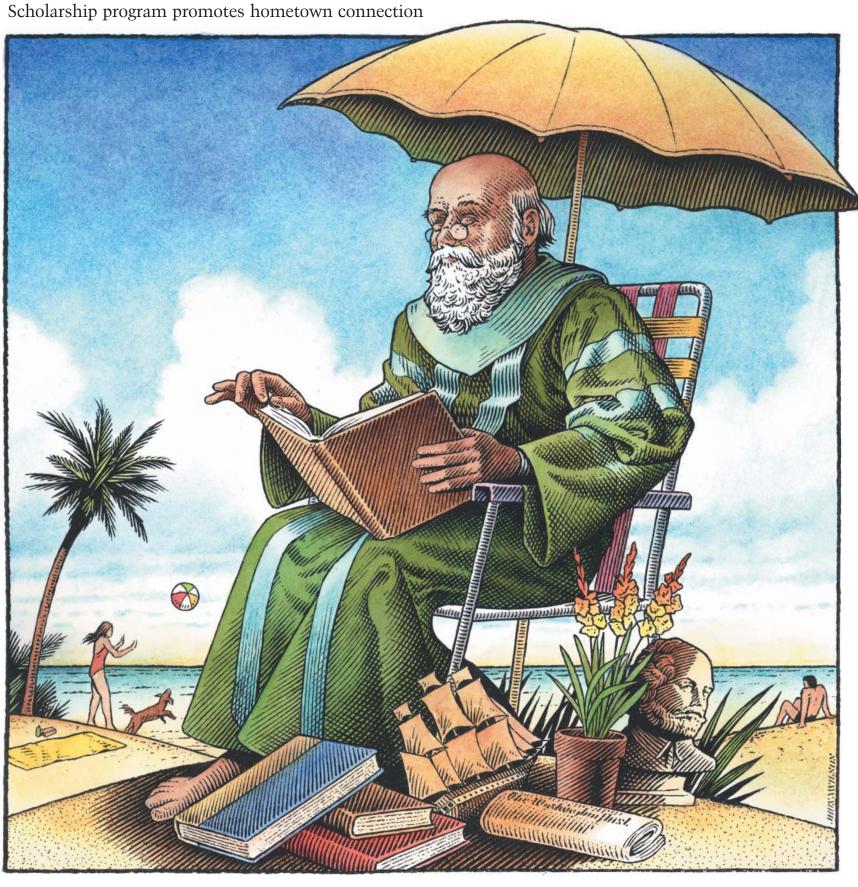
Volume 6 Number 2 Summer 2000

In this issue: A deans' list of reading recommendations
Faculty publication roundup • Students and faculty honored





### **FEATURES**

### THE DEANS' LIST

We asked UTSA's college deans to recommend some of their favorite authors and playwrights for your summer reading and viewing pleasure. No grades will be given.

### FACULTY PUBLICATIONS STACK UP **10**

Recent publications by faculty authors include books on labor history, archaeology, biography and teaching techniques.

### **DEPARTMENTS**

### In the Loop

Americanos, a photographic exhibition, visits the Institute of Texan Cultures; an opera star is born; students honored, faculty awarded; plus, campus news.

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Spring sports report; new women's basketball coach hired.

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New department features alumni class notes and profiles; Jane Findling appointed interim director of Alumni Programs.

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We pair prose by writer Stephen Harrigan on Big Bend National Park with photographs from Bill Wright's exhibition, Portraits from the Desert, now on view at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

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What eggs-actly are these young people up to? UTSA's Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) brings math-minded junior and senior high school students to campus for eight weeks every summer.

### Summer 2000, Volume 6, Number 2

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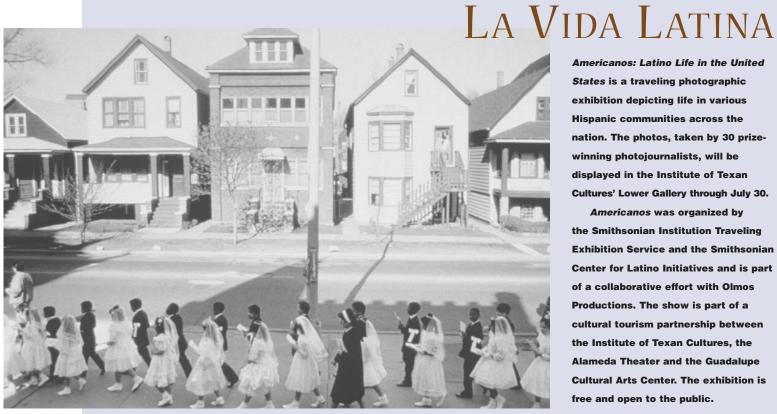






SIGNS OF SPRING: Students take a break from studying for finals to enjoy free dance lessons. Held under the Sombrilla, the lessons drew a crowd of restless feet. The event was sponsored by Sigma Lambda Alpha.

Daylilies were among the many blooming things on campus.



First Communion Day, by Antonio Perez

Americanos: Latino Life in the United States is a traveling photographic exhibition depicting life in various Hispanic communities across the nation. The photos, taken by 30 prizewinning photojournalists, will be displayed in the Institute of Texan Cultures' Lower Gallery through July 30.

Americanos was organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling **Exhibition Service and the Smithsonian** Center for Latino Initiatives and is part of a collaborative effort with Olmos Productions. The show is part of a cultural tourism partnership between the Institute of Texan Cultures, the **Alameda Theater and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. The exhibition is** free and open to the public.

