

UTSA

# Lombrilla

A publication of the University of Texas at San Antonio

Volume 6  
Number 3  
Fall 2000



In this issue: **The talk of Texas**

Class notes and alumni profiles • Summer interns earn and learn  
Students track Campaign 2000 • Changes in academic structure



# Sombrilla

## PREVIEW

Fall 2000, Volume 6, Number 3

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## SPEAKING OF ACCENTS

*“You don’t have much of a Southern accent” is a sentence I hear from time to time. It’s an observation that usually carries a whiff of approval, as if I’m to be congratulated for transcending an accident of birth. These days, I protest.*

*“Oh, you should hear me when I’m back in North Carolina,” I reply. And, yes, I usually say “back in” because it helps make my point. The strength of my regional accent is directly proportional to the number of Southerners, usually relatives and friends, within speaking distance. Put another way, the closer I am to a plate of pork barbecue and hushpuppies, the more Southern I sound.*

*For me, apparently, context is everything.*

*Is my wishy-washy accent a sign of the times? Are the distinctive sounds and vocal patterns of America’s regional accents—the round “o” of Los Angeles valley talk, for example, or the way Bostonians drop the “r” in some words—disappearing?*

*In this issue’s cover story, “Talking up Texas,” we hear about UTSA Provost Guy Bailey’s research on accent trends among English-speaking Texans. Bailey, a socio-linguist, has tracked the regional accents of Anglo and African American Southerners for 20 years. Like his mentor, linguist William Labov, he is optimistic about the survival of regional accents, because language is so closely tied to identity.*

*This essential connection between language and identity is also a research interest of MaryEllen Garcia, an associate professor of Spanish. She studies Southwest Spanish, the regional dialect spoken by most Mexican Americans in San Antonio. Garcia’s linguistic research has taken her to Spanish-speaking communities throughout the Southwest, where she records and studies nuances in local speech. In San Antonio, Garcia hears “a pride in our Mexican American culture and language” that she doesn’t find everywhere.*

*Linguists like Bailey and Garcia have found that people with the strongest regional accents, or dialects, are those who have lived in the same area all their lives.*

*Somewhere between growing up in a family with deep Southern roots, attending a large state university with a polyglot student body and moving across the Mississippi, my native drawl has gone underground. Having been away from my home state for almost 20 years, it makes sense that I don’t sound exactly the way I used to—just as it’s natural for a few extra syllables to creep softly into my speech when comfort and geography allow.*

*Language expresses who we are, and who we’re not. Speaking a particular language, or a particular flavor of language, helps a community maintain its identity, perhaps even its way of life.*

— Lynn Gosnell



## FEATURES

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*Provost and linguist Guy Bailey's research is the talk of Texas. Read why accents may say more about their owners than just where they grew up. Also, Spanish professor MaryEllen Garcia studies Southwest Spanish dialects, including Tex-Mex.*

### 16 DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY LEARNED LAST SUMMER?

*Learning plus earning equals interning. It's an equation more and more students are solving, thanks to the efforts of Career Services. Three summer interns share their experiences.*



## DEPARTMENTS

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### 10 Campus Scene

This fall, freshmen had the chance to enroll in learning communities—groups of 25 students who take up to three classes together. Professors have organized the classes around a common theme.

Political Science 6973, better known as Campaign 2000, met for 10 weeks this summer. Taking advantage of election year politics, Associate Professor Richard Gambitta led an intense look at political process from the local to the national level.

### 18 Class Notes

The first annual alumni gala honors five outstanding alumni and raises money for scholarships; also, class notes and profiles.

### 23 Other Voices

Student poetry and the advent of a new student-run Web journal, *Luminous Page*.

### 24 Looking Back

Moving into the dorm circa 1986.



**Students, faculty, staff and friends enjoyed the UTSA Tailgate Party, one of the highlights of Week of Welcome activities to herald the beginning of the 2000-2001 academic year and welcome new students to the University.**

## Class of 2000



In May, more than 1,400 undergraduate and graduate students earned the distinction Class of 2000. They were also the last class to graduate under the four-college organization. Ed Whitacre, chairman and chief executive officer of SBC Communications Inc., gave the commencement address.

The winter commencement will take place Dec. 16 in the Convocation Center. The University will hold three ceremonies for graduates of the six colleges created by academic restructuring. All three ceremonies will be broadcast live on Time Warner Cable Channel 19. The speaker will be Norma Cantu, assistant secretary of education for civil rights.

**With the help of his guide dog, Ryan, Michael Figueroa, B.A. in history, accepts his diploma from President Ricardo Romo.**

## Fall Fulbrights

Several faculty and alumni are on Fulbright Fellowships this fall.

Chak-Tong Chau, associate professor of accounting, is a Fulbright lecturer at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China.

Paul Rodriguez, professor of life sciences, is a scholar at the University of Costa Rica.

Wendy Barker, professor of English, and Steven Kellman, Ashbel Smith Professor of Comparative Literature, are in Sofia, Bulgaria, where Barker is a senior lecturer in American literature and Kellman is a distinguished chair in American literature at Sofia University.

Holly Hansen-Thomas (M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies '99), is on a Fulbright in Hungary, Sonya Campos (M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies '00), received a Fulbright to Turkey and Joan Fabian (M.F.A. in art '95), is a Fulbright scholar in Lahore, Pakistan.

## Bublitz knows business

Bruce Bublitz was probably the type of child who couldn't sleep the night before Christmas.

Though he didn't officially report to work until July 1, Bublitz was preparing for his new job weeks before his official start date—making phone calls, sending e-mail, reviewing countless files and making frequent visits to San Antonio. During his first week on campus, Bublitz hit the ground running, scheduling meetings with administrators, faculty, advisory council members and College of Business benefactors.

The fourth dean of the College of Business, Bublitz was previously associate dean for academic affairs and director of accounting and information systems at the University of Kansas, where he worked for 14 years.

"The hardest part of my new job has been leaving behind my two children [Brittany and Erich] while they complete their studies at the University of Kansas," he said. Bublitz and his wife,



**Bruce Bublitz**

Rita, a teacher in the Harlandale Independent School District, are making their new home in the Monte Vista neighborhood of San Antonio.

"I have received a challenge from President Romo to help make UTSA a premier university," Bublitz said in a recent talk before members of the San

Antonio Chamber of Commerce. "This presents special opportunities and challenges for the College of Business."

The first challenge is to launch a doctoral program, an effort initiated by former dean James Gaertner. A Ph.D. degree in business may be up and running as early as fall 2002, Bublitz said.

"I've been busy meeting with members of our advisory council to define the future role of the College of Business," Bublitz said.

"They are consistently saying that we can be a major player in promoting economic development and improving the quality of living in San Antonio."

One of his highest priorities is community outreach.

"I challenge the business community to form alliances at UTSA by hiring our students and graduates, collaborating on research and special projects, and participating in and supporting our programs," Bublitz said.

— Wendy Frost



## How 30 South Texas science teachers spent their summer vacation

When they mummified their dead, the ancient Egyptians discarded the brain, not knowing its function and believing it to be of no use in the afterlife.

More than 4,000 years later, a definitive understanding of the brain's physiology remains elusive, even to neuroscientists dedicated to the quest.

One UTSA outreach program has forged a "think link" between the University and those who will inspire future generations of students to continue the pursuit for answers.

For two summers, the Teacher Summer Institute in Neurobiology has brought middle and high school biology teachers from South Texas back to the classroom to improve their knowledge of neurobiology concepts.

"UTSA's ultimate goal is to get students excited about biology and neuroscience at an early age so that those with the greatest interest and potential will begin to prepare for a college education and careers in these fields," said Aaron Cassill, director of UTSA's Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant, which funds the summer program.

The refresher course focused on practical strategies for using technology to engage students at all age levels. A key part of the program involved helping teachers become familiar with the resources available on the Internet.

"To say that I now have a better understanding of the nervous system is an understatement," said Port Isabel High School teacher Janie Castillo. "The computer skills and knowledge of the Internet alone are something I'll use on a daily basis back in my classroom."

Castillo's sentiments were echoed by John Jay High School teacher Patricia Recker. "I was originally interested in attending the institute because I hadn't had an anatomy class in over 25 years. But I came away from the experience with novel ideas for teaching lab classes," Recker said.

To maintain their link to UTSA neuroscience professors and one another during the year, participants received a computer to use in their home schools.

— Roxanne Llewellyn



**Participants in the Teacher Summer Institute in Neurobiology gained practical skills to take their classroom teaching "outside the box."**

## Classical studies added to majors

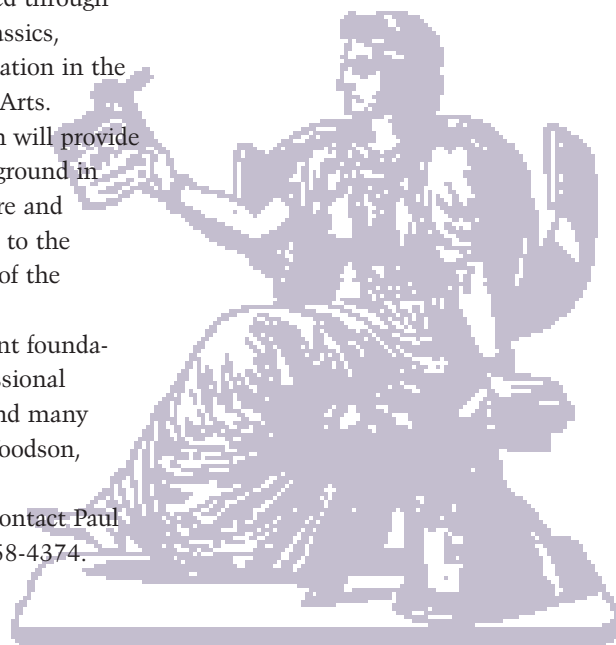
This semester, undergraduates can add classical studies (or classics) to their menu of majors.

The degree will be offered through the Division of English, Classics, Philosophy and Communication in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

The new degree program will provide students with a broad background in classical languages, literature and culture and introduce them to the diverse history and culture of the classical world.

The degree is an excellent foundation for graduate and professional programs, museum work and many other careers, says Linda Woodson, director of the division.

For more information, contact Paul Alessi or John Rundin at 458-4374.



## ¡Bravo!

**Jesse Zapata**, vice provost for the UTSA Downtown Campus and dean of the College of Urban Professional Programs, recipient of a Ford Salute to Education Award for his work in education; **José Weissmann**, assistant professor of engineering, recipient of an Outstanding New Faculty Award from Dow Chemical; bilingual education students **Guadalupe Casanova**, **Leticia Rivas** and **Corina Vargas**, recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the Texas Association for Bilingual Education and the San Antonio Area Association for Bilingual Education; **Eyra Perez**, associate director of the Alliance for Education, named to the San Antonio Independent School District Business and Community Advisory Board; **Rosalind Horowitz**, professor of education, elected to a second term as chair of the American Educational Research Association Special Interest Group on Basic Research in Reading and Literacy, the world's largest educational research organization; **Leslie Burns**, Institute of Texan Cultures media production director, recipient of an Award of Merit from the Association of Women in Communications, San Antonio Professional Chapter; **Michael Ryan**, associate professor of psychology, invited to spend a sabbatical year at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.; **Kevin Hanselka**, graduate student in anthropology, awarded a full, five-year scholarship to the doctoral program in anthropology at Washington University, St. Louis; **the Center for Archaeological Research**, granted an Award of Excellence in Archaeology by the Texas Historical Commission; faculty members **Blandina Cardenas**, director of the Hispanic Research Center, **Ellen Riojas Clark**, associate professor of bicultural-bilingual studies, and **Bertha Perez**, associate dean at the Downtown Campus, honored by the Mexican American Women's National Association of San Antonio.

