be located at the 125-acre UTSA Park West Campus (approximately two miles west of Main Campus). The work will include soccer and track and field stadiums, as well as the internal utilities, road and parking infrastructure. The project will be completed in multiple phases with the first including the design and construction of a 1,000-seat soccer stadium, 1,000-seat track and field stadium and 500-space surface parking lot. The facilities will be used for public events, as well as serving as home bases for Roadrunners sports teams.

Men’s Basketball
UTSA finished the 2011-12 campaign with an 18-16 overall record and earned the No. 5 seed for the Southern Conference Tournament. The program’s most recent NCAA Tournament appearance came in 2004-05. The Roadrunners have represented UTSA in the last four seasons under sixth-year head coach Brooks Thompson, an average of 18 per year. A trio of players were honored by the Southland, as sophomore forward Jerome Hill and junior guard Melvin Johnson III were named second- and third-team all-conference, respectively, while junior guard Kannon Burnage picked up honorable mention accolades.

Women’s Basketball
Sophomore Judy Jones earned honorable mention All-Southland Conference accolades for the UTSA women’s basketball team this past season. The Monroe, La., native averaged 10.1 points and a team-leading 7.0 rebounds per game for the Roadrunners. In league play, she upped those averages to a team-best 11.6 ppg and 8.5 rpg. Jones closed the campaign with a career-high 29 points and 11 rebounds against UT Arlington.

Men’s Golf
The Roadrunners achieved the program’s first-ever national ranking in February, and that came on the heels of a 4-3 upset victory at No. 36 Rice on Feb. 11. It was UTSA’s first win against a ranked opponent since March 3, 2007, when the Roadrunners defeated No. 75 San Francisco.

Women’s Golf
The Roadrunners won February’s Islanders Classic by 40 strokes, giving the program multiple victories in a season for the first time in program history (UTSA won the Alamo Invitational title in November). Senior Summer Batiste and sophomore Taylor Newlin claimed the top spot on the individual leader board and Batiste was honored as February’s Southland Conference Player of the Month following the event.

SPOTLIGHT
Fabiola Arriaga
BY GUILLERMO GARCIA
FABIOLA ARRIAGA HAS A MEAN PUTTER, A MEANER DRIVER, and a driving will to win. The first player in UTSA golf team history to achieve the program’s first-ever national ranking in February, and that came on the heels of a 4-3 upset victory at No. 36 Rice on Feb. 11. It was UTSA’s first win against a ranked opponent since March 3, 2007, when the Roadrunners defeated No. 75 San Francisco.

Her Choice of Weapons on the Links:
Ping irons, Taylor-Made woods, Callaway driver and Odyssey putter.

Her Hero:
Lorena Ochoa, a golfer widely considered Mexico’s best ever. The first Mexican golfer ranked No. 1 in the world, Ochoa held the No. 1 LPGA ranking for three years until she retired in 2010.

Replacement Parts:
After her longtime pug named Chata ran off, she is getting used to the replacement dog, although she has yet to decide whether to name the new pet Camillo or Bruno.
A chill hung in the morning air as 40 UTSA students boarded a bus that would carry them back in time.

Their route would take them to cities where crowds of invisible faces once marched against injustice, where levees had burst, where the voices of four little girls were abruptly silenced and where the nation’s most prominent leader of non-violent protest was slain.

From Jan. 10–14, the group traveled on a civil rights exploration tour, called The Movement: An Exploration of Civil Rights. The journey included stops at the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans, the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., and the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. It ended in San Antonio with the 25th Anniversary Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative March on Jan. 16.
A

s they began their journey, the travelers slid into

their seats in their temporary home on wheels and

imagined the days ahead.

The tour route was carefully planned, with stops

at historic sites where students could learn about

the struggle for civil rights.

On the first day, the students visited the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. The tour guide shared stories of the events that occurred there, and students reflected on the impact of King's death on the Civil Rights Movement.

As the bus traveled through the city, students listened to music, including songs from the Civil Rights era, and read excerpts from books and speeches that inspired the leaders of the movement.

In the evening, students gathered for a discussion, sharing their thoughts and reflections on the day's events. One student, who had been born after King's death, expressed a desire to learn more about the man and the movement that he had come to represent.