### **Honored students**



The University honored its best and brightest at the annual Honors Convocation held March 28 in the University Center. Students and advisers from 18 honor societies and the University Honors Program were recognized during the ceremony.

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

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

Recognized during the roll call were seven all-discipline honor societies: Alpha Chi, Alpha Lambda Delta, Golden Key, Mortar Board, Omicron

Delta Kappa, Order of Omega and the University Honors Student Association as well as college-specific honor societies.

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

Students and academic scholarship recipients from the University Honors Program received additional recognition.

"Equipping the unprepared for college work is still a challenge," Kellman said, "one that is the responsibility of high schools and grade schools at least as much as a university. But recognizing and encouraging excellence is not incompatible with the mission of an institution created to provide equal opportunity. In fact, it is its fulfillment."

— Lynn Gosnell

potentialities in the process of being actualized. Acorns exist to become trees. But what will be the arc of an individual human life?"

# In the Loop

### Faculty honored for teaching, research and service to students

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

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

Recognized for their accomplishments in Core Curriculum teaching were Ronald Ayers, associate professor of economics, and Patricia Brewer, senior lecturer in the Division of Life Sciences. Ayers is a sought-after teacher of Introduction to Political Economy, and he

recently became co-director of the UTSA Center for Economic Education. Brewer has taught a variety of core courses required by both biology majors and nursing and physical therapy students. She has been instrumental in the effort to establish the biology degree at the Downtown

Campus. Steven Levitt, associate professor of communication, earned the President's Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in University Service. Levitt oversaw the creation of the communication degree, which has grown to about 550 majors in five

years, and is working to establish a master's degree in communication.

Three faculty members received the President's Distinguished Achievement Award for Teaching Excellence. Mark

Allen, associate professor of English, consistently receives high student approval ratings. He is a past recipient of the Chancellor's Council Outstanding Teaching Award.

Molly Lynch, visiting assistant professor of psychology, is another favorite among students. For two years, she has

averaged a score of 6.68 on a seven-point scale for classroom teaching. James McDonald, associate professor of anthropology, is known for designing courses that address practical skills such as resumé writing and research design. He is a sought-after adviser, and his courses also are popular with James McDonald non-anthropology majors.

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

— Roxanne Llewellyn



### The time has come . . .

- . . . to announce new scholarship programs. **EG&G Management Services of San Antonio** will give \$1,000 scholarships to students who graduate in the top 20 percent of their classes and qualify for admission to UTSA. The students are from six Southside high schools. District 8 City Councilwoman Bonnie Conner is earmarking \$80,000 in city funds to finance the District 8 Scholarship Program. The San Antonio Post of the Society of American Military Engineers established a \$40,000 endowment to fund scholarships for UTSA students.
- . . . to honor Tom C. Frost's 50 years of service with Frost Bank with a scholarship at the College of Business. The Frost Bank Charitable Foundation has endowed the annual scholarship, which will go to business students who demonstrate both scholastic excellence and community contributions.
- ... to create the Philip L. Stotter Award in Organic Chemistry. Tom Pressly '79, a rheumatologist who received last year's Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association, established this award to honor his former professor and support student achievement.
- ... to expand UTSA's parking spaces at the 1604 and the Downtown Campuses. At 1604, four parking projects under construction will increase spaces by 1,000 in time for the fall 2000 term. Most will be reserved for students. Downtown, two projects under way will virtually double parking capacity.
- . . . to welcome visitors to the 1604 Campus with information booths at both campus entrances, Edward Ximenes Avenue and John Peace Boulevard.
- . . . to recognize Eyra Perez, associate director of the Alliance for Education, and the staff of the College of Business undergraduate advising office for receiving the Richard S. Howe Excellence in Service to Undergraduate Students Award. Staff include Linda Chalmers, Beverly Ostmo, Laura Hancock, Amy Ramirez, Jane Cavazos and Nicki Phillips. The awards are made possible by a gift from Mrs. Walter W. McAllister Jr.
- . . . to commend 16 faculty for their outstanding service to students with disabilities, including Gena Caponi-Tabery, associate professor of American studies; Christine Caver, senior lecturer in English; Thomas Clarkin, lecturer in history; Elizabeth Delaportilla, lecturer in anthropology; James Ivy, lecturer in history; Patrick Kelly, assistant professor of history; Yolanda Leyva, assistant professor of history; David Libby, visiting assistant professor of history; Jo Lowe, lecturer in education; Mary McNaughton-Cassill, assistant professor of psychology; Suzanne Moore, assistant professor of education; Rhoda Newell, lecturer in sociology; Clemencia Rodriguez, assistant professor of communication; Eric Swanson, interim director of earth and physical sciences; Hing-Sing Yu, lecturer in mathematics and statistics; and Mary Lou **Zeeman**, associate professor of mathematics. — Roxanne Llewellyn

# Student Profilennifer Black

It's every vocal student's dream—singing an aria on the Metropolitan Opera stage, complete with orchestra and thousands in the audience. UTSA senior Jennifer Black has lived the dream.

Black won the Regional Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions in San Antonio and made the cut to the finals with her performance at the Feb. 27 semifinals in New York City. She is the first UTSA student to do so.



"A vocal student cannot earn a higher honor," says Division of Music Director Joe Stuessy.