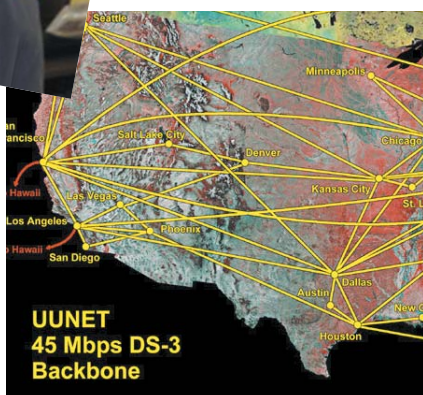
## Computer science Ph.D. graduation a first

Sandra Goles Dykes has earned her place in UTSA history by becoming the first graduate of the University's doctoral program in computer science.

Dykes earned her degree in August after defending her dissertation, "Cooperative Web Caching: A Viability Study and Design Analysis," in May. Approximately 20 students are pursuing Ph.D.'s in computer science.



**Sandra Goles Dykes**



Dykes, who is married to UTSA professor of psychology James Dykes, also earned master's degrees from UTSA in chemistry ('79) and computer science ('94). She is a senior lecturer at UTSA.

A second doctoral candidate, Robert Castañeda, defended his dissertation, "Protocols for Mobile Ad Hoc Networking," in August. He is expected to graduate in December.

The doctoral program in computer science, UTSA's third doctoral program, was established in 1995.

## NIH gives nearly \$20 million to support life sciences

The National Institutes of Health has awarded UTSA a total of \$19 million to support basic brain studies and promote training and research opportunities in the life sciences for faculty and minority students.

The NIH National Institute of General Medical Sciences awarded \$12.9 million over four years to UTSA's Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) effort, which includes the Support for Continuous Research Excellence (SCORE) and the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) programs.

Professor Andrew Tsin directs the MBRS-SCORE program, which will support 17 faculty biomedical research projects.

Professor Andrew Martinez is director of the RISE program, which funds research projects, as well as tuition and fees, for 36 undergraduate and graduate students.

The MBRS awards are in addition to \$6.2 million from NIH to support the University's Specialized Neuroscience Research Program (SNRP).

SNRP, which supports researchers from UTSA, Dartmouth Medical School and Rockefeller University, fosters neuroscience studies with NIH relevance at participating institutions.

### Two Texas foundations add support to neuroscience research

The Ewing Halsell Foundation and the Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation have each given



**Andrew Tsin**



**Andrew Martinez**

\$250,000 to UTSA to support research aimed at isolating genes associated with memory formation.

The research, led by Joe L. Martinez Jr., Ewing Halsell Professor of Biology, may contribute to the understanding of catastrophic memory impairment caused by Alzheimer's disease and other conditions.

## Come here. Go far. Go public.

Two years ago, UTSA hired Anderson Advertising to research public opinion about the University and create a campaign to raise awareness. The result? A catchy, economical phrase, "Come Here. Go Far."

This year, Anderson rolled out a new campaign on billboards and VIA buses. The billboard ads emphasize just how far students can go with their degrees; the transit signs inject a little humor—in the form of clever puns—to draw attention to the degrees offered at UTSA's campuses.





## Remaking the University

### UTSA restructures colleges and divisions, adds School of Architecture

A year ago, President Ricardo Romo appointed a committee to gather faculty input on remaking the academic structure of the University. This fall, a sweeping reorganization of the University's academic structure, bearing the UT System's stamp of approval, is well under way.

To date, UTSA has reconfigured its division-based academic structure by renaming and reorganizing all but one college, resulting in the creation of six colleges and a School of Architecture. Only the College of Business remains relatively unaffected by this round of reorganization; its name and divisions are intact.

This academic year's students are the first to take classes in the College of Sciences, the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, the College of Engineering, the College of Education and Human Development, and the College of Urban Professional Programs. The latter is the academic anchor of the Downtown Campus.

These five new colleges grew out of a reorganization of the College of Fine Arts and Humanities, the College of Sciences and Engineering, and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Despite the rapid progress on the president's directive, restructuring is far from complete. Faster than you can say "transitional period," more changes are coming.

#### Departments, not divisions

Romo's committee, led by Professor Blandina Cardenas, found strong support for adopting a discipline-based academic structure.

A convincing majority—90 percent of the faculty who contacted the committee—thought restructuring in general was necessary, if not long overdue. The committee issued a 37-page report detailing college-by-college recommendations for restructuring, with a move to discipline-based units being central in every case.

Faculty and administrators say they hope the changes will align UTSA with more typical academic structures and provide some programs and colleges with breathing room to grow.

"Programs that have been previously kind of stuck in an administrative unit

where they can't flourish will be able to get separate identities and build their student following more effectively," says Executive Vice Provost David Johnson.

Johnson cited the engineering program as one that had suffered in terms of faculty recruitment and retention under division status. The report issued by Cardenas' committee also mentioned the burgeoning communication program in the Division of English, Classics, Philosophy and Communication as one needing administrative room.

Accreditation issues are another driving force behind the reorganization. National professional organizations for fields such as business, architecture and engineering view independent administrative structures as an indication of program quality, Johnson says.

Faculty and staff in each division, along with college deans, will meet throughout this year to develop plans to convert to a departmental structure. By next fall, most divisions will be dissolved, according to timelines circulated by the Office of the Provost.

But the distance from point A to point B is never a straight line. Johnson, who is overseeing the restructuring process, expects bumps.

"A lot of what people are going to have to cope with here is basically uncertainty. I'm sorry, but that's change," he says.

Some issues that will have to be resolved are faculty governance and representation and student record transfers. Some staff are transferring to other departments; others need to be hired. There's office space to find, equipment to buy, Web sites to update, budgets to realign and, ultimately, faculty to hire.

#### That was then

In 1971, Arleigh B. Templeton, the president of a university that had yet to hold a class, boasted about the "simple, efficient structure" of the then five colleges and 17 divisions planned for the state's newest university.

"The university will be able to control programmatic obsolescence with a freer hand and better determine that all its faculty resources are being utilized," he said in an article that appeared in the *San Antonio Light*. Ironically, this

#### UTSA's college and division structure (2000–2001)

##### College of Business

Bruce Bublitz, dean

- Accounting and Information Systems
- Economics and Finance
- Management and Marketing

##### College of Education and Human Development

Christopher A. Borman, dean

- Bicultural-Bilingual Studies
- Education

##### College of Engineering

Dwight Henderson, interim dean

- Engineering

##### College of Liberal and Fine Arts

Alan Craven, dean

- School of Architecture
- Behavioral and Cultural Sciences
- English, Classics, Philosophy and Communication
- Foreign Languages
- Music
- Social and Policy Sciences
- Visual Arts

##### College of Sciences

William Scouten, dean

- Computer Science
- Earth and Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Mathematics and Statistics

##### College of Urban Professional Programs

Jesse Zapata, dean

- Criminal Justice
- Public Administration

structure itself has become obsolete and may have limited faculty and student programs.

Faculty and administration hope the new structure will promote UTSA's development into a research institution that offers more doctoral degrees. Johnson sees benefits for students and faculty in this pursuit.

"Running Ph.D. programs is more fun, because you have the opportunity to work with students on research projects. There's an opportunity for students and faculty to have a wider array of experiences and to engage in training, and that loops back into our mission to the region and the city," he says.

— Lynn Gosnell

## Roadrunner sports outlook

### Spiking the season

Preseason polls of conference coaches and sports information directors favor the UTSA volleyball team to repeat as Southland Conference (SLC) champions in 2000. The Roadrunners went 22-7 last season and won the school's first conference regular season championship. Volleyball returns eight letter winners led by two-time SLC Player of the Year Tamara Luckemeyer.

### UTSA celebrates March Madness

As part of the celebration of its 20th anniversary in intercollegiate athletics, UTSA will welcome back March Madness by serving as host for the NCAA Men's Basketball Midwest Regional March 23-25 at the Alamodome.

UTSA, which played host to the 1997 Midwest Regional and the 1998 Final Four, is preparing for some of the largest crowds in NCAA tournament history and a national television audience on CBS. In 1997, more than 61,000 fans attended the Midwest Regional.

This year's regional tournament is the first in a string of NCAA championship events for which UTSA will serve as host. These include the 2002 Women's Final Four, the 2003 Men's South Regional and the 2004 Men's Final Four.

### Men's basketball

Tim Carter, who returns for his sixth year at the helm of the Roadrunners, is looking to lead UTSA to its second NCAA Tournament appearance.

Guard Devin Brown returns to lead the way after averaging 18.5 points per game last season. Eight lettermen return from a team that went 15-13. Brown will be backed by fellow junior starters Reggie Minniweather and McEverett Powers, who both averaged over nine points per game.

The challenging schedule includes nonconference home games against St. Mary's University Nov. 25 and Texas Christian University Dec. 2 at the Convocation Center. Conference play begins Dec. 7 with a home game against UT Arlington.

### Women's basketball

Women's basketball went looking for a "Rae" of hope during the off-season by hiring Rae Rippetoe-Blair as the new head coach. She comes to San Antonio after eight years at Oklahoma State University.

Blair inherits a team that went 7-20 last season and returns seven letter winners and four starters. Top guns are senior center Renda Churman and junior guards Latifa Northern and Jene Vanderbilt. Northern ranked second on the team last season, averaging 10.5 points a game.

UTSA's home schedule includes the UTSA Tipoff Classic Tournament on Nov. 24-25, with games against UT El Paso and Idaho State University, and a visit by University of Houston Nov. 29. Conference play begins Dec. 7 at home against UT Arlington.

— Rick Nixon

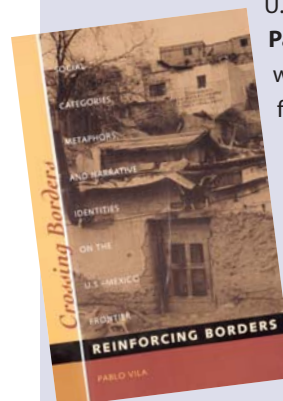
For information about volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball season tickets, call the UTSA Ticket Office at (210) 458-UTSA. For the latest in Roadrunner sports information, go to [www.utsa.edu/sports](http://www.utsa.edu/sports).

