

UTSA

Sombra

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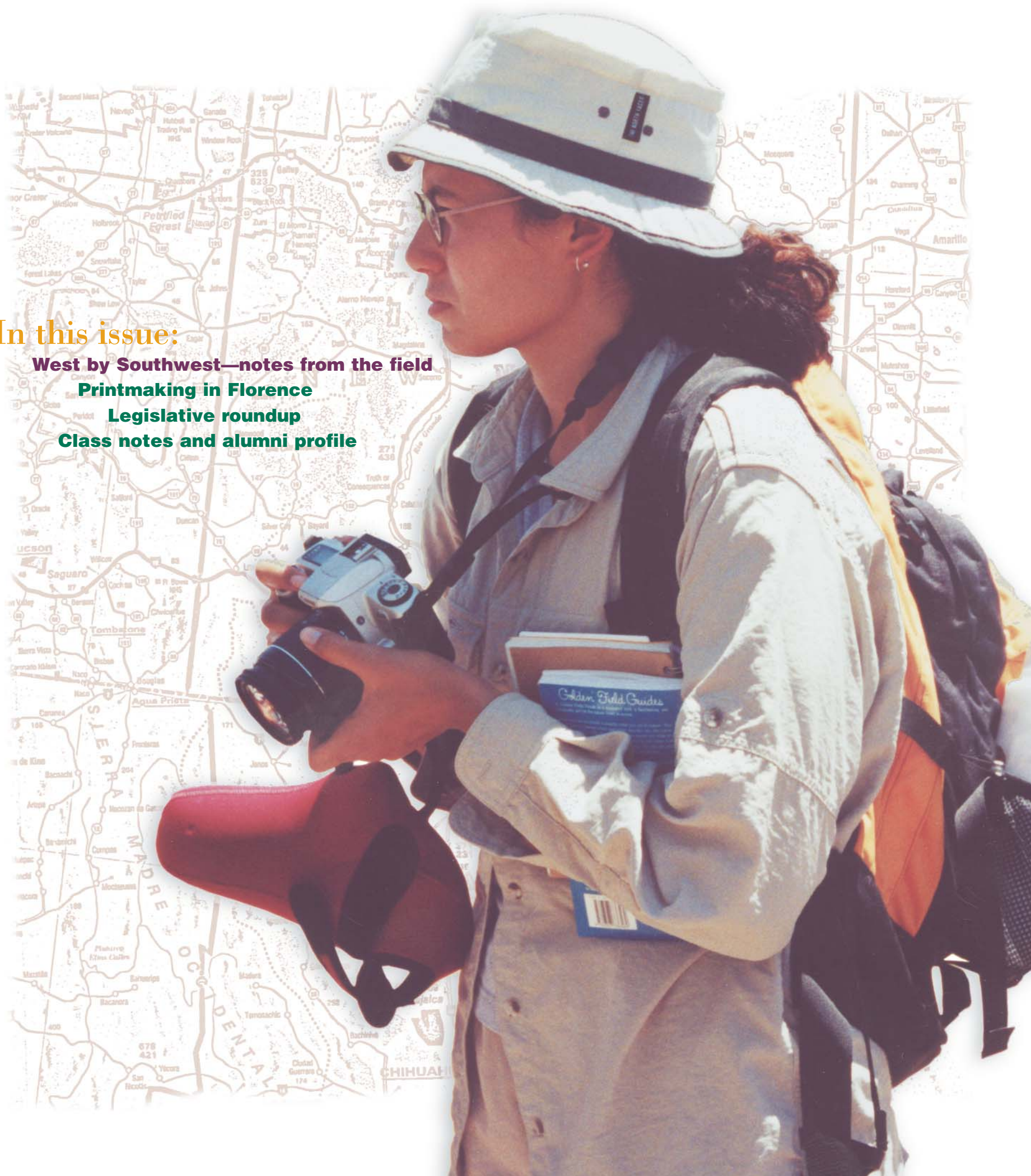
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Sombrilla

PREVIEW

Spring 2001, Volume 7, Number 1

Editor: Lynn Gosnell

Art director: Karen Thurman

Associate editor: Rebecca Luther

Copy editor: Sarah Nawrocki

Contributing writers: Wendy Frost,
Lynn Gosnell, Roxanne Llewellyn,
Rebecca Luther, Rick Nixon, William
Petitt, Karen Riedel, Kris Rodriguez

Photographers: Mark McClendon,
John Poindexter

Student contributors: Scott Bradshaw '01,
Laura Ontiveros '01

Production manager: Frank Segura

Director of publications: Elton Smith

Office of University Advancement

Vice President for Administration and

Interim Vice President for University

Advancement: Gerard Barloco

Director of Alumni Programs:

Jane Findling

Assistant Vice President for University

Communications: David Gabler

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Editorial office: MS 2.01.10

Phone: (210) 458-4525

E-mail: sombrilla@utsa.edu.