The audition process involved two weeks in New York City preparing for the crucial performances. On this trip, Black was too busy to play the part of a tourist.

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

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

to the Moon involved looking down.
"I saw the audience. It was a full house—thousands," she recalls.

as she sang Dvorak's haunting Song

Although Black was not one of the five Grand Finalists, she was pleased with her performance. "The important thing was that there were a lot of very important people there. I got *heard*."

Peter Russell, head of the Met's Young Artist Program, called Black and encouraged her to apply for the program, another gold-plated rung up the opera career ladder.

The young singer forged professional contacts in New York, but she emphasized the old friends and colleagues who supported her.

"There was a very limited amount of arrogance," Black says. "My colleagues and I will probably be friends for life because I'll be working with them."

Black took her first voice lesson her senior year in high school. UTSA's medium size and quality teachers attracted her to the school, she says.

"I love my vocal teacher, Miss (Juli) Wood.
I wouldn't trade my relationship with her
for anything. The whole music building has
been very supportive."

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

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

What comes next for the budding opera star?

"I want to do the Met apprenticeship, but not next fall," she said. "I want to finish my degree first. In fact, I'd like to take just one semester of only core courses, be a regular student for a change."

— Susan Flynt England

### **Building Folk**

Domingo Yruegas helps fabricate exhibits for the Institute of Texan Cultures, but for a few months out of the year his work



with the production department takes him outside to the 20-acre grounds that surround the main building and exhibit floor. There he builds a gigantic temporary exhibit known as the Texas Folklife Festival

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

— Patty Burrus

### ¡Bravo!

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

# Campus Scene

## Roadrunners wrap up Spring sports The winter and early spring seasons featured many individual

By Rick Nixon

and team accomplishments. To read more about Roadrunner sports, log on to www.utsa.edu/sports/index.html.



### **Basketball**

For the 12th time in 19 seasons, the UTSA men's basketball team won at least 15 games and this year finished in third place in the Southland Conference (SLC) with a 15-13 record. However, UTSA came up short in its quest for a second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament after losing to Southwest Texas

State in the first round of the SLC Tournament. The Roadrunners were well-represented on the All-SLC team, as sophomore Devin Brown, seniors Lloyd Williams and Leon Watson, and sophomore McEverett Powers earned accolades for their play.

With 10 new faces on the team and an interim head coach, the UTSA women's basketball team was inconsistent and finished in a tie for 11th place in the SLC standings with a 7-20 overall record. Center Keelah Wilson was the standout performer for the Roadrunners, leading the SLC in blocked shots while ranking second in rebounding. Wilson, the only senior on the team, earned All-SLC recognition.

### **Baseball**

Highlighting the season was UTSA's win over Texas A&M, the first blanking of an Aggie baseball team in 204 games. Despite the quick start, the Roadrunners would struggle the rest of the way, ending the season with a 17-37 record, 10th place in the Southland Conference. The



top individual moment was senior rightfielder Ryan Smith's setting a UTSA school record with three home runs against Southwest Texas State University.



### Rae Rippetoe-Blair

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

Prior to her coaching experience at Oklahoma State, Rippetoe-Blair served for five seasons as head coach at Phillips University in Enid, Okla., and two years as assistant coach at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla. As a four-year starter for Oklahoma State, she averaged 8.1 points and 5.0 rebounds.

"The UTSA head coaching job is one loaded with potential and I'm honored that [Athletic Director] Lynn Hickey has given me the opportunity to lead the program," Rippetoe-Blair said.



### **Indoor Track and Field**

UTSA faced the 2000 indoor track and field season with a pair of young teams. The men's team finished seventh in the 11-team field at the SLC Indoor Championships. Freshman Justin Youngblood was the Roadrunners' top

performer. He won the 400-meter dash, placed in the high jump and anchored the 1,600-meter relay.

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

### Golf

For the second time in four years, the golf team finished a single stroke away from winning the conference championship. The performance capped a solid season that saw UTSA win two regular season championships, a first for Roadrunner golf. Led by seniors Magnus Dohlvik, Randy Jones and Jimmy Muse, the team captured titles at the Oral Roberts and Sam Houston State Invitationals.





The Roadrunner women ended the season with a 13-6 record and were represented on the All-SLC team in singles by sisters Louise and Eva Soderkvist, and freshman Svenja Fuhrig. The Soderkvist tandem of senior Louise and sophomore Eva was the conference choice in No. 2

doubles. The women's tennis team lost to UT Arlington in the championship match of the 2000 SLC Tournament.

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

The UTSA softball team concluded a record-setting 2000 season by finishing in second place at the Southland Conference Softball Tournament held in Natchitoches, La. The Roadrunners, who also finished second during the regular season, estab-



lished a school record with 39 wins. The team also set conference and school records with 64 home runs this season. Junior Denise Briggs was named conference Pitcher of the Year. UTSA placed eight players on All-Southland teams, with Briggs, Christy Connor and Amanda Michalsky each earning first team honors.

# Campus Scene

# Hing freshman year

Gazing out the window is a favorite escape for some high school students who dream of the day they'll be out of the classroom, heading someplace more exciting. When Valerie Fuentes looked out of Lanier High School's windows on San Antonio's near West Side, she could see her destiny being constructed just down the street.