## Faculty publications

The U.S. Border Patrol aren't the only ones striving to hold the line along the U.S.-Mexico border, as

**Pablo Vila** discovered while doing research for his new book.

For *Crossing Borders, Reinforcing Borders: Social Categories, Metaphors, and Narrative Identities on the U.S.-Mexico Frontier* (University



of Texas Press, 2000), Vila, an

assistant professor of sociology, conducted 200 group interviews of more than 900 inhabitants of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez from 1991 to 1997, while teaching at UT El Paso.

Using photographs of the region to prompt discussions, Vila recorded the narratives people of different national and ethnic groups used to identify and distinguish themselves from other groups.

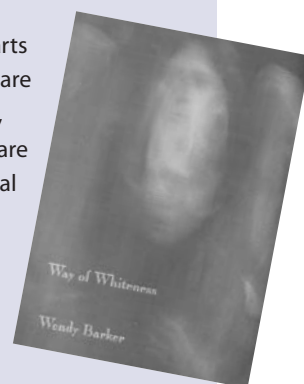
"People were really moved by the experience," he said. Vila believes his book is the first ethnography to look at both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Wendy Barker**, professor of English, explores another kind of crossing in her new poetry collection, *Way of Whiteness* (Wings Press, 2000). The poems were written in the early 1990s, a time when Barker was facing, and conquering, her own fears of growing old.

"I was approaching and becoming 50, which for many people is a big bridge," she said. "You can't pretend you're young anymore."

*Way of Whiteness* charts a journey in poems that are sometimes painfully sad, sometimes hilarious. All are filled with a strong appeal to the senses. Barker's subjects range from beauty salons to foreign lands, from eating vanilla ice cream to making love.

"I think it is in a way about discovery of pleasure," she said. "There are a number of erotic poems in the book—erotic in the sense of being open to all of life, all the implications of life."





## College-based advising centers open

To mark UTSA's new academic structure, the University opened student advising centers for each of its six colleges.

The establishment of the centers, which are located around campus, grew out of an extensive, formal review of the academic advising process.

Linda Chalmers, director of the highly successful College of Business Advising Center, was tapped to oversee the effort.

"Advising was previously done by faculty or staff or a combination thereof. The process was somewhat fragmented, and the ratio of students to advisers was overwhelmingly large in some cases," Chalmers said.

Although the centers will be similar to the College of Business model, each college's center will work with faculty, staff and students to tailor a system that best meets its students' needs.

Ten new advisers will reduce the student-adviser ratio to an average of 500-to-one. Previously, the ratio ranged from 500-to-one up to 2,000-to-one. UTSA plans to add more advisers over

the next two years to lower the ratio to 350 students to one adviser, as recommended by the National Academic Advising Association.

Chalmers said that last year's implementation of the state-mandated Core Curriculum, which allows students to transfer core courses from one public university to another, and changes in degree programs and policies made it more important than ever that students receive quality advising.

Faculty who served as advisers will be able to counsel students on how to

**"Academic advising is not the relatively simple process it once was, at UTSA or any comparable university."**

use their degrees in the workplace rather than on the mechanics of completing them, Chalmers added.

All freshmen, as well as sophomores without a declared major, will continue to see advisers at the Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success. The center, directed by Carol Gonzalez, also handles

supplemental instruction and tutoring and helps resolve TASP issues.

Other advising center coordinators are Sally Bench, College of Engineering; Patricia Gonzalez, College of Sciences; Marian Paul, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Liz Balboa, College of Education and Human Development; Barbara Smith, College of Urban Professional Programs; and Bev Ostmo, College of Business.

Rosalie Ambrosino, vice provost for undergraduate studies and enrollment management, said that the timing for the expanded advising effort is a potent ingredient in the University's overall program for student success.

"Academic advising is not the relatively simple process it once was, at UTSA or any comparable university," she said.

"UTSA's growth and the academic restructuring made this the ideal time to regroup and offer the most comprehensive, student-friendly advising service possible."

— Roxanne Llewellyn

### Anju Rai Memorial Scholarship to support outstanding women engineering students

Raghav S. Rai, Prabhawate Rai and Archana Rai, the immediate family of former student Anju Rai, have established an endowed scholarship in her memory.

Rai, a promising engineering student, was just short of her 21st birthday when she died in a drowning accident in 1998.

The award, which is meant to encourage women in the engineering profession, is for female electrical engineering students who have demonstrated achievement in the program at UTSA.

Rai was born in north-central India and moved to the United States with her parents at age 8. She graduated with honors from Centaurus High School in Colorado and was on the 1998 National Dean's List in electrical engineering.

A plaque recognizing the gift will be placed in the Engineering Building.

— Richard Ortega

## The Reading Place

UTSA students are helping area schoolchildren prepare for a successful school year, and they're strengthening their teaching skills in the process.

At the UTSA Reading Place/Plaza de Lectura at the Downtown Campus, education students tutor children who need extra help with reading and writing skills. The program serves as a laboratory for studying problems in literacy and a training ground for the future teachers.

The student teachers develop case studies of the children and deliver instruction based on each child's strengths and needs. They are observed and mentored by University faculty.

**Above right: Graduate students recently tutored preschoolers from the Inman Christian Center at the UTSA Reading Place.**



# Getting to the root of learning By Lynn Gosnell

**At a school where just 10 percent of students live on campus, learning communities can foster the kind of sociable educational environment where both intellect and friendships are formed.**

This fall, 250 freshmen signed up for a block of classes, known as learning communities, that faculty hope will increase graduation rates, improve study habits and encourage broad intellectual inquiry.

That's the learning part. The community part? The students, just 25 to a group, attend up to three classes together all semester.

"It gives them a group of people to work with and pal around with at the same time," says Judith Gardner, a veteran lecturer in the English program who signed on to teach in two learning communities.

Each community includes a freshman seminar (a 3-credit-hour class designed to build academic skills) and one or two classes (English, biology, math or history) drawn from the Core Curriculum.

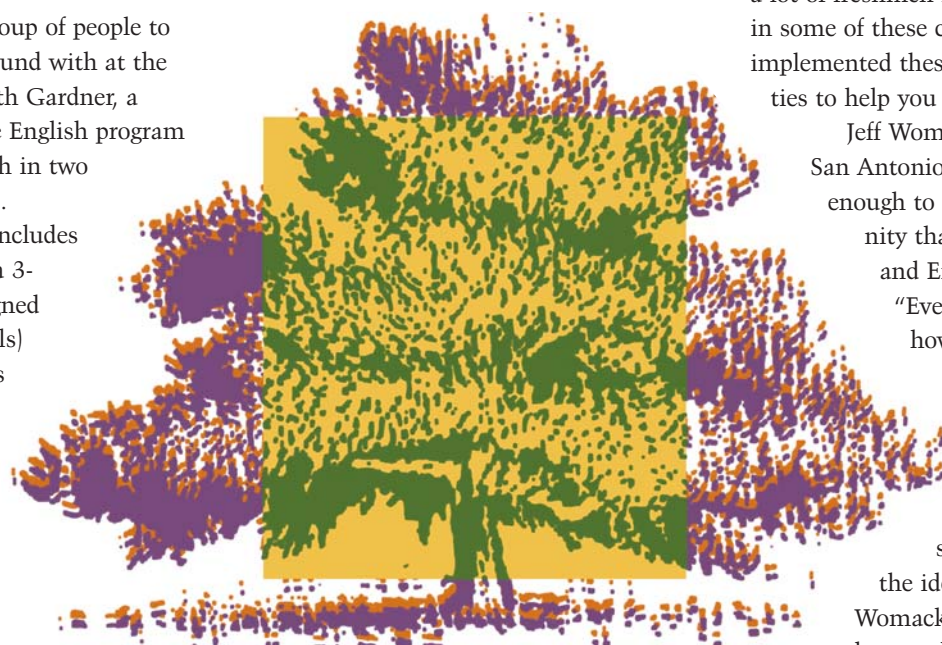
A common theme links the block of classes. The idea, participating faculty say, is to give students opportunities to cross disciplinary boundaries in classroom discussion and assignments.

While teaching writing techniques, Gardner will reinforce some of the historical lessons taught by Associate Professor James Schneider, one of her colleagues in Learning Community 4. Their theme is "Back to the Future." Each community's theme reflects the academic interests of the faculty, some of whom didn't know each other before signing up to teach together.

"We all met in the spring and we've been meeting every two or three weeks since then. It's required more time than

any of us imagined, but we're learning and the students will benefit," says Harvey Graff, professor of history.

Graff, along with English teacher Hershall Spradley and history professor Steven Boyd, lead a community with the theme, "Transforming Communities: Transforming Conflicts."



Boyd, who teaches a 25-student freshman seminar, welcomes the chance to interact with students on a more personal level—a change of pace from the freshman survey classes of 150-plus students he usually teaches.

"The seminar can help students see the connectedness of learning. It's important that they understand that education is more than a collection of specific disciplines," he says.

The appeal seems to be working. By the end of freshman orientation sessions this summer, all but 25 of the spots in the learning communities were filled, says Tracy Lopez, learning communities coordinator. Part of Lopez' job is to pitch the new program to incoming freshmen.

At an orientation session in July, Lopez, an enthusiastic spokesperson,

was nevertheless realistic in her talk to a large group of recent high school graduates. Before laying out the benefits of the small class size and the ready-made schedule, she gave the students some sobering statistics.

"About one-third of students go on academic probation by the end of their first semester," she said. "Historically, a lot of freshmen have not done well in some of these core classes. We've implemented these learning communities to help you do better."

Jeff Womack, a freshman from San Antonio, liked what he heard enough to sign up for a community that combines history and English.

"Everyone's talking about how you're going to have to study more. They said it would help you out in the transition from high school to college. I like the idea of extra help," said Womack, who is living at home while attending UTSA.

Increasing student success is the program's ultimate goal, says Rosalie Ambrosino, administrator of the U.S. Office of Education's Title V grant that funds the program. Ambrosino, whose official title is vice provost for undergraduate studies and enrollment management, was hired last year to develop programs that would increase student retention and help more students earn their degrees.



# Studying the practical art of campaign politics

By Lynn Pissnell

The students in Campaign 2000, a graduate seminar that met for 10 weeks this summer, were preoccupied with a number of provocative questions: How is electoral power built and used? How has political communication changed over time? Should campaign finance be reformed, and if so, how?

And perhaps most interesting to this class of master's-level students and confirmed political junkies: What's the best strategy for getting their candidate elected president come November? (Hint: It's the Midwest, stupid.)

Harnessing partisan emotions was part of the fun of teaching a campaign seminar during election year, says Richard Gambitta, the award-winning political science professor who coordinated the seminar. When his division needed a graduate course taught this summer, he jumped at the chance to "integrate academic literature with real politics."

The result was a highly participatory seminar that wove lessons in campaign history with a close analysis of the contemporary campaign landscape from the precinct to the presidential level.

Besides studying reams of printed and electronic material, students were treated almost weekly to visits by guests who shared their experience in political campaigns as candidates, volunteers or managers.

Among the guests was a panel of Latino political figures who were recently the subject of a book about the Latino vote movement to support John F. Kennedy's presidential bid.

"It was like talking to history," says student Henry Esparza.

Stephanie Scott, a student who commuted from Austin each week, especially liked Gambitta's use of archival film and video to study the changing nature of political communication and the increasing sophistication of media imagery.