The next day, the group visited the National Civil Rights Museum, where they viewed exhibits and artifacts related to the Civil Rights Movement. They learned about the significance of events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Selma to Montgomery Marches.

The students also visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, where they were able to view the statue of the civil rights leader and reflect on his legacy.

On the final day of the trip, students attended a closing ceremony, where they shared their insights and experiences from the journey. The event was capped off with a candlelight vigil, where students gathered to remember those who had fought for justice and to honor their sacrifices.

Throughout the trip, students were encouraged to think critically about the issues of social justice and to consider how they could contribute to making a difference in their own communities.

The trip was designed to be an immersive learning experience, with opportunities for students to engage with history and to connect with those who had been at the forefront of the movement.

As the group said their goodbyes and prepared to return home, they were inspired by the stories they had heard and the lessons they had learned. They knew that their journey was just the beginning of a lifelong commitment to fighting for justice and equality.
Honoring the traditional approaches to studio art, object- and image-making, the Department of Art and Art History over the last eight years expanded its size and focus, creating an artist class that ranges from the traditional sculpting and oil on canvas to absurdist performance art with the goal of keeping the artist and the community active and engaged.
To spend an afternoon with Marilyn Lanfear is to experience the same rich sense of anticipation one feels when diving into an absorbing novel: It won’t be dull, and the journey will be worth pondering long after the last page has been turned.

Lanfear—painter, sculptor, woodworker, collector—is as much a storyteller as an artist, and the materials she uses to tell her stories depend completely upon which ones best achieve her vision.

“I don’t just keep painting with oil paints and then get better and better,” she said. “I usually get my idea and then I have to learn how to make it visible. If I need to learn to carve, I have to learn how to do it as if I’ve been doing it for years and years.”

In 1967, Lanfear was the first B.F.A. graduate at UTSA, and in 1978 she was one of five students awarded an M.F.A. That year, a total of 12 students received arts degrees. By contrast, 597 students have received a bachelor’s or master’s degree in the arts in the last eight years, an indication of how the Department of Art and Art History has expanded, according to department chair Greg Elliott.

“The growth rate in the department is enormous,” Elliott said. “A lot of that, I think, is due to the fact that we have a program that still very much honors the traditional approaches to studio art—object-making and image-making—but the faculty here and the program itself are committed to staying extremely current.

“Art isn’t just the traditional bronze, oil paint, ceramics and lithography anymore; he added. Today’s art involves performance and installation and videos. Graduates continue to create and stay relevant, he said.

Take Kuehnle, who graduated with an M.F.A. in 2006. He doesn’t shy away from attention. In fact, his most recent work is hard to miss. The performance artist and sculptor designs and fabricates inflatable foil suits and wears them in public. The response he gets to the absurdity of his suits is the point behind the work.

At a recent exhibition, he wore a “Head Curator” nametag as he consulted with “clients” perched on his barber chair. As he discussed their style options, Cassie pulled out a camera to take before and after shots. The mirrors on the wall were warped, ensuring that no customers would get a clear view of their new “do.”

“I filled it up with air and I had a big extension cord and an air blower and ran all around and asked, ‘Hey I need electricity. Can you help me?’ I would unplug and then run down the street to the next person to see if they would give me electricity to stay inflated. It was really fun.”

Then there’s Nate Cassie, whose latest project is called Vacancy, in which he curates one-night exhibitions held in vacant spaces made available for the show.

Lanfear left San Antonio for New York City to pursue her dream of working in what she calls “Moca,” and later moved to Oregon, where she taught art at Lewis and Clark College in Portland and at the University of Oregon. She later moved back to San Antonio to be near her family.

Her love of drawing grew into an embrace of many art forms. Lanfear has worked with buttons, fabric, wood, lead and handmade paper. Her work has been exhibited around the country and internationally. In 2010, she was named Artist of the Year by the San Antonio Art League & Museum, which exhibited her work. Most recently her work was featured at the Beeville Art Museum in an exhibit titled Marilyn Lanfear: The Struggle of Memory Against Forgetting.