Above, Janice Randolph and **Valerie Fuentes** enjoy the ACE Scholar social in April. Right, **USAA's Barbara Gentry and Ram Cavazos visit** with Christine Vásquez, ACE **Scholar Program** coordinator.

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

"I wanted to be a part of that," she says. "I'm seeing it grow."

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

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

The program includes a \$1,000 scholarship, which is funded by USAA and is renewable for the student's sophomore year. Each ACE scholarship student also is paired with a mentor from USAA; students and mentors meet at group socials three times a semester.

USAA has a long tradition of community involvement that includes high school mentoring programs. Barbara Gentry, USAA's senior vice president of community affairs, proposed the idea for the ACE Scholars program to UTSA's Office of Development after reading of a similar program at the University of Houston-Downtown.

"It planted the seed," she says. "I thought, 'This is a lot about what we're doing here.' "

ACE applicants must have a high school grade point average of at least 2.5 and be involved in extracurricular school or community activities. More than grades, says ACE Scholar Program Coordinator Christine Vásquez, "we're looking for commitment and dedication."

Once admitted to the program, students are required to take 12

credit hours at the Downtown Campus.

The Downtown Campus is close to where the students live, says Leticia Duncan-Brosnan, assistant director of student development in the Tomás Rivera Center for

Student Success. "There's a lot of pride for them to stay in the community."

Among the required credit hours is a core curriculum course that the group takes together.

ACE scholars also enroll in the College Success Seminar, a study skills instructions course. Having these classes in common creates a learning community among the students and helps promote student success, Duncan-Brosnan says.

"Historically, we find it's assumed that if students are on scholarship, they are the most likely to succeed," she says.

But even bright kids who may be the first in their families to go to college need assistance. The majority of the ACE scholars are first-generation college students, as was their adviser and program coordinator, Vásquez, who has taken a special interest in each student.

"It's great to see students develop from the first semester to the second," she says. "You see their confidence build and see them come out of their shells."

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

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

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

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

The emphasis of the ACE program, Gentry says, is "identifying students that had the potential but perhaps wouldn't get to college."

> organized socials each semester, they are encouraged to develop relationships outside the group setting.

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

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

When Gentry invited her to be an ACE mentor, Randolph's thoughts were of her own 20-year-old twin daughters.

"Since they won't listen to what I told them, I sure hoped she [Valerie] would," Randolph says. "I think she does listen to me. We like each other a lot . . . I think our personalities are compatible, and she doesn't hesitate to tell me what's on her mind."

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

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

"That fact alone," Fuentes says, "makes me think, 'Thank you.' "

# THE



Editor's note—This spring, we asked the deans of UTSA's four colleges to contribute reading recommendations to our summer issue. Beyond requesting that the choices reflect their fields of interest, we left the assignment open. Being individualists at heart, each person interpreted the assignment differently, even creatively. What follows is a delightfully eclectic and engaging list of summer reading and viewing options.

### Preserving a natural state

When the wildflowers begin blooming, Dwight Henderson, dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, picks up his well-worn copy of A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold.

Aldo Leopold's modern classic on conservation, first published in 1949, has as much relevance today as it did 51 years ago. Leopold was born in Burlington, Iowa, in 1887. After graduating from the Yale School of Forestry, he spent an extended period of time with the U.S. Forestry Service in the Southwest before moving to the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Wisconsin in 1924.

Two key events occurred in 1935. First, he helped found the Wilderness Society. Second, he purchased 80 acres of land that had at one time been forest but later was logged, overgrazed by dairy cows and left decimated. Leopold, along with his wife and children, began the process of restoring the land. He not only kept detailed records of what occurred such as the blooming of the draba, a small wildflower, or the first appearance in the spring of an upland plover, but he developed the concept of a land ethic.

He writes, "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the aesthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture."

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

**Also recommended by Henderson**: Eric Freyfogle's *Bounded People, Boundless Lands: Envisioning a New Land Ethic* (Island Press, 1998). This book by a law professor expands on Leopold's ideas. It calls for people to tell "good stories, stories about how people and land come together."

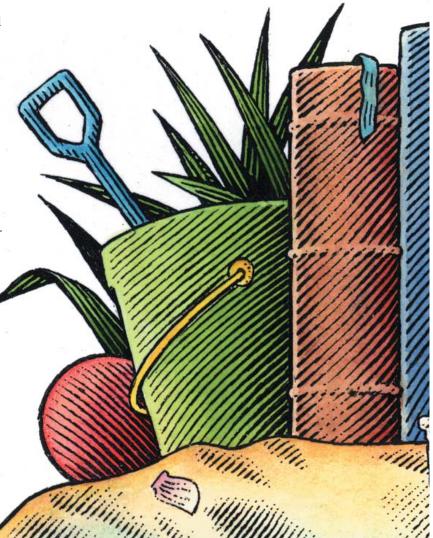
### **Personal and powerful**

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

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

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

The book tells more than a life's story. Its early pages provide insight into the aristocracy of the eastern United States. The privileged manner in which Graham lived her childhood is something most of us have never glimpsed.



Graham deals honestly and sensitively with the tragedy of the death of her husband, Phil Graham. He was a Harvard-educated lawyer, a brilliant and charismatic confidant to both John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. However, at the pinnacle of his life, he began to plunge into a mental illness that culminated in suicide.

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

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

### **Tall-ship sailing**

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

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

Stephen Maturin. The first book is called *Master and Commander*.