"We saw ads from most of the recent presidential races, beginning with

Eisenhower," says Scott, referring to the advent of televised political advertisements during the 1952 presidential race between Dwight D. Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson.

Students viewed such classic political ads as Lyndon B. Johnson's "daisy ad" (in which a pastoral scene of a little girl counting daisy petals dissolves into a countdown to nuclear missile launch and subsequent atomic blast) and Jacqueline Kennedy's 1960 Spanish-language appeal to Latino voters.

Although the archival footage was primitive and even comic to media-savvy moderns, Gambitta's point in showing the ads was serious.

"There's been this whole movement away from earned media or free media and toward paid ads that give the candidate more control over what's presented," he says.

An "e-syllabus" complete with hotlinks was sent to all class members. Through the syllabus, each student had access to a wealth of information about elections—from federal election commission campaign finance records to newspaper campaign coverage to polling results for a variety of candidates and issues.

The emphasis on technology augmented its timely theme; students were required to keep up with the latest developments in the presidential campaign over the summer.

"I assigned them the task of looking closely at the Electoral College, the significance of which the media misses," Gambitta says. "I tried to place the students in the inner circle of campaign strategy."

"We picked a candidate and kind of took on the role of campaign manager," says Audrey Zamora (B.A. '99), a research associate at UTSA's Center for Drug and Social Policy Research.

"We analyzed states to tell why the candidate would win or lose in each one. We had to pick a winning strategy for our own candidate," she says, adding that this exercise was one of the best in her entire university experience.

As part of this exercise, the groups researched each candidate's strengths and weaknesses, and picked who they thought would make the best running mates. Each group picked running mates from the electoral-rich Midwest—partners who were ultimately passed over by the presidential candidates themselves.

When asked how his students could have picked the "wrong" running mates, Gambitta replies slyly, "It may turn out that my students were right in their choices."

The seminar, though officially over, is continuing in an unofficial capacity: Gambitta continues to engage his students in political discussion and debate via e-mail. Campaign 2000, the seminar and the election, will likely continue until the first Tuesday in November.

## FROM THE SYLLABUS

### Week 1: Campaign 2000 Perspectives

Thomas E. Patterson, *Out of Order* (Vintage Books, 1994); assess the change in the nature of the presidential electoral process, the role of the media and the importance of money.

### Look over these sites:

- [www.infortainment.com/elct-tst.htm](http://www.infortainment.com/elct-tst.htm)  
Take test. Read answers. Know history.
- [www.fec.gov/Federal Elections](http://www.fec.gov/Federal%20Elections)  
Commission. Superb links, data and library.

### Week 3: Conduct of Elections Assignments

- We'll discuss process and execution; registration; delegate selection; primary and general elections; election equipment.
- Compare the Annenberg Public Policy Center's article, [www.bettercampaigns.org/Doldisc/appc.HTM](http://www.bettercampaigns.org/Doldisc/appc.HTM), with the PEW Foundation Report you wrote about last week.
- Submit a two-page analysis of the issues and phenomena concerning the media and consuming the public on politics.



**A**re you a talk-identified Texas booster? Here's how you can tell: Find a friend or two who grew up in Chicago, New York or somewhere else equally north of Texas. Then pronounce the word "not," followed by "night." If your Yankee pals can't hear the difference, chances are you're a Lone Star creature—and happy to be one.

Why do "night" and "not" say so much about you? Guy Bailey can explain. Most people at UTSA know him as the provost, but he's also a linguist whose specialty is researching the speech of Southerners, including Texans.

Texas is widely regarded as having its own accent. But, as Bailey points out, in the 19th century the state was settled by migrants from the South, and even today speech here is closely related to the dialect of Dixie.

Bailey himself was raised in Alabama and still uses many Southernisms (for instance, he says "Gahh" for his first name). So when he arrived at Texas A&M University in the 1980s he felt right at home, talkwise, even though he sometimes heard pronunciations that hardly exist in the Deep South.

"The first time I attended a rural church in Texas," he recalls, "someone recited the 23rd Psalm and said, 'The Lard is my shepherd.' "

Rather than chuckle, though, Bailey notes that it's common for elderly Texas Anglos to say "or" as "ar." He pays close, respectful attention to words that sometimes surprise even him.

Take the not/night homonym. In most parts of the country, people pronounce the "i" in the second word as "ahh" and "ee," seamlessly blended together. The linguistic term for this melding is "diphthong," whose Greek roots di- and -phthong simply mean two sounds.

The opposite of diphthong is "monophthong" (pronounced muh-NAHF-thong). It means one sound, and that sound is how most Americans say the vowel in "not" so that the word comes out "nahht." And they use the diphthong for "night."

But Southerners are different. They use the monophthong for both words. In fact, their tendency to make homonyms of "night" and "not" is so universal that the monophthong is considered the identifying mark of a Southern accent.



### Immigrating accents

The monophthong is also the emblem of Lone Star speech, as Bailey's research shows. In the late 1980s, he and some colleagues studied tapes and transcripts of Texans of all ages talking.

Conventional thinking among linguists in the past few generations was that urbanization, television and other modernizing developments would kill off traditional regional accents. That's what Bailey thought he would find when he broke down the interviews by age. Surely, he reasoned, younger Texans would use the monophthong less than older ones.

Instead, it turns out that young Texans in small towns and mid-sized cities are embracing the monophthong even as big-city dwellers reject it. In places like Jasper, Dimebox, Amarillo and Corpus Christi, people under age 30 say "nahht" for "night" far more than their elders do.

Yet in the sprawling metropolises of Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio, this same age group mostly says "night" with two vowel sounds in the middle. Why the big split between urbanites and folks in smaller communities?

Bailey and other linguists point to watershed changes in Texas since World War II. That's when lots of people, including many Yankees, started moving to the state from other parts of the nation. The migration accelerated in the 1960s and 1970s as Rust Belt industry declined and Northerners flocked to Sunbelt jobs.

In Texas, most newcomers settled in the larger cities, especially in the suburbs. Indeed, Frostbelters now outnumber native Texans in many bedroom communities around Houston and Dallas. These immigrants' children easily pick up expressions such as "y'all" and "fixin' to." But when it comes to vowels, they still talk like their parents from Michigan or Indiana: the national pronunciation trumps the Southern one.

Meanwhile, younger, longtime Texas families—especially Anglos—have left inner-city neighborhoods for the suburbs. Once there, kids with native Texan parents mimic children with Northern-born dads and moms—right down to the diphthong.

### Linking accent and identity

Migration may explain why more and more folks in the biggest cities are using a non-Texan vowel. But relocation can't be why so many younger people in rural areas and smaller cities hold onto the monophthong, or why they use it more than older people living in the very same places.

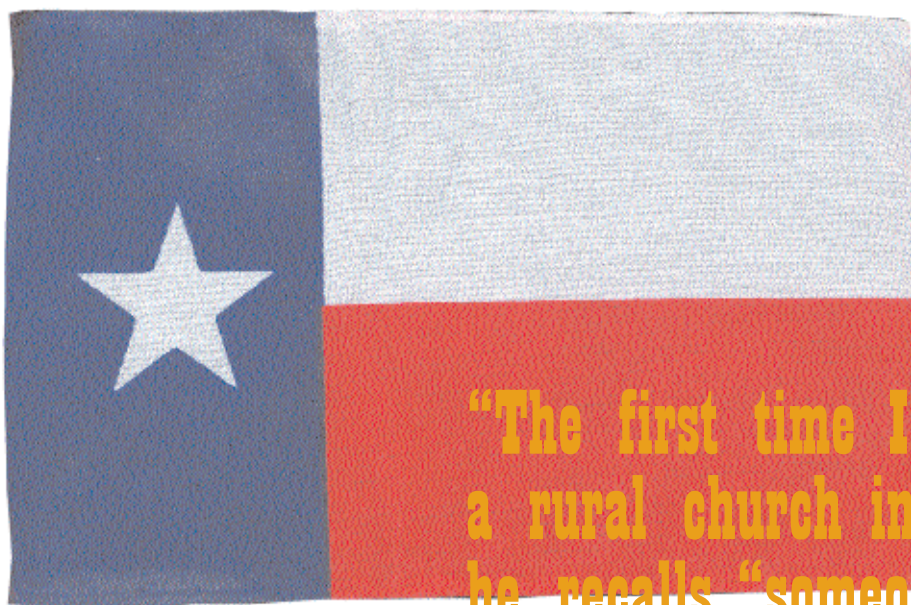
A colleague of Bailey's who also studies modern Texas speech—Barbara Johnstone, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University—has suggested an answer.

Johnstone notes that Texans used to live mostly in rural areas or small towns. But by 1990 the vast majority resided in metropolitan areas, while only one in 100 lived on a farm or ranch. Johnstone thinks young people are using dialect to protest these vast demographic changes.

"Increasingly," she writes, "Texas' boots-and-hat-wearing, truck-driving cowboys and cowgirls are suburbanites . . . and more and more of the state's small, once-isolated towns and rural ranches are populated by weekenders from Houston and Dallas."

Years ago, people "sounded country" because they really were from the country.

But today, Johnstone notes, sounding country is less about where you were raised and, increasingly, about creating a rural identity through



**"The first time I attended a rural church in Texas," he recalls, "someone recited the 23rd Psalm and said, 'The Lord is my shepherd.'"**

speech. People use drawls and monophthongs to reject the ho-hum sameness of the suburbs and to proclaim sympathy with "traditional rural attributes such as political conservatism, religiousness and family values."





# Howdy'all?

## Southern drawls

Johnstone's theory is backed by a finding Bailey made virtually by accident. In 1989, he and a group of linguists decided to add pronunciation questions to the Texas Poll. A Lone Star version of the national Gallup survey, the Texas Poll is conducted every three months by interviewers who phone people all over the state and ask them questions—everything from who their favored candidate is in a political race to whether they intend to vaccinate their babies.

Bailey wanted to see if the poll would reveal anything about Texanisms like the monophthong. He and his fellow researchers included a question where people's answers were guaranteed to include the word "night," he remembers. Pollsters also asked interviewees about their schooling, income and political affiliation.

Bailey crunched this data into the monophthong statistics, thinking he would find links between Texas talk and socioeconomics.

But there were none—no connections between people's tendency to use the monophthong and how rich or poor they were, whether they were high school dropouts or Ph.D.'s, or even Democrats versus Republicans.

Bailey was amazed. On a hunch, he decided to take another look at the data, and what he found truly surprised him.

"The Texas Poll has questions put in by many different researchers and organizations," he says. "One of them, which we linguists had nothing to do with putting in, asked how respondents rated Texas as a place to live."

Interviewees could choose from four answers to that question—excellent, good, fair and poor. Pollsters noted the responses.

One day when Bailey was mulling over the results, he got the idea to correlate them with monophthong use. His hunch paid off, and he still gets excited thinking about it.

"It was like, eureka! There was the correlation!" he says. Indeed, Anglos who praised Texas as an excellent place to live were five times more likely to use the monophthong than those who lambasted the state as poor.