Her work is also shown at the McNay Art Museum and the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Some of Lanfear’s best-known works are garments sculpted in lead. Most recently, she created four large, intricate, hand-sewn pieces made of mother-of-pearl buttons that evoke the glimmer and fractured beauty of a mosaic. The first piece depicts her widowed grandmother putting her hair up there. There’s a lot there [to work with].”

The department’s graduates stay busy, whether it is creating multimedia art objects with buttons like Lanfear, crafting balloon-like inflatable suits like Kuehnle, or teaching and creating art, like sculptor Cassie.

“We get lots of show flyers. I’ve got a big drawer full of them,” Elliott said. San Antonio has a tradition of celebrating art on the first Friday of every month with an art walk in galleries south of downtown. “It is not uncommon for every First Friday that I’ve got 10 to 12 shows to go to and eight of them will be somebody from UTSA.”

And UTSA’s visibility is growing every year, he added. “We’ve got a huge presence in a very active art community here and that’s not accidental. It’s been a mission of the department for 20 years; our students were not going to study it, they were going to go out there and participate before they graduate.”

“EvoluTion of an ArtisT”

From an early age, Lanfear knew she wanted to be an artist. Born in Waco, her family moved to Corpus Christi when she was in the sixth grade. After earning her M.F.A. from UTSA, Lanfear left San Antonio for New York City to pursue her dream of working in what she calls “Moca,” and later moved to Oregon, where she taught art at Lewis and Clark College in Portland and at the University of Oregon. She later moved back to San Antonio to be near her family.

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Jimmy Kuehnle sees an evolution in his exploration of interactivity and vulnerability from bike pieces to the inflatables. “I thought, ‘What can I do that would be big and absurd but I could move easily, I could put on a bicycle?’ And so the inflatables started.”

When she had the urge to create a practical transportation, Jimmy Kuehnle created bicycles that emerged out words such as “art” or made from unusual materials.”

Before suits, Kuehnle created bicycles that transported was an instant attention-getter. With many volunteers helping sort, wash and sew the suits, his work with helmets and aircraft canopies, the transparent nylon material is extremely light, so the suits typically weigh less than a bowling ball.

Bike pieces to the inflatables.

Jameson’s work tells a story, Kuehnle’s is meant to surprise. Before coming to UTSA, Kuehnle taught English in Japan. Upon his arrival in San Antonio he was welcomed by the arts community and the department where he found a mentor in Professor Ken Little.

San Antonio itself is an ideal place for an emerging artist,” Kuehnle said. After earning his M.F.A. in 2006, Kuehnle moved to Japan on a Fulbright Grant. He made his first, a 24-foot-wide, 15-foot-long, 16-foot-tall inflatable suit with red cones atop a grey cube.

Even thought the suits are huge and take up to four weeks to complete, the nylon material is extremely light, so the suits typically weigh less than a bowling ball.

Before suits, Kuehnle created bicycles that often garnered second looks. With frames spell out words such as “art” or made from unusual materials such as Lexan, normally used in sports helmets and aircraft canopies, the transparent transportation was an instant attention-getter. He also sewed the suits he wore during the bike rides, including a plain canvas ensemble intended to be drawn on by passersby.

Kuehnle sees an evolution in his exploration of interactivity and vulnerability from bike pieces to the inflatables. “I thought, ‘What can I do that would be big and absurd but I could move easily, I could put on a bicycle?’ And so the inflatables started.”

Exhibiting around the world, he has been an artist in residence in New York, Michigan and Finland. He plans to create more inflatables and is involved in a project aimed at inspiring im-
Living, living, talking sports

BY LETY LAUREL

MICHELLE BEADLE: ‘92 STILL giggles about her job at ESPN. On a recent Tuesday, she looked around the Bristol, Conn., newsroom and realized she was sitting next to three Harlem Globetrotters.

“It’s so weird,” she said quietly into the phone as she sized up the 7-foot-6-inch Tiny Sturgess, recently named the tallest professional basketball player in the world.

“There are days when you will be sitting by your computer and someone famous will walk by. Or Arnold Palmer will be sitting in the cafetería. It’s like a weird Disney World for sports fans. It’s kinda fun.”