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

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

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

Before O'Brian achieved his immense popularity, E. M. Forster was the best-known writer of naval fiction. So I also recommend Forster's Capt. Horatio Hornblower series, an enduring classic and a great escape.

Also recommended by Hammond: Forensic Engineering: Environmental Case Histories for Civil Engineers and Geologists by Gerard Shuirman and James E. Slosson (Academic Press, 1992). Learn from disaster. This book details eight case histories of environmentally related failures due to ground movement and flooding. Hammond assigns these real-life stories to his classes.

### The play's the thing

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

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

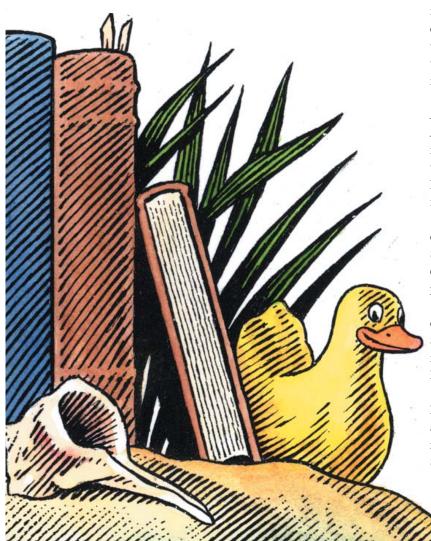
My first-choice in venue to see a play is the new Globe Theatre in London, an exact reconstruction of Shakespeare's original Globe on Bankside. Here the action takes place on a richly decorated stage that projects into the open-air theater's central yard. Standing spectators surround the stage as in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

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

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

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

Closer still, Shakespeare visits the Houston Shakespeare Festival, University of Houston; the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas; and Fort Worth's Shakespeare in the Park. San Antonio has its own fledgling Shakespearean summer season in the iArts San Antonio! Shakespeare in the Park production of *Romeo and Juliet*, June 8-11.

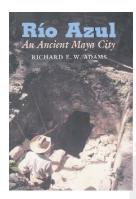


9

# PUBLICATIONS STACK ULTY PUBLICATIONS UP

They didn't make
Oprah's list, but they
certainly top ours.
Recent publications
by faculty authors
reveal breadth of
academic research.

By Rebecca Luther



Explore ancient civilizations with Río Azul (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999), written by Richard E.W. Adams, anthropology professor.

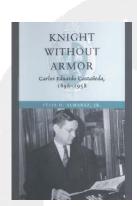
Adams was part of an expedition that in 1962 discovered and initially explored the ruins of the Mayan city Río Azul, located in the forests of northern Guatemala. Adams returned to Río Azul two decades later, and, between 1983 and 1987, led a thorough investigation of the

site, which contained remains dating from 900 B.C. to A.D. 850.

In his preface, Adams describes his exploration of Río Azul as "the most exciting, exhausting, exasperating, exhilarating project that I have ever undertaken."

But it's certainly not Adams' only recent project. "There's always something in the pipeline," he says.

Two forthcoming books are *Cities of Ancient Mesoamerica* (University of Colorado Press), which Adams co-authored, and *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas: Mesoamerica* (Cambridge University Press), which he co-edited. The latter, part of a series on the native civilizations of the Americas, traces the cultural history and evolutionary development of such groups as the Maya and the Aztec.



Félix D. Almaráz Jr., professor of history, profiles another historian in Knight Without Armor: Carlos Eduardo Castañeda, 1896–1958 (Texas A&M University Press, 1999).

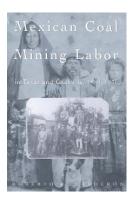
Castañeda served as librarian of the Latin American Collection and professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin. He also was superintendent of the San Felipe School District in the 1930s and regional director of President Franklin

Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practice during World War II. Castañeda was the author of 18 books, including the definitive study, *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas*, 1519–1950, and nearly 50 articles.

"In the world of academe Castañeda led a quiet and productive life, continually striving to perfect his style and technique as a Texas borderlands historian of first rank," Almaráz writes.

"Few individuals today, scholars or nonspecialists, are aware of Castañeda's incredible struggle to overcome serious financial barriers and ethnic discrimination that threatened his ambition of becoming a university teacher and historian. As a lone, yet courageous precursor of the civil rights movement of later decades, Carlos clearly personified the ideal from which evolved the title for his biography—a knight without armor."

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



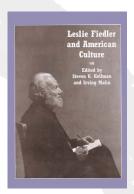
The seeds for Roberto R. Calderón's new book, *Mexican Coal Mining Labor in Texas and Coahuila, 1880–1930* (Texas A&M University Press, 2000), were planted as he was growing up along the Texas-Coahuila border.

For Calderón, an assistant professor in the Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, reminders of the region's coalmining roots were ever present during his childhood; even the Triple A baseball

teams his family cheered for had names like Los Mineros.

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

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



Ashbel Smith Professor of Comparative Literature Steven G. Kellman pays homage to an illustrious and notorious American critic as co-editor of Leslie Fiedler and American Culture (Associated University Presses, 1999).

Fiedler is best known for his Freudian literary analysis, *Love and Death in the American Novel*, first published in 1960.

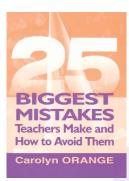
"He was a very strong influence on a couple generations of scholars and

still is," Kellman says of Fiedler. "He's a fascinating figure and ebullient personality."