From this, Bailey concluded that people throughout the state are using the monophthong to flaunt their happy Texan-ness. In other words, the Texas accent seems to play a role similar to that of clothing and fancy cars. You wear cowboy boots and drive a Mazda not just to get around, but to proclaim to the world who you are. Likewise with your drawl—if you're young but still have one, chances are you're happy living here.

For Bailey, the monophthong's persistence means that even though language is changing in Texas, it's not necessarily dissolving into a national verbal mush. Television, for instance, can spread the same catchwords and slang throughout the country. But it can't change people's accents much since, as Bailey notes, "you don't talk to your TV."

Dialects last, he says, because "we achieve our identity through language. It's a part of ourselves. And if maintaining your dialect has some value to you, you maintain it."

As for Bailey, his Alabama accent is still going strong even though he left Alabama 25 years ago. He says "sef" for "self," "nibor" for "neighbor" and, of course, "nahht" for "night."

"I have a strong sense of Southern identity," he says.

The sounds of that identity blend easily into San Antonio. And Bailey's penchant for paying attention to them marks him as one of UTSA's most creative scholars.

*Debbie Nathan is an editor and freelance writer in New York.*



# Spanish (Southwest style) spoken here

By Lynn Gosnell

While a short vowel sound may be a sign of Texan identity for many Anglos, speaking Spanish is a powerful marker of identity for Mexican Americans.

The Spanish spoken in San Antonio is a robust variety, says MaryEllen Garcia, an associate professor of Spanish and a linguist who has amassed more than 200 interviews with Spanish speakers in Los Angeles, El Paso and San Antonio. Southwest Spanish—sometimes called Tex-Mex, Spanglish, Chicano Spanish or even Pocho Spanish—is a distinct dialect shared by people with a common culture, ancestry and history.

“You can’t study the language of a group of people without focusing on the context in which it’s spoken,” Garcia says.

Since coming to UTSA in 1988, Garcia and her students have conducted linguistic fieldwork among Mexican Americans in San Antonio.

Most of San Antonio’s Mexican American population forms what linguists call a speech community.

“Speech communities are groups of people who interact on a day-to-day basis and share at least one linguistic code,” Garcia explains. By linguistic code, she means a language or a characteristic way of speaking, such as being bilingual or switching from one language to another.

Many native Spanish speakers in San Antonio are descended from immigrants who fled the Mexican Revolution in the early 20th century. These immigrants settled on western edge of the city, becoming not only geographically isolated but economically and politically marginalized as well.

While the West Side continues to experience the challenges of an isolated community, native Spanish speakers have fanned out all over the city.

And what the Spanish-speaking community will tell you they speak is Tex-Mex, a term Garcia says is “owned” by the community.

In her scholarship, Garcia herself hesitates to use the description Tex-Mex to describe local Spanish because some people outside the community consider it pejorative—or don’t consider Tex-Mex real Spanish at all.

Nevertheless, she believes Tex-Mex can be a term of empowerment for its speakers. It’s just as valid as any contact speech variety—that is, speech used in a bilingual setting.



MaryEllen Garcia

In a paper she delivered at last spring’s Spanish in the United States Conference, Garcia presented quotes from San Antonians who said they spoke Tex-Mex, not Spanish. Saying you speak Tex-Mex, she believes, is a sign of belonging to this particular speech community.

“There is a pride in our Mexican American culture and language here that I don’t find in every Hispanic community,” Garcia says.

Besides studying language attitudes, Garcia has turned what she calls her “good ear” and her analytical abilities toward differences in language use across the community.

For example, in San Antonio, “en” is used much more frequently than in other regions. One often hears “en veces” (sometimes), “en los domingos” (on Sundays) and “en la noche” (at night). The reason, Garcia says, is greater efficiency of expression and comprehension. She has noticed a lot of variability across Spanish-speaking communities.

Garcia is working on a manuscript, “Barrio Talk: Mexican American Ways of Speaking,” that explains the linguistic aspects of Southwest Spanish. She hopes it will demystify the varieties of speech used in Mexican American communities.

**“You can’t study the language of a group of people without focusing on the context in which it’s spoken.”**

# Hablamos Tex-Mex.

# Do you know what they learned last summer?

**Summer internships not only help students gain valuable work-related experience, they broaden their life experience. These benefits are surely enough to draw students to apply, but there's another enticement—they get paid.**

*By Susan Flynt England*

**W**ord is getting out about the four-year-old program sponsored by Career Services.

"Each year more and more students have accepted internship offers," says Pamela Camacho, a Career Services counselor who coordinates the program.

This summer, 65 students packed their bags for intern positions throughout the country, where they held a variety of jobs in laboratories, museums, federal offices and advertising agencies.

"When the program began, we recognized that summer internship programs offered extraordinary opportunities to our students, but awareness and participation needed to be developed," says Pam Wood, associate director of Career Services.

"There are opportunities for summer internships in every major," Camacho adds.

Indeed, some internship opportunities go unclaimed. This year, Camacho plans an active outreach program to students. Not only do Career Services staff keep an up-to-date Web site of internship listings through the Career Services Job Bank, they hold information meetings, send e-mails and even call students they think might be interested in specific internships.

For their part, students must complete applications and meet deadlines, a task Career Services' six full-time counselors are willing to help with.

Career Services does extensive research to ferret out opportunities. One organization, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), has proved a gold mine of opportunity for students. This summer, HACU sponsored 16 students in internships around the country.

"We were excited because we had so much more diversity in what we offered this summer—everything from EPA and Health and Human Services to corporate internships," says Elizabeth Cavert Morrison, HACU program director.

HACU is developing a great success rate with student interns. More than 60 percent of UTSA students who applied for these competitive internships were accepted—a higher acceptance rate than at many other universities, says Camacho.

Internships come with many enriching benefits—new experiences, new friends, new places to live.

"Some students find a permanent job after the internship," Wood says. "That's the great thing about them—they leapfrog students into opportunity."



### Health and safety work in Cincinnati

Senior Laura Cavazos is not entirely sure what she'll do with her biology degree. But her summer internship helped her learn what her options are.

Cavazos spent the summer working in Cincinnati for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through a HACU-sponsored internship.

NIOSH, which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the federal agency responsible for conducting research on work-related disease and injury—everything from lung disease in miners to carpal tunnel syndrome in computer users.

Her internship at NIOSH kept her in the lab, where her job was to “test” the test kits used by construction workers and others to detect trace metals in their work environment. Using different concentrations of trace metals such as mercury and silver, Cavazos sought to find a performance curve for the test kits. Her work and conclusions were recorded in a paper, which she hopes will be published in a peer review journal next year.

A chemist mentored her every step of the way, helping her gain confidence over the course of the 10-week internship.

“At the beginning I was afraid of touching stuff. I thought I was going to mess it up,” she says.

The summer wasn't all work. Cavazos lived with three other interns in a campus apartment at Cincinnati's Xavier University, and the new friends explored the city. Highlights included trips to the city's famed zoo and aquarium and an outdoor jazz festival.

She was so pleased with her internship experience that she decided to push her graduation date back to December 2001 so she can do another internship next summer.

### On her own in Washington, D.C.

Belinda Garza had three internship offers this summer. She took the one farthest from home—and spent the summer in Washington, D.C.

“I'd never been away from home before,” Garza explains. Garza worked at a HACU-sponsored internship in the Finance Office of the United States Census Bureau in Suitland, Md. She lived in an apartment in Alexandria, Va., with three other summer interns—two from Texas universities and one from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez.

Her Census Bureau job kept her at the computer most days, examining financial records and organizing accounting data.



Although Garza briefly thought about switching her major to accounting upon her return to UTSA, by the end of the summer she had decided to stay in the College of Business' management degree program, where her concentration is international business.

“I know I need to work with people,” she says. Adjusting to life in a big city meant learning how to negotiate a subway system. Besides taking the Metro everywhere, she and her roommates took weekend trips to New York City and Philadelphia. She sampled major league baseball at an Orioles-Braves game in nearby Baltimore.

Garza and her new friends spent hours exploring as many of the 16 national museums that comprise the Smithsonian Institution as they could. She also visited the Holocaust Museum and toured the White House.

“There was always something to do.”

This student who had never left home is ready to apply for another summer internship. She's heard HACU may start an internship program abroad. If so, she'll be first in line.

### Engineering gadgets for the CIA

“Remember Q? The one who invented all the gadgets for James Bond? That's what I do,” Joseph Khair said.

Khair, a senior majoring in electrical engineering, needed permission from the CIA to make that statement.

He spent the summer as an intern with the CIA in Langley, Va., just outside Washington, D.C., where he used his engineering skills to help

design electronic surveillance devices that support communications with CIA officers overseas.

“Our officers need ways to communicate with us back at headquarters,” he said.

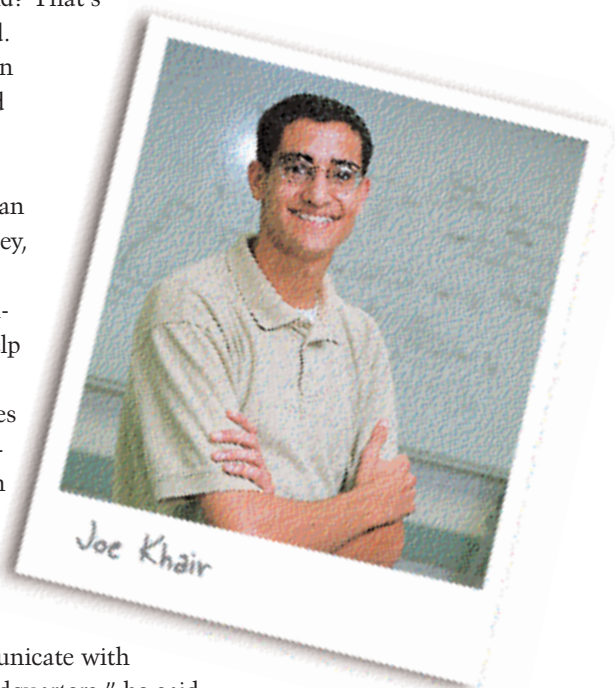
“They can't always rely on typical means or infrastructure, so we provide them with alternatives.”

To get the internship, Khair underwent an eight-month selection process that began with the usual forms and resumés and, as the months passed, delved deeper into prospective interns' personalities and personal lives.

“Some of the interns, including Joe, had to achieve the highest level of security clearance,” said David Burris, Central Intelligence Agency Southwest Region recruitment and college relations representative.

Khair, who shared an apartment with four interns, said the internship called upon his social and cultural skills as much as his engineering skills.

“When you throw a bunch of these people together, they'll hook up. That made it hard to leave,” he said.



## Alumni

### Gala honors stars of new century

The stars shined brightly as guests dined and danced at the first Alumni Gala.

These were no ordinary stars, though. Flashing across the domed ceiling of the Institute of Texan Cultures was a photo montage of prominent alumni who are lighting the way for UTSA.

The Sept. 9 gala was led by KMOL reporter Martha Treviño '97 and included music from the Mo-Dels, an award ceremony and a silent auction to raise money for student scholarships.