Cover design: Karen Thurman

Cover photograph: Marilyn Pfeiffer

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY

*“He’s got long legs and a long stride, and he blew us all off the hill.
We’d finish up, and he’d go hike some more.”*

*Gwen Fisher, summer 2000 field biology participant, describing ecology
professor and program leader Bill Van Auken*

*“My students in general like the book, because it deals with a child’s view
and captures the experience of growing up as a Mexican in Texas in the
early part of the century.”*

*Ramon Saldivar, 2001 Brackenridge Distinguished Visiting Professor,
talking to students about a book, George Washington Gomez, by folklorist
Américo Paredes*

*“This is about my (usually) ambiguous relationship to and with the Alamo.
Living all my life in San Antonio, Texas, and being both Chicana and
Tejana, I have negotiated that relationship for what seems like an
incredibly long time.”*

*Kathy Vargas, B.F.A. '81 and M.F.A.'84, from the museum text accompanying
“My Alamo,” a photograph series included in a retrospective exhibit at the
McNay Art Museum this spring*

*“I always hope the bluebonnets make it through Commencement.”
Bernadette Berain, grounds superintendent, in a phone interview about wild-
flowers at the 1604 Campus*

What do these quotes have in common? These voices inhabited stories
that were planned, researched and (except in a couple of cases) actually
written for this issue of *Sombrilla*. They were culled from notes scribbled
while talking to students, visiting a museum, sitting in a classroom or inter-
viewing a staff member over the phone. They’re quotes we didn’t have room
for, or ones we’re banking for a future article. Ultimately, albeit reluctantly,
they met with a two-fingered keystroke—Command X.

But beyond the commonality of being voted off this issue, each of these
voices evokes a particular place and time: a campus abloom with native
wildflowers, a symbolically ambiguous “shrine to freedom,” a Southwest
landscape, the Rio Grande Valley.

Each quote is a thread to dozens of stories about the people, places and
history associated with this growing university. Despite its youth, UTSA is
rich in stories that are just waiting to be told—you can quote us on that.

— Lynn Gosnell

CORRECTION

From the ¡Bravo! department of the Winter 2001 issue:

Carolyn Kessler, professor emeritus of bicultural-bilingual studies, received
the Empowering Latino Communities ESL Workforce grant from the Sisters
of Providence in St. Mary of the Wood, Indiana.



FEATURE

8 FAR AFIELD

Spring weather got you itching to be outside? UTSA biology students take themselves outdoors—and out of state—every summer in the name of fieldwork. They travel to West Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, camping out, capturing insects and enjoying the view along the way. Students and faculty members Bill Van Auken and Janis Bush share their stories.
By Rebecca Luther.



DEPARTMENTS

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UTSA and this legislative session; twin sisters combine for a double threat on the softball field; UTSA students build a better car engine; new faculty books; plus more campus news.

7 Campus Scene

Following in the footsteps of Michelangelo, Dennis Olsen's art students immerse themselves in the Italian city of Florence.
By Karen Riedel.

12 Class Notes

A recent graduate finds his way in the Big Apple. Also, a spring calendar, class notes and how to keep in touch.

16 Looking Back

Track and wildflower field, circa 1983.



HAPPY AND HEALTHY
Homecoming festivities include the election of a new Mr. and Ms. UTSA. Last year's winners, Dana Martinez and Jorge Olazabal, congratulate the new victors, Tunetha Wren and Charles Jones. At left, students check out a lawn full of Health Fair exhibits and take advantage of the spring weather. The fair was sponsored by Student Health Services and Kappa Delta Chi.

In the Loop

¡BRAVO!