The book includes statements by Fiedler himself, essays analyzing his work and other tributes. Most contributions were written specifically for this volume.

"Fiedler turned 80 two years ago, which was sort of the inspiration to put this together," Kellman says.

Also due out soon is Kellman's The *Translingual Imagination* (University of Nebraska Press), an examination of the phenomenon of translingual literature—works by authors who write in more than one language or who write in a language other than their native one.



You might think of 25 Biggest Mistakes Teachers Make and How to Avoid Them (Corwin Press, 2000), as a self-help book for educators and others who work with children. But this new publication from Carolyn Orange, associate professor of education, likely will hit home with anyone who ever sat in a classroom.

The idea for the book came to Orange

a few years ago when she asked students in a teaching laboratory to tell her about their best and worst experiences with teachers. She was startled to find that most were carrying around bad classroom memories like so much emotional baggage.

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

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



Harriett D. Romo's Reaching Out:
Best Practices for Educating MexicanOrigin Children and Youth (Eric
Clearinghouse, 1999), is something
of a sequel to her 1996 Latino High
School Graduation, which followed
a group of Mexican American students
through their high school years.

"When that book came out, it was very well received," says Romo, an associate professor in the Division of Social and

Policy Sciences. "I got invited to a lot of community-based organizations to talk about it."

At one lecture, as Romo was recounting the various ways the educational system had failed at-risk students, a woman in the audience raised her hand and asked, "What did they do that worked?"

Romo's book seeks to answer that question by discussing innovative programs that would benefit all children, not just ethnic minorities. She concludes there are not enough criteria to determine the effectiveness of educational programs aimed at at-risk students and that there are too few systematic evaluations of those programs.



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

The book explores the German concept of Heimat—a regionalistic sense of self, place and home—and how it has evolved from the country's conservative ideology in the 18th and 19th centuries to its cur-

rent, more progressive leanings. Wickham traces the evolution of Heimat through the works of Germany's Liedermacher (singersongwriters) and also the country's dialect poets.

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

Though the book is geared toward scholars and students of contemporary Germany, Wickham says it was important to him to make the book accessible to an English-speaking audience. As such, he provides his own translation for all cited works. Ronald Binks, professor of visual arts, contributed the book's cover design and photographs.

# Alumni

Jane Findling, formerly associate director of development and development officer for the College of Fine Arts and Humanities, has been named interim executive director of the Alumni Association and interim director of Alumni Programs. Findling has worked at UTSA since 1977, when she was hired as executive assistant to the Dean of Students. In that role, she organized and helped charter the Alumni Association. Since then she has held a variety of administrative positions in student activities, athletics and development. Findling replaces Joan Morrill, who retired in March after 10 years as head of the Alumni Association.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Alumni Association will hold its first gala on Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Institute of Texan Cultures. The event will include a silent auction, dinner and dance. The Alumnus of the Year and Distinguished Service Award will be presented during the evening. The gala will celebrate the first anniversary of Ricardo Romo's tenure as UTSA president. Ernest Bromley (B.A. '78, M.B.A. '80) and wife, Aimee, will serve as co-chairs of the event.



Douglas M. Garrott, M.B.A., is the founder and chief consultant at Medical Business Consultants. The firm was established in 1984 and serves physicians and clinics in the San Antonio and Fredericksburg areas.

Joseph A. Buckholdt, B.A. in sociology, is a program analyst at the San Antonio Air Logistics Center. Joseph is a member of the Air Force Association, American Legion and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

Bertha L. Archie, B.B.A. in management, is a full-time homemaker. She volunteers at Northwest Hospital Center in Baltimore, Md., and is a church officer at Lochearn Presbyterian Church.

**Alejandro Inclan,** B.S. in biology, is a medical oncologist in Pensacola, Fla.

Steven R. Bernett, M.B.A., is deputy commander of the Defense Supply Center in Columbus, Ohio. Steven was named chairman of the Federal Executive Association of Columbus and Central Ohio.

**Diane Bauer,** M.A. in education, is the co-director of Student Teaching and ExCet at UTSA. Diane is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 5th and 6th Ed.* 

**Betty Jean Niell Dowdy**, M.A. in education, is a reading specialist for North East Independent School District.

**Daniel Villarreal**, B.B.A. in accounting, is divisional comptroller for operations and treasurer for North East Independent School District.

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

Duncan Campbell Dixon, B.S. in applied science, has been a geologist at Raba-Kistner Consultants Inc. for 16 years. He is working on several Texas Department of Transportation contracts, including

on several Texas Department of Transportation contracts, including the San Antonio River Improvements Project. Duncan and his wife, Kathi, have two children and live in Boerne.

McCormick, M.Music, has been inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. She was one of 10 women honored during the 2000 Induction Ceremony in March

Margerite Burkholder

of 10 women honored during the 2000 Induction Ceremony in March. Margerite is the founder and artistic director of the Children's Chorus of San Antonio.

Susan Schulte Shires, B.A. in English, M.A. in education '91, is teaching preadvanced placement/ honors English I at Clemens High School in Schertz, Texas.

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

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

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

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

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

Susan Pomenta Powell, B.B.A. in management, is a supervisory recreation specialist for the office of the program manager at the Saudi

Arabian National Guard in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Susan and her husband, Larry, have been married for 16 years and have two sons, Adam and Jordan.

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

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

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

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

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

# Profile Between family and political history, an award-winning biography

Never underestimate the contents of your grand-parents' kitchen pantry.