This life-long sports fan, who once cried as a teen when her beloved Spurs lost to Portland, has worked as a co-host at the network’s SportsNation since 2009. She is also the co-host of College Sports Saturday on ABC.

She still can’t believe her luck. “I am always knocking on doors,” she said quietly. “I had no idea what I wanted to do.” She said the TV thing wasn’t even something she had ever thought about. “I wasn’t outgoing in school. I was kind of quiet and sarcastic. So I think a lot of people that I went to high school with find this funny, what I’m doing now.”

An internship with the San Antonio Spurs gave Beadle her first experience in front of the camera. It didn’t go well.

“When I tell you it was horri-ble, I’m not even doing it justice,” she said. “I looked like someone who didn’t even know her name was Michelle.”

She took a cameraman’s advice to heart and it’s served her well ever since: relax and be yourself.

Beadle’s density led to sideline reporting on basketball in Pensacola, Fla. Then she traveled to Canada to help breed Great Danes. She waited lots of tables along the way.

Three years later she returned home and decided to finish her communications degree at UTSA. “I had no idea what I wanted to do,” she said. “The TV thing wasn’t even something I had ever thought about. I wasn’t outgoing in school. I was kind of quiet and sarcastic. So I think a lot of people that I went to high school with find this funny, what I’m doing now.”

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The internship led to sideline reporting for local channels then eventually Fox Sports Net.

And that was it,” she said. “I was like, this is an awesome, fun way to make a living.”

The girl from the ‘burbs who had never even been to a rodeo started reporting on professional bull riding for TNN, now known as Spike TV. She had other jobs along the way, including stints with Animal Planet, Travel Channel, Major League Baseball and the NFL. But it was her job with College Sports Television, now called CBS College Sports, that finally took her to New York City, the place that she’d dreamed of calling home for years.

Since then, Beadle has worked for the YES Network, the New Jersey Nets and College Sports Television, now called CBS College Sports, that finally took her to New York City, the place that she’d dreamed of calling home for years.

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is always there, 24/7,” he said, contrasting the for granted—electricity at the flip of a switch when talking about things that most of us take

dowment surpassing $1 million, a match was

textbooks I would be able to actually see with

money halfway across the globe was the trip—

master’s and doctoral degrees, before return-

gree in mechanical engineering, as well as

Nigeria has been a Texan for the past year-and-

challenge”—especially when he doesn’t have

situation in his homeland, where service can

He chose UTSA after applying to 16 U.S. univi-

versities and being admitted to four “because
coming here gave me the opportunity to ful-

life. The day I received my admissions letter was one of the happiest

minutes young man can give the appearance of a happy-go-

lucky teen, but he is driven to make good on

what he acknowledges is “an opportunity that

imaging industry.

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since November 2006.

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introducing new and innovative

providing technical training and

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has worked in engineering

B.S. in mechanical engineering,

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South San Antonio Independent

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literature and life.

Jay Parini,

NOVELIST

31
Leroy Alloway embodies the adage that you can’t keep a good man down. Born with 80 percent hearing loss in both ears, he was told he’d never be able to become a productive member of society. Undeterred, he set out to prove the naysayers wrong.

“That was a nice gauntlet for someone to throw down,” he said, recalling a childhood speech therapy bit his parents gave him. “I was stubborn enough to not let it define who I am, and I just had to prove the (then) ignorant wrong.”

And he has. Alloway, 32, was recently recognized by the San Antonio Business Journal for its annual 40 under 40 awards, which highlight outstanding young leaders under the age of 40.

BY THE NUMBERS
6
Number of UTSA graduates who made this year’s San Antonio Business Journal list recognizing 40 by leaders under the age of 40.

They include:
Leroy Alloway, Stephanie Bocanegra Suarez, Gabriela Gonzalez-Carmon, Jeff Coyle, Kevin Harris and Emily Jones.

Leroy Alloway serves as spokesman for the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority. Courtesy photo

Road to Success

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NOW & THEN

It was March 1977 when the first electronic scoreboard arrived at UTSA. Today, a more modernized one, complete with sponsors, hangs above crowds that gather in the Convocation Center.