Manuel Berriozábal, professor of mathematics, one of 16 charter members inducted into the Texas Science Hall of Fame and recipient of the Gung-Hu Mathematical Association of America award; **James Broderick**, Division of Visual Arts director, appointed chair and presiding officer of the Council of Arts Accrediting Association; **Daniel Escobar**, appointed associate director of the Advanced Placement and Honors program in the Office of K–16 Initiatives; **Juanita Firestone**, professor of sociology, inaugural holder of the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Gender Studies at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria; **Matthew Gdovin**, assistant professor of biology, named to “Who’s Who for Outstanding Teachers 2000”; **Julius Gribou**, director of the School of Architecture, recipient of a Presidential Citation from the Texas Society of Architects; **Lynn Hickey**, athletic director, inaugural recipient of the American Association of University Women’s Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award; **Sylvia Montalvo**, academic adviser for the Upward Bound program, participant in the 2001–2002 Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs Emerging Leaders Institute; **Rosalind Horowitz**, professor in the College of Education and Human Development, elected to the executive board for the 145 Special Interest Groups of the American Educational Research Association; **Cristina Peña-Walls**, HUB program coordinator, recognized by the Hispanic Contractors Association; **G.V.S. Raju**, professor of electrical engineering, one of 17 recipients of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineer’s Millennium Medals for Systems and Cybernetics; **John Sackett**, business consultant and lecturer in the College of Business, named to the *San Antonio Express-News* Community Advisory Board; **Mahesh Senagala**, assistant professor of architecture, received second place in the 2000 Department of Energy/AIA “Sun Wall” Design Competition; **Jude Valdez**, vice president for extended services, elected chair of the National Advisory Board for the Small Business Development Center; **Steve Werling**, lecturer in human resources, established a \$10,000 scholarship for human resource management majors in the College of Business; students **Charles Austin**, **Natalia Beard**, **Roland Chavez** and **Joe Stahlmann**, winners of the Texas Society of Architects/Herman Miller Design Competition; **David Herbert** and **Rita Linard**, Division of Music faculty and members of the chamber music group NOVA, heard on National Public Radio’s “Performance Today”; **Thomas Sweet**, physics student, recognized for his outstanding paper presented at the Texas Section of the American Physical Society Conference.

— Compiled by Laura Ontiveros ’01 from communications staff reports

Legislative Watch

What’s the 77th Texas Legislature up to that could affect UTSA’s future? In a word, plenty. During its 140-day session, state representatives and senators will enact legislation that will shape the university during the next biennium (2002–2003) and beyond.

Here’s a sample of the bills the university’s leadership is monitoring. To follow the progress of any bill being considered before the Texas Legislature, log on to www.capitol.state.tx.us.

SB 254/HB 658

A top priority for UTSA this legislative session is passage of a bill that would authorize \$150 million in tuition revenue bond support. The funds would be used to increase classroom and laboratory space at the 1604 and Downtown Campuses. To date, Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and Rep. Robert Junell, D-San Angelo, have filed legislation authorizing revenue bonds for some public universities in Texas.

Revenue funds have been authorized by the legislature during every other biennial session and can be used by universities for a variety of bricks-and-mortar projects.

SB 353/HB 897

Sponsored in the Senate by Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and in the House by Brian McCall, R-Plano, a bill called the Technology Workforce Development Act aims to increase enrollment in electrical engineering and computer science programs at Texas public universities. The bill also proposes the creation of a Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium, a public-private partnership that would increase collaboration between high-tech industry and public universities and help recruit and retain students in these fields.

SB 728/HB 1716

This bill, sponsored by Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, and Rep. Robert Puente, D-San Antonio, authorizes the Board of Regents to establish a San Antonio Life Sciences Institute as a partnership of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and UTSA. The institute would develop postgraduate degree programs to be offered by both schools. This partnership would be the first of its kind between UT System component schools.

In a separate action, two Board of Regents committees gave the go-ahead on planning these programs. The proposal next goes to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for review.



CAPITOL VISIT President Ricardo Romo and UTHSCSA President Francisco Cigarroa met with Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, at the Texas Capitol.

HB 791

Rep. Pete Gallego, D-Alpine, authored a bill that would require undergraduates at public universities to perform 28 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation. At press time, the bill had been voted out of the Higher Education Committee and sent to the House with a favorable recommendation. The community service requirement would go into effect in September 2001.