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

It could happen.

Ask historian and educator J. Gilberto Quezada (M.A. in education '77). Quezada, author of Border Boss: Manuel B. Bravo and Zapata County (Texas A&M University Press, 1999), made good use of such primary materials, as well as government and archival records in researching the life of a legendary jefe politico. Bravo, who died in 1984, also happened to be Quezada's wife's grandfather.

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

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

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

In 1974, Quezada enrolled in a graduate education program at UTSA. Though the fledgling university lacked its own buildings, much less a library and many other campus amenities, Quezada recalls the informal atmosphere fondly.

"We were all graduate students. There was no nonsense. The atmosphere was friendly, and there was fellowship," he says.



After finishing his degree, Quezada continued his teaching and administration career at South San. But in the evenings and on weekends and holidays, he researched and wrote about historical topics.

He began his book on Bravo soon after attending a family reunion picnic in Zapata County in 1990.

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

In the end, most members of the Bravo family agreed the account of this colorful era in South Texas politics was well-balanced.

Quezada visits classrooms in the district preaching the message to students that they can achieve their goals—and perhaps a few will become writers like him. He often hands out a program called "Tips for Becoming an Author" that states, "Have perseverance. Never give up on your goals."

Sage advice from a seasoned educator and award-winning author. — Lynn Gosnell

Carlos Alan Garcia, B.F.A. in art, is an engineering technician/coordinator with Garcia & Wright Consulting Engineers Inc. Carlos previously worked for Garza/Bomberger & Associates architects.

Mary Elizabeth Pelayo, B.B.A. in accounting, was promoted to supervisor of contract administration at City Public Service.

Marisa Fisher Pruski, B.B.A. in marketing, is a senior marketing manager at Clarke American Checks Inc. Marisa is married to Wayne M. Pruski, B.S. in mathematics '94. Wayne is vice principal at Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District.

David Robert Dumenil, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a fourth-grade teacher at Sun Valley Elementary in Southwest Independent School District. David was selected Teacher of the Year at his school.

**Daniel Hern,** B.A. in political science, is Mexico operation center manager for Schneider National Carriers.

Billy Ray Mobley, B.A. in criminal justice, is commercial sales manager for ADT Security. Billy is married to Alisan Young Mobley, B.S. '98 in international studies. Alisan is a designer at Home Depot.

Samuel E. Cook, M.S. in environmental sciences, has retired from the State of Texas. He previously retired from the U.S. Air Force. Samuel's wife, Jennifer, is a nursing instructor at the University of the Incarnate Word.

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

Andreia Ingram Brown, B.S. in kinesiology and health, is pursuing an M.Ed. in exercise science at Southwest Texas State University.

**José V. Castillo,** B.B.A. in accounting, is support manager for the Texas Department of Human Services.

John Deats Eubank, M.A. in education, teaches English as a second language at Horace Mann Middle School in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Robert M. Levy, M.S. in environmental sciences, retired from the U.S. Army last August and is an assistant laboratory manager at Food Safety Net Services. Robert is married to Donna P. Dewberry, M.A. in history '94.

Richard T. Moore, B.A. in political science, and James Sheffield, B.B.A. in management '91, are co-founders of Millennium X Internet Service.

**Eyra A. Perez**, M.A. in education, was promoted to associate director of the UTSA Alliance for Education.

**Roland Rodriguez,** B.S. in kinesiology, is in the Navy serving on the USS Mahan as the disbursing/sales officer.

Yvonne Reyes Wheeler, B.A. in communication, is promotions director for 106.7 JAMZ in San Antonio.

Raul A. Fung, B.S. in civil engineering, works for the Texas Department of Transportation, Bryan District Design.

Steve Herlich, M.B.A., is director of development for Southwest Mental Health Center in San Antonio.

**Sherry Riggs Mims**, B.A. in humanities, is a sales representative for IBM.

Albert C. Aguilar, B.Music, and his wife, Monica, were married last May. Albert is assistant band director at MacArthur High School in North East Independent School District.

Theresa Castro Reyes, B.S. in kinesiology and health, is a physical education teacher for kindergarten through fifth grade and will coach high school sports next year. Theresa and her husband, Chris, have two children.

Cristina Raquel Sanchez, B.B.A. in accounting, is a staff accountant at San Antonio City Employees Federal Credit Union.

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

# Profile Bilingual graduate in business to connect the Americas

"You probably won't begin your career in your dream job," says Chuck Bagby (M.B.A. '87).

Bagby, a senior vice president with American TeleSource International Inc. (ATSI), should know.

For six years after college, he worked as a missionary in South America before turning toward a career in business. The common denominator in these two seemingly unrelated professions is Bagby's abiding interest in Latin American culture and the Spanish language.

"I had to decide what language to study in eighth grade. I looked through a large atlas in the school library and discovered that the three languages that touched most of the world's population were Chinese, English and Spanish. Spanish seemed to be my natural choice," Bagby says.

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

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

After graduation, Bagby was hired by AT&T and ended up at its corporate headquarters in New Jersey. An opportunity to lead AT&T's Latin American data communications operations brought the Bagbys back to San

Antonio in 1995. In 1999, Bagby left AT&T for ATSI, a provider of international communications services between the United States and specific niche markets within Latin America, most notably Mexico. Through Bagby's efforts, ATSI is funding a new research assistantship in the College of Business. The position will allow business students to learn about the telecommunications industry in real-world situations.