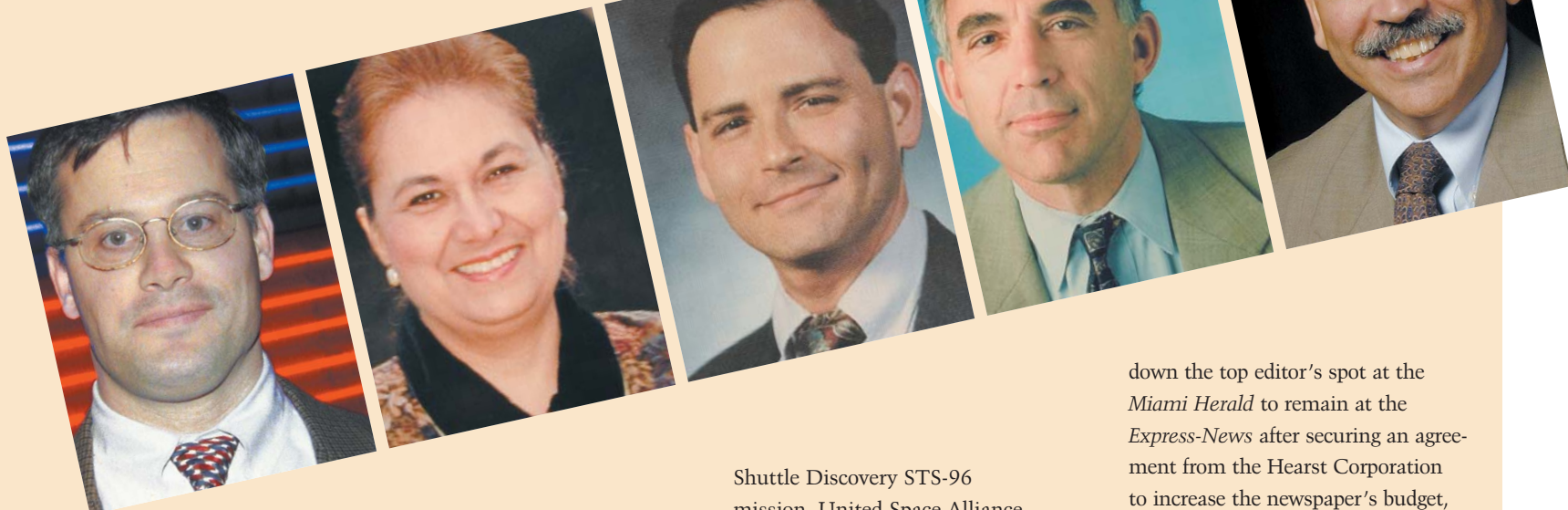
Alumnus of the Year awards were presented to Olga Aguirre '82 (posthumously), Pat Clynes '89, Robert Rivard '96 and David Simon '89. The Distinguished Service award went to Jorge Vega '79.

Carole Ross '86, '87 received the Board Member of the Year award. Two alumni, Eric Mapes '91 and Adonis Castillo '80, were thanked for

their contributions as Volunteers of the Year. President Ricardo Romo and his wife, Dr. Harriett Romo, were honored for their one-year anniversary at UTSA.

Special thanks go to honorary chairs Ernest Bromley '78, '80 and Aimee Bromley, and co-chairs Lisette Murray '89 and Shawn Franke '89, for promoting the gala, which raised more than \$19,000.

Proceeds from the event, which replaces BalloonFest as the UTSA Alumni Association's major fund-raiser, benefit the scholarship endowment fund.



#### Alumnus of the year

##### College of Business

**Patrick J. Clynes** (B.B.A. in accounting '89) is a founding member of the Houston chapter of the Alumni Association. He received the Roadrunner Club Member of the Year award in 1997 for his support of athletics, and the Alumni Association Volunteer of the Year award in 1998 for his efforts to recruit students from the Houston area.

As a manager for Enron Corporation in Houston, Clynes has sought out UTSA graduates to hire and mentor. He regularly works with Career Services on campus to find qualified graduates for job opportunities in Houston.

**The honorees (pictured above, from left to right) were Patrick J. Clynes, Olga Aguirre, David A. Simon, Robert Rivard and Jorge Vega.**

##### College of Fine Arts and Humanities

**Olga Aguirre** (B.A. in humanities '82), who died from a brain tumor in May at the age of 55, was the founder and executive director of the Mujeres Project, San Antonio's only AIDS service agency assisting families. Mariscela Aguirre said her mother's lifelong concern was that women, particularly Hispanics, become more knowledgeable about issues such as AIDS.

Aguirre used her savings to open the nonprofit program in 1991 in a borrowed building. By last year, the Mujeres Project was serving more than 250 families and individuals.

##### College of Sciences and Engineering

**David A. Simon** (B.S. in mechanical engineering '79) received the United Space Alliance Superior Achievement Award for Technical Achievement in 1999 for his work on the Space

Shuttle Discovery STS-96 mission. United Space Alliance performs flight operations for the Johnson Space Center.

Simon, an engineer for EVA (extra-vehicular activity) systems, detected flaws in the new space-to-space communications system before the May 1999 launch of STS-96 and scheduled round-the-clock testing in the days leading up to launch.

Simon's efforts resulted in estimated savings of \$500 million, since an additional shuttle flight was not needed to complete the STS-96 objectives.

##### College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Robert Rivard** (B.S. in political science '96), editor and senior vice president of the *San Antonio Express-News*, was named Editor of the Year by *Editor & Publisher* in April. An E&P editorial cited, among other reasons, Rivard's "unselfish commitment to the long-term future of newspapers." Rivard last year turned

down the top editor's spot at the *Miami Herald* to remain at the *Express-News* after securing an agreement from the Hearst Corporation to increase the newspaper's budget, thereby adding new staff positions and increasing staff wages.

#### Distinguished service

**Jorge Vega** (B.A. in political science '79) earned his law degree from Harvard University in 1982 after first graduating magna cum laude from UTSA.

Now employed in San Antonio at Elms Harmon LLC, Vega has practiced law at several firms in Texas.

But he is best known for his stint in the Texas Attorney General's Office, where he eventually was promoted to First Assistant Attorney General in 1994. In that position he was responsible for the management of the Office of the Attorney General—a job that included overseeing more than 3,600 employees and a budget of \$250 million. Vega also handled Texas' suit against the tobacco industry, for which the state won a \$17 billion settlement.



77

**Juan C. Gonzalez, M.A.** in bicultural-bilingual studies, was named vice president for student affairs at Georgetown University in May. Scholars and several educational organizations have recognized his work in student affairs. He also serves as chair of the Hispanic caucus of the American Association of Higher Education and as a member of the executive board of the American Association of University Administrators.

80

**Robert M. Manley Jr., B.A.** in humanities, is president/CEO for the Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center in Robstown, Texas.

**Evelyn Marlow Mortola, B.B.A.** in personnel management, M.A. in environmental management '82, has been a volunteer with the Texas Department of Protective Services for four years and was named Child Advocate Volunteer of the Year.

**Susan E. Tilleman, B.B.A.** in management, received her associate's degree in nursing in December 1997. She is a registered nurse at Alamo Heights Health and Rehabilitation Center.

82

**Carol Tidd, M.B.A.** in business, is controller in the office of the president of Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio, where she oversees technology issues for the organization. She received the CPCU and AIAF designations and completed 16 years with Nationwide in June.

83

**Gary Grey Abernathy, B.S.** in biology, is the telecommunications coordinator at Frost National Bank. He recently completed his M.B.A. in electronic commerce at Our Lady of the Lake University.

**Tom Dupnick, B.B.A.** in accounting, has been the controller for GE Reaves Engineering Inc. for the past two and a half years and was recently elected as the corporation's treasurer. Tom and his wife, Lisa, have one daughter, Anne Marie, age 22 months.

**Deborah Kleitches Pool, B.B.A.** in management, works in the Department of the Army 5th Signal Command at Mannheim, Germany. She has been with the Department of Defense in the field of resource management since January 1984.

84

**Jeffrey M. Aboloff, B.B.A.** in management, is a vice president for investments with PaineWebber in Houston. Jeff and his wife, Shelly, have two children, Alyssa and Mason.

**Timothy D. Nelson, B.B.A.** in economics, announces the birth of his daughter, Mariessa Danielle, born May 4.

85

**Daniel Luevano, B.S.** in mathematics, is a training manager with Symantec Corporation in Denver, where he lives with his wife, Dinah.

86

**Susan Ewers Heinsohn, B.B.A.** in management, has worked for USAA for seven years and is a performance specialist/instructor-IFE. She and her husband, Carroll Wayne, were married in December 1999. She is a stepmother to two boys, ages 17 and 20.

87

**Loretta Lowak Clarke, B.S.** in physical education, M.A. in early childhood education '90, is working on her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at UT Austin. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi, Pi Lambda Theta and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. Her husband, Jeff Clarke, B.S. in electrical engineering '86, is vice president of product development at Dell Computer in Austin. They have a 4-year-old son, Kevin.

**Steve Gurski, B.S.** in biology, is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy. He has been reassigned to a civilian federal agency in Washington, D.C.

**Karen L. Hutchison, B.A.** in early childhood education, M.A. in education '95, owns Calm Play Educational Consulting Service and is a doctoral student in educational leadership at UTSA. Karen and her husband, Marty, were married June 26, 1992.

88

**Clara Jeffers Canales, B.B.A.** in management, announces the birth of her great-granddaughter, Britanie Marie Aguilar, born June 16, 1999, to Richard Anthony Aguilar, B.B.A. in management '99.

**Stephen P. Fine, B.B.A.** in management, was elected mayor of the City of Kerrville and took office May 9. He has served as a city councilman since 1998. Stephen and his wife own a manufacturing company that produces aloe vera-based products and sprouting utensils for the health food industry. He also coaches youth baseball and soccer and is a Cub Scouts leader.

89

**Ray Bruce Jr., B.B.A.** in accounting, started with SBC Communication Audit Services in May 1999 and was appointed staff manager in January.

**William F. (Rick) Meyer, M.B.A.** in business, is a member of the 2000 All-American Skeet Team.

**Michael John Perez, B.A.** in history, is district manager for Time Warner in San Antonio. Michael's civic activities include being chairman of both the South Area Council-Greater Chamber and the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio, vice chair of RIGS by 2000 and a member of the board of directors of the Hill Country meeting group of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers.

**Christopher P. Slyman, B.A.** in political science, is a captain in the U.S. Army and commander of the 175th Transportation Company, in Tacoma, Wash.

**Katherine A. Strus, B.A.** in psychology, is the executive officer in the operations assignment division at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base. Katherine has been invited to sing the national anthem at several military retirement, promotion and award ceremonies, and at the Texas Motor Speedway, San Antonio Missions baseball games, the Retama Racetrack and Polo Center, and the 2000 UTSA Homecoming Game.

90

**Lester A. Keith, B.B.A.** in management, M.B.A. in business '91, is a professor of business administration at Glen Oaks Community College in Centreville, Mich. He was named to Who's Who of America's Teachers in 1998.