SB 737/HB 1839

Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, originated a bill that would create a Texas Excellence Fund to provide additional funding to some public universities for the promotion of research. The bill would exclude participation from universities in the South Texas region because it stipulates that excellence funds would only go to universities that have awarded 45 doctoral degrees and have received \$15 million in research funds during each of the two most recent fiscal years.

The bill authorizes the legislature to divert \$50 million a year from the Higher Education Fund (HEF) for the excellence fund. HEF was created several years ago with the goal of reaching \$2 billion before the state began allocating its earnings. HEF funds total \$300 million at this time.

— Lynn Gosnell

Students, start your engines

Students gather around a table in the Center for Advanced Propulsion Studies. Their attention is on a fan that makes a soft whirring noise.

“This fan simulates the wind,” says Vivian Troche, a senior computer science major. Nearby, Crystal Flores, a junior computer science major, attaches small clamps to a generator. Soft lights pulse on an electrical board as the engine prototype comes to life.

Meet the CRVLR, star of the Ford Design Competition that took place at the Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES) 26th International Symposium and Career Fair in October. An interdisciplinary team of students—Ricardo Ramirez and Leeann Vargas (mechanical engineering) and Rebecca Martinez (electrical engineering), along with Troche and Flores—walked away with first-place honors in the national competition to design an environmentally friendly car. And Ford officials were so impressed with the originality and



feasibility of the team’s work that they urged the students to seek a patent.

The prototype uses wind-driven fans to recharge a battery. It was initially called CRV, which stands for circulating rotational ventilator, but the team later

THE DESIGN TEAM Clockwise from the center, Ricardo Ramirez, Leeann Vargas, Vivian Troche, Crystal Flores and Rebecca Martinez

added the letters “LR” to represent the first letters of each student’s name.

After their success in the competition, the group agreed to stay together for two more semesters of independent study.

“This is not counting toward any degree, and they are not getting paid for this,” says Callie Bast, research engineer and the part-time faculty member who mentors the group. “They are doing it for the sake of knowledge.”

The students try to meet twice a week in the lab to work on their project, testing and developing new ideas for their design.

“The ultimate goal is to get it done,” says Ricardo Ramirez, who is the president of the student chapter of MAES. “We want to keep [this design project] in the university, maybe draw more attention to the engineering department.”

— Scott Bradshaw ’01

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

In the introduction to his annotated bibliography, *Serial Music and Serialism: A Research and Information Guide* (Routledge, 2000), John Vander Weg (music) writes that serial music has been “praised by composers, cursed by listeners, or damned with faint praise by critics.”

Serial music refers to experimental compositions that eschew traditional conventions such as tonality, harmony and melody. As a historic phenomenon, it is closely identified with Vienna-based composers of the early 20th century—particularly Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg and Anton Webern.

A music theorist, Vander Weg tries to explain “our collective experience of pieces of music.” This sometimes means getting his students to compare a serial composition with a more traditional classical composition.

“Most students find the sound exceedingly foreign. Then they start to understand it and a small minority even like it,” he says.

From Coyote and Kokopelli to Brer Rabbit and John the Slave, tricksters have occupied a hallowed place in traditional tales. In *Trickster Lives: Culture and Myth in American Fiction* (University of Georgia Press, 2001), Jeanne Campbell Reesman (English) has collected 13 articles that present an international and interdisciplinary perspective on the trickster.



“Today’s trickster, that ubiquitous and contradictory figure of play that lives in virtually every culture, has come to be recognized as a key figure not only in fiction based in African American and Native American traditions, but in American fiction in general,” writes Reesman in the introduction.

“I found the trickster figure a remarkable way to

describe relationships among highly diverse

American writers—the trickster teases readers into making unexpected connections that lead in many new directions,” she adds.

English faculty Debbie Lopez and Gail Jones, and former UTSA Brackenridge Distinguished Professors Houston A. Baker Jr. and Sacvan Bercovitch also contributed to the book.

Michael J. Gilbert (criminal justice) has co-edited *Privatization in Criminal Justice: Past, Present and Future* (Anderson Publishing Company, 2001), which focuses on the increasing involvement of private for-profit companies in the criminal justice system.