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

The program is working well. Last fall, information systems major Grace Xin conducted marketing research that helped guide the introduction of ATSI's prepaid phone card service. This semester, M.B.A. students Monica Bejarano and Mauricio Gonzalez-Gomez began research for a comprehensive case study profiling the senior management team, management styles and strategic plans of the company.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without UTSA," Bagby says. "It's exciting to be connected with the University again—this time without having to cram for exams!" — Jim Eskin

**Chad Aaron Wahl,** B.S. in biology, is a pharmaceutical sales representative in San Antonio.

**Denise A. Villarreal,** B.B.A. in general business, is special events coordinator at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

### Stay connected!

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

There are three ways to submit Class Notes information. 1) Mail your news to the Office of Alumni Programs, UTSA, 6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619. 2) E-mail us at alumni@utsa.edu. 3) Log on to our Web site, www.utsa.onlinecommunity.com.

### Other Voices

# On the Edge

During the morning the temperature dropped steadily.

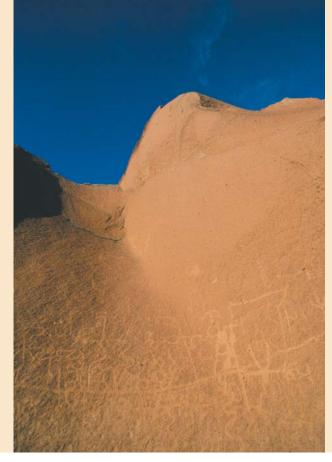
We ate lunch in my tent, and afterward I broke into my store of Del Monte chocolate pudding, the one food item that experience had taught me was absolutely indispensable for backpacking. By the time we had gathered up our camp, slung it up on our backs, and headed out the trail for the South Rim, it was three o'clock. It must have been about thirty degrees, and it grew colder with every foot of altitude we gained.

We moved into the clouds, following a canyon where all the trees were covered with frost. Another mile or so after that the trail opened onto a plain where the grass had been worn down into the sod by hundreds of horseshoes and Vibram soles. A few hundred feet farther on, where the plain ended, was the most magnificent sight in Texas. The South Rim is a sheer lava bank that looks out upon what a casual observer might take to be a sizable portion of another planet. I walked up to the rim itself and felt a flourish of wind behind me trying to shove the surface area of my backpack forward as if it were a sail. I took a few steps back and studied the view. The Chisos, the high, selfcontained bastion in the center of the park, dropped and then surged outward to meet the desert and a field of remarkable landforms. Far off in the haze was the Rio Grande, and I could see the other mountain groups—Punta de la Sierra, Chilicotal, that part of the Sierra del Carmens known as the Dead Horse Mountains—as clearly as on the three-dimensional model at park headquarters. The mountains presented a tableau of arrested motion, an everlasting instant of geological time. The ancient rocks rose and subsided like waves; they pulsed with light, and the light itself seemed generated by the power of the wind.

From A Natural State (Austin: University of Texas
Press, 1994), a collection of essays by Stephen
Harrigan. Excerpted with the author's pemission.
Photographs by Bill Wright, from Portraits from the
Desert: Bill Wright's Big Bend, on display through
Aug. 13 in the Photo Gallery at the
Institute of Texan Cultures.

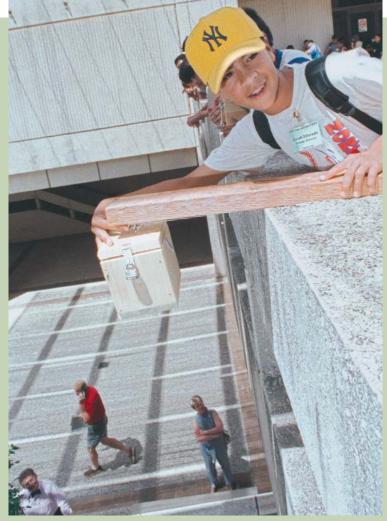


Moon in Fog over Chisos Mountains



Petroglyphs at Indian Head

# Looking Back



IT'S NO YOLK

1999 PREP participant Jacob Elizondo prepares to test his egg.

The Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) draws more than 500 local middle and high school students to the 1604 and Downtown Campuses. These students will do something unique among their peers—spend eight weeks of their summer vacation, June 5 through July 26, studying principals of engineering, math and science. That's not to say the summer program is all vectors and velocity.

Consider the egg and how it drops.

At the end of the summer program, first-year PREP students are assigned an experiment. They must figure out a way to protect an egg from breaking after dropping it 34 feet onto a cement target. To do this, each five-member team constructs an apparatus to protect the egg. Then the teams compete against each other. An egg must survive three drops to win.

"They can't use any prepackaged material," says Jesse Garcia, a PREP instructor. "No gels, no packing material, no bubble wrap, rug padding or sponges."

Rubber bands are OK. So are marshmallows.

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

On the day of the contest, 34 groups assemble on the bridge between the Science and Arts Buildings. About half the eggs survive the first round; the percentage goes down from there. Perhaps one or two teams' eggs will survive uncracked.

PREP, the brainchild of UTSA mathematics professor Manuel Berriozábal, started in 1979 to give young people interested in careers in science exposure to a college environment. More than 1300 students participate in PREP programs in San Antonio.

— Lynn Gosnell



The University of Texas at San Antonio

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