91

**Albert Alva, B.A.** in psychology, married Telecia Rittiman, B.A. in psychology '91, on Feb. 29.

**Patrick Klar, B.B.A.** in management, is director of sales at KTSA-KTFM Radio. Patrick's daughter, Presley Alexandra, was born Jan. 27.

**Sharon Martin Kocurek, M.Music,** is teaching keyboard and applied music theory at Trinity University. She also serves on the San Antonio Symphony Board of Directors and the COLFA Advisory Board.

**Graham William Paterson, B.A.** in English, owns Network Intelligence of San Antonio, a telecommunications business celebrating one year of operation.

92

**Stacy Dill Hoffman, B.A.** in psychology, and her husband, Sydney, were married April 15.

**Veronica Coffman Forde, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, received her master's degree in education and is a leading teacher of 10 fourth grade teachers at Somerset Intermediate. She and her husband, Jason, live in Floresville, Texas.

**Tracy Marie Haven Hopkins, B.B.A.** in accounting, and her husband, David, are expecting their first child in late October.

93

**Brann G. Calvetti, B.B.A.** in management, is a captain in the U.S. Army and company commander, Charlie Company, 16th Signal Battalion at Fort Hood, Texas. He and his wife, Lanette, were married July 30, 1994, and have three children: Kirk, 9; Kirstin, 5; and Emily, 3.

**Rosina D. Esquivel, B.A.** in sociology, is a special education teacher at Harlandale Independent School District. Rosina was named Multihandicapped Center Teacher of the Year 1999-2000.

**Linda Lee Gould, M.A.** in bicultural-bilingual studies, will complete her 14th year as a teacher with South San Antonio Independent School District this year. She also attends National Christian University and School of Law.

94

**Tammy Booker-Fields, B.A.** in criminal justice, married Sheddric D. Fields Aug. 26, 1999. Their daughter, Jayla Tamerian Fields, was born March 14.

**Crystal Gooding, B.B.A.** in accounting, is a staff accountant for Copa Casino in Gulfport, Miss.

**Robert Kevin New, B.B.A.** in accounting, is a team leader of financial reporting for American General Financial Group. He and his wife, Rebecca, have one son, Robert Harrison, born March 1.

**Denise Schmidt Schubert, B.B.A.** in management, is a quality assurance consultant for the Hartford Insurance Co. in San Antonio.

**Sandra Lee Serrano, B.A.** in political science, is a business analyst for Bexar County Information Services.

**Anthony H. White, B.B.A.** in business, is a vice president at Frost National Bank. He married Katherine Bimler in May 1997.

## Profile **Former UTSA hoops star completes challenging first year as FBI agent**

She knew what she was doing when it came to shooting baskets. Shooting a semiautomatic—well, that was another story.

**Celeste Van Auken** (B.B.A. in management '88), who played guard for the women's basketball team while pursuing her education at UTSA, has traded her basketball for a badge: she's an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Stationed at the bureau's Miami field office, Van Auken works in the office's organized crime squad collecting information that will be used to prosecute suspects. That may mean she's monitoring a telephone tap one day, executing a search warrant the next. It almost always means a lot of paperwork.

"One of the neat things about being an agent is there are no typical days," she says.

Van Auken joined the FBI in May 1999 after being a project manager for a San Antonio architecture and construction management company, where she had worked for 11 years. The combination of architecture and business classes in UTSA's building development program, her degree concentration, she says, "made me a real well rounded person. With the background I had, I could understand the accounting side of the project, or I could look at a set of plans and be able to tell what the end result was going to be."

Yet after more than a decade in that business, Van Auken was no longer satisfied with what she was doing. She started considering her options and even toyed with the idea of capitalizing on her basketball know-how by becoming a collegiate basketball coach, but that didn't feel right, either.

It was while Web-surfing that Van Auken began considering the FBI. Reading about the bureau at its online site, she was attracted by the diversity of its work—the same reason she enjoyed her coursework in building development. Whereas the DEA focuses on illegal drugs and the Secret Service primarily protects the president, she says, the FBI does a little bit of everything, investigating about 300 different classifications of crime.

"I just started reading about it," Van Auken says. "I said, 'Let me put my application in and see what happens.'"

That application submission began a year-and-a-half-long process of written tests, personal interviews, a medical examination, polygraph and drug



tests, and a background investigation. The most critical step was a one-hour panel interview at the FBI's Kansas City office.

"They're asking you questions . . . and you have to give your response based on background experience. It's very, very intense," she says. "My brain was hurting, it was thinking so hard."

The intensity certainly did not end when Van Auken was accepted and sent to train at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. The 16-week training course included classroom and practical instruction in everything from proper handcuffing to driving safely in high-speed pursuits.

And yes, Van Auken says, she learned to shoot something other than basketballs—the academy's firearms training ensures trainees are competent to handle and fire handguns, shotguns and carbines.

New agents' skills and training are put to the test in Hogan's Alley, a mock town where agents act out different scenarios such as a kidnapping, a bank robbery and a hostile arrest. "That's probably one of the things that help most people who don't have law enforcement experience," Van Auken says.

And like her, many new agents do not. Valuing trainees with life experience, the FBI hires from a wide range of fields. "You name it," Van Auken says, adding that she has met agents who are doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers and pilots.

As for her own former life, Van Auken does return to San Antonio whenever possible to visit her family—her father is life sciences professor O.W. Van Auken—and to eat in her favorite restaurants.

"Chris Madrid's hamburgers were at the top of my list," she says of her last trip home this summer.

Though she says she misses the wide, open spaces of South Texas, Van Auken believes she will stay with the FBI wherever it takes her. In the year that she has worked for the bureau, she's gained confidence in her abilities as an agent, admitting, "The very first surveillance I went out to, I was nervous as a cat."

She has been working on one case since moving to Miami and is looking forward to the gratification of her first indictment.

"This is making a real difference," she says. "This is taking a criminal off the street and hopefully he can't hurt anyone else. It's a little thing, but I feel like it's useful."

— Rebecca Luther

# 95

**Michael Bollinger**, B.B.A. in accounting, is a policy analyst for the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President. Michael and his wife, Lisa, were married June 17 in Old Town, Alexandria, Va. Michael plans to resume studies for his Ph.D. in public policy this fall.

**Chris J. DeGuelle**, B.A. in criminal justice, and his wife, Krista, were married Oct. 23, 1999, in Del Rio, Texas. Chris is a security police officer assigned to the 43rd Airlift Wing HQ staff at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

**Trina Lynn Diehl**, B.A. in psychology, is a human resources representative with the Alamo Community College District. Trina is engaged to be married on Oct. 15 to Emory Cowan III.

**Joan Fabian**, M.F.A. in art, had a one-person exhibition, *Hi-Fi Masala*, at the San Antonio Community College Art Gallery in April and a show at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center through August. Joan began teaching art in August at the National College of Arts in Lahore, Pakistan, for four months on a U.S. Fulbright Scholar Lecturing Award.

**Van Rick Garcia**, B.S. in mechanical engineering, works for Standard Aero as a process engineer overseeing the repair of aircraft engines.

**Bradley W. Jones**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a sixth grade reading teacher at Sul Ross Middle School and the school's Webmaster.

**Karl (Kris) Krimmel**, B.B.A. in accounting, is married to Charlotte Krimmel, M.B.A. in accounting '84. Kris is a computer Internet specialist for MGR Inc. at Kelly Air Force Base.

**Carl J. Mangine**, B.A. in history, and his wife, Dennese, were married July 16, 1999. Carl attends Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and will graduate in May 2001.

**Catherine Ann Metzger**, B.B.A. in accounting, works at various temporary positions involving data entry and accounting. Catherine would like to pursue a position as a paralegal.

**Angela M. Walker**, B.B.A. in accounting, works for APC Inc. and is a volunteer for the Girl Scouts Wood Service Unit. Angela plans to be married in November.

**Hubert Eugene Watson**, B.A. in political science, is a sales representative for Schering-Plough in San Antonio. He collects African American fine art and is a Bexar County Republican precinct chairman.



**Jennifer Stewart Wilson, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, teaches second grade in Las Vegas. Her husband, Dustin Wilson, is an environmental engineer.

**96 Robert D. Arreguin, B.B.A.** in management, was promoted to Accountant I section supervisor of Municipal Courts with the City of San Antonio.

**Desiree Kornrum Byrne, M.P.A.** in public administration, was accepted into the doctoral program in higher education administration at UT Austin. She has one son, Michael Preston Byrne, born April 21, 1999.

**Ramiro B. Garza Jr., B.A.** in sociology, is an immigration inspector for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Sylvia M. Gerhart, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, is a criminal justice grants specialist for the Alamo Area Council of Governments.

**Nancy Lynn Jackson, B.B.A.** in accounting, works as a temporary employee at USAA in the mutual fund analysis department.

**Kristen C. Johnson, B.S.** in biology, is employed by John Deere Health in Moline, Ill.

**Ronald J. Raby, B.B.A.** in management, started his own manufacturers representative company, R.J. Enterprise. He sells and services industrial equipment to Alamo Cement, Southdown Cement, CPS, SAWS, McQueeney Wallboard Operations and other clients.

**Eddie Ramirez, B.A.** in criminal justice, relocated to Del Rio, Texas, with State Farm Mutual Insurance as a senior claims representative in the Auto Special Investigative Unit.

**Clifford R. Sipes, B.S.** in electrical engineering, is married to Michele R. Sipes, B.A. in psychology '91. Clifford is a senior staff engineer for ARINC, providing hardware and software for Department of Defense contracts. Michele is self-employed as a medical transcriptionist and sings with the San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers.

**97 Vincent Bosquez, B.A.** in criminal justice, married Stacy Klose May 9. Vincent is a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and was scheduled to report to Recruiting Station New Orleans in July for duty as the operations officer.

**Vanessa Bute, B.B.A.** in management, is a senior management analyst at KPMG Consulting.

**Roberto Ramirez, B.A.** in criminal justice, is a lawyer with the U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Department (JAG). He received his J.D. from South Texas College in Houston in May.

**Alexander G. Rodriguez, B.B.A.** in accounting, was promoted to senior financial analyst at Qualitycare Network/N.A.M.M./Phycor.

**W. Andrew York, B.A.** in history, is manager of Unix System Administration for the Texas Workforce Commission.

**98 Sarah Burnett Cracraft, B.S.** in biology, and her husband, Eric, were married March 18. Sarah is a donor coordinator for the American Red Cross Tissue Services, and Eric is a regional sales representative for Pharmacia and UpJohn.

**Dianna Carrizales, B.A.** in psychology, is a research assistant for the Psychological Corporation in San Antonio.

**Cindy Houghton Daugherty, B.B.A.** in finance, is a financial representative for Northwest Mutual Financial Network in San Antonio.

**Diane Carol Dempsey, B.A.** in English, is an assistant editor at the Psychological Corporation in San Antonio.

**Laura Ann Dempsey, B.A.** in sociology, is the information and data systems coordinator for the Safe Family Coalition at University Hospital, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

**Robert L. Francisco, B.B.A.** in business, is an assistant golf professional at La Cantera in San Antonio.

**Aaron Gandy, B.A.** in political science, is engaged to Maricruz Vela. They plan to marry in September 2002. Aaron is employed by USAA in the integrated sales and service department.