“We look at this issue in a critical way . . . as a public policy response that may or may not be appropriate in every situation,” says Gilbert, who also contributed two chapters, one that asks, “How much is too much privatization in criminal justice?” and another that reads like a cautionary tale of jail privatization in Frio County in the 1990s.

Other criminal justice faculty who contributed to the book are James Calder and Steve Russell.

— Lynn Gosnell

Briggs sisters end double play at UTSA



DON'T CALL THEM "THE TWINS"
Denise Briggs, left, and Monica Briggs

www.goutsa.com

Get the latest news in softball and other spring sports at www.goutsa.com, the new Web site for UTSA athletics. Designed by alumna Janie Martinez-Gonzalez's company, Web-Hed Technologies Inc., the site features complete schedules, game wrap-ups and statistics, ticket information and profiles of student athletes, as well as live audio of selected events. The new site, which averages more than 6,000 hits a month, also lets fans interact with UTSA athletics via fan polls.

One of the few ways to tell Denise and Monica Briggs apart is on the softball field.

Monica plays outfield and Denise pitches.

Monica wears No. 10 and Denise No. 34.

Otherwise "the twins," as they are affectionately called, are identical in appearance, though each possesses a singular talent.

Even their high school coach had trouble telling them apart, says Denise. "We're used to that, though. It happens all the time."

"They do tease with us," says UTSA softball coach Corrie Hill. "If we call them 'the twins' or misidentify them on purpose, they are quick to claim their own identity."

Now seniors, the Briggs sisters will leave the university with their names dotting numerous individual batting, fielding and pitching records.

"Denise and Monica are . . . the kind of people we like having in UTSA softball and representing the university," Hill says. "Academically, they excel as much as they do at softball."

Monica maintains a 3.09 GPA in biology and plans to pursue a career in physical therapy after graduation. Denise holds a 3.34 GPA in accounting and will take the Certified Public Accountants exam next spring.

On the field, Denise was named Southland Conference Pitcher of the Year in 2000 after setting school records for appearances (49), wins in a season (31) and innings pitched (289 1/3). With 368 strikeouts going into this season, she is already the school's all-time leader in strikeouts in a career.

"She is always spending extra time in the bull pen. Her work ethic is second to none," Hill says.

Monica moved to the outfield this season after spending most of her career on the mound. A member of the All-SLC Postseason Tournament Team last year, she has become the Roadrunners' top hitter in 2001, with 10 home runs through the first 32 games of the season; before this season, she had hit only one home run in her career.

Monica and Denise began playing softball when they were 9 years old. They took up pitching a year later and evolved into one of the best pitching tandems in high school, earning all-state honors at Bryan High School in Bryan, Texas.

"I didn't like volleyball because it was too slow paced, and basketball was too fast," Monica says. "Softball is a team sport, but there is still so much individuality. We put more work into softball than we did any other sport."

Both agree that a strong senior season and the program's first trip to the NCAA tournament would be a great send-off after four years.

"I think there is that point where you want to move onto something else," Monica says. "I want to get on with my life and start doing what I am going to do as a career."

— William Petitt

Studying art *in Italia*

By Karen Riedel

Behind a thick double door, a two-story stucco building surrounds a sunny courtyard. The 19th-century structure, brand new by Italian standards, houses the Santa Reparata International School of Art. This is the classroom, studio and laboratory for students who have come to study for one semester in Florence, Italy, a city that boasts more art and architecture per square foot than do most small countries.

The building's courtyard garden dates back to the 15th century, when it was the site of the first art academy in Italy, founded by Lorenzo de Medici and attended by a young Michelangelo. More than 500 years later, students from UTSA and around the United States study in this same seductive environment.

In a sun-dappled room, Shana Culpepper, a junior art major at UTSA, peels away an ink-soaked blanket of paper from a metal plate, revealing a monoprint of a Tuscan landscape. This is Culpepper's first trip abroad, and she's already plotting her return.

"This program has been so important to my development as an artist. It has helped me focus while at the same time it has opened my eyes to so many more possibilities. Florence itself is such a visual overload, you can't help but be inspired."

In another part of the building, Matt Knight stands in the glow of the darkroom safelight, swishing photographic paper in the tray of chemicals and watching Italian street scenes emerge. Although the UTSA senior's primary medium is photography, the concentrated time at Santa Reparata gives him the opportunity to explore other art forms and fold different techniques into his own work.

"Once I got past the 'Oh, wow, there's the Duomo,' walking to school every day, I started concentrating on the details. You realize that even the graffiti is another fine-grained element of the city's art," he says.

The students' reactions are what Dennis Olsen, UTSA professor and the program's director, hopes to instill. "Our mission is twofold," he says.

"I want students to learn to integrate subject, content and form while experiencing the visual and cultural richness of Florence and beyond."

The program's curriculum reflects its mission. During the fall and spring semesters, the center offers classes in printmaking, drawing, photography, digital imaging, art history and Italian.

The center's spirit lies in the energy of its students, which culminates in the student exhibit at semester's end. The quantity and quality of the work testify to the level of production as well as the visual and conceptual impression Italy has made. Thick sketchbooks bulge with photos, sketches and watercolors; seven-foot prints and mixed-media images



At left, printmaking at Santa Reparata; On the right, fall semester students included, from left, Knight, Ashley Andreas (UT El Paso), Culpepper, Teresa Schwiesow (Rockford College) and Heather Ferguson (UTSA). Photos courtesy of Matt Knight and Meredith Dean.

Students are encouraged to incorporate images and ideas across the spectrum of media, manipulating works of art using centuries-old technologies such as the printing press as well as corraling thousands of pixels on contemporary computer screens. Walks throughout Florence and field trips to Naples, Pompeii, Siena, Venice and other towns supplement the academic program.

In its 20th year, the program is a family affair. Olsen's wife, Meredith Dean, teaches drawing and photography. She also serves as the program's housing director, finding apartments and negotiating leases before students arrive. Olsen's daughter, Rebecca, B.A. in humanities '97, is Santa Reparata's studio administrator, overseeing the day-to-day planning and activities.

"For me, this has been a wonderful experience," says Rebecca, who lives in Italy year-round. "It's a lot of responsibility and detail work, but I am surrounded by art and artists. The center's setting is a perfect place for exhibits, not only ours but local and visiting artists as well."

cover the walls; a video displays a student's film of the protests at the World Trade Organization meeting in Prague. Although a low-key affair, the exhibit attracts friends from the community and local artists.

"Not many people my age can say they have exhibited in Florence," Culpepper says with a grin.

Behind the panoply of art in the art center, as well as the spectacle throughout the city, lies perhaps a simpler expression.

"My primary reason for being here," says Knight, father of two, "is to teach my children there are other worlds out there and different ways of seeing things."