**Edward Gonzales, B.B.A.** in tourism management, married Alyson Martinez June 7, 1997. Edward is a business services analyst for EDS.

**Yvonne Ayala Gonzalez, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, and her husband David's first child, Andrew David, was born Aug. 18, 1999.

**Becky Nemec Hammond, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, and her husband, Brian, were married March 11. They live in Corpus Christi, where

## Profile **Aiming to connect alumni to the University**

*He wasn't what you'd call an active student. Then again, UTSA didn't exactly have an active student life when **R. René Escobedo** (B.B.A. in accounting, '84) enrolled in 1979.*

*Like all UTSA students at that time, Escobedo was strictly a commuter. He even rode the bus from Wonderland Mall—now Crossroads Mall—because parking on campus was limited.*

*"There was nothing out here," he says, referring to the Loop 1604-IH-10 interchange.*

*The city and the University have grown substantially in the last two decades, and Escobedo has made up for his lack of student involvement by being an especially active alumnus. He served on the board of directors of the UTSA Alumni Association for three years and as vice president last year. In July he was appointed president for 2000–2001.*

*When his name was mentioned as a candidate for president, Escobedo was initially reluctant to take on the job. He was in the midst of establishing his own business—he opened his law practice June 1. But he convinced himself to reconsider.*

*"I feel so strongly about the alumni association and its role in supporting the University. I decided I'd make time to do it," he says. "It's really opened my eyes in terms of the role of the University here and in South Texas and the impact it has."*

*He was not, he readily admits, as aware of the value of his education when he was a student.*

*Escobedo, who grew up in San Antonio, chose UTSA to study accounting, his father's vocation, because of the reputation of its business school. After graduating, he went to work with his father as a CPA for six years.*

*He then decided to go to law school at St. Mary's University and afterward went to work in the San Antonio office of Houston-based Soules & Wallace. This year, Escobedo made the move to open his own firm. Through his practice, he handles a range of business-related services for a diverse client list that includes real estate developers, physicians, Internet providers and engineers.*

*Escobedo's wife, Patricia, is also a UTSA graduate. She earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish in 1985 and a master's degree in education in 1993 and is in her third year as principal at Kriewald Road Elementary in the Southwest Independent School District. The couple have one daughter, Victoria, 7.*

*One of Escobedo's goals as president is to increase the alumni association's membership. He believes one way to do that is to bring alumni back to campus, and he hopes to schedule more on-campus events.*

*"We have approximately 5,000 active, dues-paying members. I want more, and there's no reason we can't have more," he says. "We have a beautiful campus. It's gorgeous, and it's changed a lot. We need to get people out here, get them reconnected to the University."*

— Rebecca Luther



Becky is a fifth grade teacher at Calallen Independent School District. Brian is an outside sales person with Contractors Building Supplies.

**John Thomas Hill**, B.S. in biology, is a senior network engineer for ADTECH Systems Inc.

**Mark E. Jackson**, B.S. in architecture, is an architect at Lockwood Andrews & Newnam Inc.

**Nora Merla**, B.A. in communication, works in the display advertising department of the *San Antonio Express-News*. She attends graduate school at the University of the Incarnate Word.

**Heather Michelle Nicholson**, B.B.A. in accounting, is an accounting analyst at USAA and is pursuing an M.S. in accounting at UTSA.

**Gilbert Paiz**, B.B.A. in business, was named assistant vice president of operations for NBC Financial, Inc. in April. He serves as an investment executive for the brokerage and financial planning division of NBC of Texas.

**Barbara L. Ray**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a kindergarten teacher for Galveston Independent School District.

**Melissa Usener Sarabia**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a first grade teacher at Rosita Valley Literacy Academy in Eagle Pass, Texas.

**Kristina Vidaurri**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a special education teacher at Alief Independent School District in Houston.

**Jaime Mikulin Aguilar**, B.B.A. in management, married Isreal Aguilar Feb. 26. Jaime is a fourth grade bilingual teacher at Anson Jones Elementary in Bryan Independent School District.

**Pamela D. Culberston-Krieger**, B.B.A. in management, is an industry analyst for Frost & Sullivan, an international marketing and consulting firm.

**Robert Ghavidel**, B.B.A. in information systems, is a programmer/analyst for Reliant Energy.

**Judy A. Juarez Crockett**, B.B.A. in management, is a sales assistant for Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in Highland Park, Texas. Judy married Brad Crockett July 29.

**C. Scott McArthur**, B.S. in computer science, is a systems analyst for Neles Automation.

**Angela Ortiz**, B.S. in biology, and her husband, Darren James, are expecting their first child in September.

**Roland Patrick Pastrano**, B.A. in criminal justice, married Alyssa Madrid Nov. 12, 1998. Roland is a district parole officer for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

**Mark H. Poskon**, B.B.A. in accounting, married Elisa A. Elizondo May 30, 1999. Mark is a regional superintendent for Mrs. Baird's Bakeries.

**Leif Purcell**, B.A. in anthropology, will report for duty with the 1st Signal Brigade in Korea for a 12-month tour of duty after graduation from the Signal Officer Basic Course. He is a communications officer for the U.S. Army and deals with combat net radio, satellite communications and information management.

**Eric A. Sorensen**, B.A. in mathematics, is a stock purchase representative for Citibank/Salomon Smith Barney.

**Bronwen R. Taylor**, B.A. in English, is an educational assistant for Hoover's Online.

**Martha Tijerina**, M.A. in Spanish, is a language specialist in the Immigration Courts of the U.S. Department of Justice. She is also a volunteer TV host for Catholic

Television of San Antonio. She received the 1999 Outstanding Alumni Award from Our Lady of the Lake University, where she received her B.A. in public administration in 1989.

**Jennifer Valentin**, B.A. in communication, is a public relations assistant/writer for Cavazos Public Relations & Advertising in San Antonio.

**Karen Ann Wade**, B.S. in kinisecology and health, is a membership director for the YMCA in Dayton, Ohio.

**John V. York**, B.B.A. in finance, is president of Republic Resources, L.L.L. His son, William E. York, was born Feb. 9, 1999.

IN MEMORIAM

**Fredrick Allen Thomas**, M.A. in education '95, lost his battle with cancer June 9. Fred was a social worker for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services. He taught everyone he knew how to love unconditionally and live life to the fullest, and he was passionate in the fight against injustice and discrimination. He was a member of the UTSA Alumni Association and volunteered on its behalf.

What's new, Roadrunner?

Personal information

Name (include maiden name)	Degree/Class Year
Spouse's Name (include maiden name)	Degree/Class Year (if UTSA grad)
Home Address	
City, State and Zip Code	Home Phone
Employment Information	
Place of Employment	Title
May we include your title and employer in Class Notes? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Work Address	
City, State and Zip Code	
Work Phone	Fax Number
Preferred E-mail Address (Home or Work)	

May we include your e-mail address in Class Notes? Yes ☐ No ☐

Sombrilla magazine requests updates on promotions, relocations, additional degrees, marriages, accomplishments—anything that's newsworthy. Let your fellow Roadrunners know what you've been up to by completing this form and sending it to us. Class Notes are printed in each quarterly issue of Sombrilla.


For marriage and engagement announcements, remember to include your spouse's full name, class year and degree (if UTSA graduate), and wedding date. For birth and adoption announcements, include your child's full name and the date of birth/adoption.

Send us your news

E-mail: alumni@utsa.edu  
Write: Office of Alumni Programs, UTSA,  
6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619  
Fax: (210) 458-7227  
Log on: www.utsa.edu



## CAFÉ DU MONDE

I sat watching that woman in the black specs and mad cloched hat  
smoke Djarums as she brushed splays of powdered sugar from her  
who-do-you-imagine-me-to-be lap, sat watching that trail of we-  
would-be-swans as they gagged over each entrant's waning queen-  
beauty, sat watching that mother-daughter-jump-suited duo of  
I'm-so-euro pretties escorted by the requisitely enthralled American male hen  
as they devoured beignets and au lait no differently, mind you, than their  
domestic counterparts, sat watching that observant  
young fellow noting me noting him.

— Rebekah Love

## SEIZURE

I taste light  
trembling severity  
My shoulders emptied  
by sudden violences  
rhythmic intrusions  
shadows driven  
into my shuddering form  
Your arms unwavering  
reach for my body  
eyes blindly shut  
plummeting into you.

— Barbara Perez



With the debut of  
*Luminous Page*,  
an electronic literary journal,  
UTSA students have a new forum  
for their poetry, short fiction  
and artwork.

Catherine Kasper, assistant  
professor of English, has been  
working with undergraduates since  
March to develop the e-journal.

Students will handle all aspects  
of the journal's production—from  
setting editorial content to proof-  
reading copy—with organizational  
assistance from Kasper, who is  
an associate editor for the literary  
journal *Conjunctions* and has  
served as managing editor of the  
*Denver Quarterly*.

Kasper says the journal intends  
to build on the success of *Cactus  
Alley*, the print journal that  
featured student creative writing  
from 1980 to 1997.

"Like *Cactus Alley*, *Luminous  
Page* attempts to give students a  
way to display their original cre-  
ative works."

The journal also lists literary  
and art events at UTSA and  
throughout San Antonio. Future  
editions may include the work  
of graduate students and members  
of the local art and writing  
community.

Here is a sample of poetry by  
English students Rebekah Love, a  
senior, and Barbara Perez, a sopho-  
more.

To visit *Luminous Page*, log on  
to the Web site for the UTSA  
Division of English, Classics,  
Philosophy and Communication  
(<http://cofah.utsa.edu/ecpc>) and  
click on the journal's link.

— Darren Hawthorne '00



# Looking Back



## WHERE'S THE HOT PLATE?

**Students move into UTSA's brand new residence hall (or dorm, as these places are more familiarly called by students) in late summer, 1986.**

## A drawstring laundry bag. A mini-ironing board.

Poster putty. And—hidden so the RA won't find it—a hotplate for heating canned ravioli and boiling water for hot chocolate.

Such supplies are as standard as notebooks and backpacks for most college students. But before Chisholm Hall was built, UTSA students had not had the chance to experience campus living and its necessary accoutrements. That changed when, in August 1986, the coed residence hall opened and a handful of students lost their commuter status. Offering amenities such as private bathrooms, an indoor swimming pool and—eliminating the need for those contraband hotplates—a full kitchen, Chisholm offered its residents an experience a little bit nicer than that of a typical dorm.

But beyond just providing students a place to sleep, Chisholm Hall and the newer University Oaks Apartments have given students who choose to live on campus a broader college experience with regular social events including dances, mixers and movies. And don't forget the impromptu volleyball games.

Fourteen years later, Chisholm continues to change with the times to meet its residents' needs. Ethernet connections were put in every room last spring, and the building has gone alcohol-free. And, for the 2000–2001 school year, the second floor is reserved for residents in the Chisholm Living and Learning Center, a project in conjunction with the Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success to help freshmen succeed in school by placing them in learning communities.

— Rebecca Luther



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