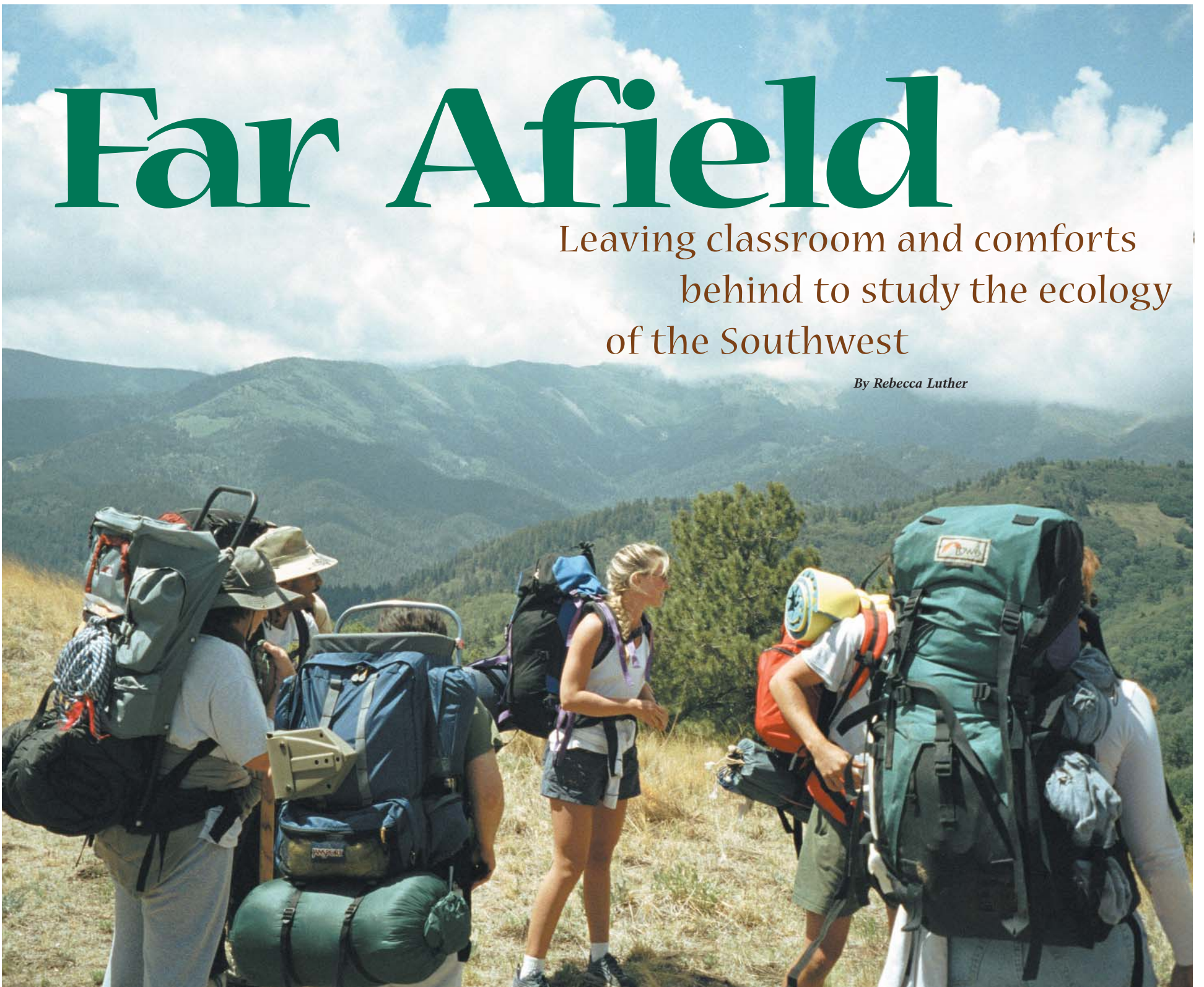
For more information about the Santa Reparata program, visit the center's Web site, www.fionline.it/santareparata or e-mail Dennis Olsen at dolsen@lonestar.utsa.edu.

Karen Riedel is director of Alumni Relations and Publications at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Bologna, Italy.

Far Afield

Leaving classroom and comforts
behind to study the ecology
of the Southwest

By Rebecca Luther



The woman had finished her grocery shopping and was wheeling her cart through the parking lot to her car. But when she popped the trunk to load her bags, she found a tarantula inside. Her shouts of surprise drew the attention of two dozen college students whose vans and truck were parked nearby.

Another lesson
in field biology
had begun.





Every summer for more than two decades, a handful of UTSA students leave behind their homes, families and friends in San Antonio to journey to West Texas, New Mexico and Arizona to explore the flora and fauna of the American Southwest. They camp out for weeks, a ragtag army of scholar-adventurists with sun showers, insect repellent and field guides in tow. Their classroom, says Professor Bill Van Auken, is wherever they happen to be.

Even in the parking lot of a Super Wal-Mart in Silver City, N.M. Studying in the field, where a tarantula or a towering saguaro cactus is more than just a picture in a textbook or slide show, enhances the learning experience, says Van Auken, a faculty member since 1975.

“We’re starting with students who think every red bird is a cardinal,” he says. “But they go from that to recognizing there are cardinals, there are tanagers, there are finches, there are vermilion flycatchers. They’re all red in color, but they’re different. And [the students] will get to the point where they can identify all of them and a bunch of others, too.”

But the three-and-a-half-week program is no walk in the woods. For every birding hike, there are quizzes to take, projects to complete, and plant and insect collections to compile. There are campsites to set up and tear down again. The weather ranges from intense heat and drought to nonstop rain. On one trip, it rained for 11 days; once it even snowed.

And two dozen strangers have to learn how to get along and get their work done.

Despite the drawbacks, Van Auken looks forward to going on the trip each summer. “If it wasn’t fun, I wouldn’t do it every year,” he says. “In spite of some aggravation, usually by the time the next year comes around, I’m ready to try it again.”

Van Auken and his colleagues, faculty members Janis Bush and Stephanie Elliott, hold information sessions before the trip to let interested students know what to expect.

“This is not a camping trip,” he tells a handful of students who gathered in the ecology lab earlier this semester to learn about this summer’s program. “The camping is a way to get into very remote places without incurring a lot of expenses.”

Not all of the campsites will have showers or toilets, he says. Ice will last only a couple of days, and they stop only once a week to reprovision food. They camp at high elevations, so it can be cold at night. There will be snakes.

One alumnus of the field biology program, Van Auken has heard, touted the experience on his application for the CBS reality series “Survivor.”

But students don’t always heed those friendly admonitions. Before last year’s trip, premed student Tripp Kimball asked Bush if he could bring along his rock-climbing gear, guitar and fly-fishing rod. “I was thinking I’d be walking around, checking out the scenery and having fun,” Kimball says. “I really didn’t have any idea how intense it was actually going to be.”

Bush suggested he leave the rock-climbing gear at home; the rod would be OK if it were collapsible, not that there would be any time for fishing.

“There’s not time to goof off,” says Bush, who went on the trip as an undergraduate in 1980 and as a grad student in 1982.

The coursework, instructors say, is demanding, but it is not difficult. The program actually comprises three classes, totaling 7 hours of upper-division credit. An A is difficult to earn, but so is a C, Bush says. “Nobody does bad in the class,” she says. For one thing, the students can’t skip any classes.



Photos of the 2000 biology field camp courtesy of Janis Bush, Gwen Fisher and Marilyn Pfeiffer. Other photos by Mark McClendon.



Kimball quickly figured out that the program would be no leisurely road trip. He learned this on the day they arrived in the Davis Mountains of far West Texas by watching graduate students who had been on the trip previously as undergraduates. "As soon as we got out of the truck, they started immediately collecting plant specimens," he says with a laugh.

With 60 woody and 60 herbaceous plant specimens to collect and catalog, students begin working on the first day. They work in groups of three to gather both the plants and also the 15 to 30 insects they need for their insect collection. They also have a vertebrate collection, which is a catch-and-release project. Catch the animals (without injuring them or points will be deducted), identify them to an instructor for credit, be able to explain why it's a Chihuahuan spotted whiptail instead of a Sonoran spotted whiptail, for example, and finally, release them in the exact spot they were found, if possible. The retiree in Silver City wasn't about to allow the tarantula back into her car truck, so it was released in a nearby sod pile.

For their vertebrate collections, students trap or catch small animals: deer mice, cotton rats, horned lizards, canyon treefrogs and others. Occasionally, a student will find something more interesting. "We've had a student bring a porcupine," Bush says. "They caught it in a butterfly net and brought it in."

Those who are squeamish about picking up lizards or mice usually overcome their fears when they realize those animals could be the difference between a B and an A.

"It becomes a very competitive situation where everybody's diving for the same lizard," says Gwen Fisher, a senior biology student who prepared for the trip by loading her backpack and taking practice hikes with her dog on her neighborhood nature trail.

Fisher was the one who caught the tarantula in the car trunk, but despite the effort, she didn't get any course credit; as an arachnid, the tarantula qualified for neither the insect nor the vertebrate collection. Kimball was similarly disappointed after he and his partner caught a giant vinegaroon, a type of whipscorpion that many people mistake for an insect because its elongated front legs resemble

antennae. Their efforts weren't wasted, however; Van Auken used the huge bug in a lecture.

The students work on the collections over the course of the trip, but there are other projects to complete along the way. They learn how to use quadrat sampling—studying delineated subject areas—to estimate plant populations and learn about other components of the environment. They learn how to extract and read a core sample from a pine tree to determine its age. For one project, students monitored ant mounds over a 24-hour period to estimate the size of the colony and determine how factors such as temperature, relative humidity and light influenced the ants' activity.

"It was an intense workload," Kimball says. "Sometimes [during a lecture], I'd be in my chair with my eyes closed just scribbling, I'd be so dead tired."

It was so intense, Fisher adds, "We called it Bio Bootcamp, as a matter of fact, because it was so structured and there was so much work to be done."

Sundays in Bio Bootcamp are designated as catch-up days, but students also worked at night to complete assignments.

"There would be nights when you'd see lights on in all the tents with people trying to get their work done," says Fisher, adding that her biggest regret was bringing a one-person tent. She needed at least a three-person tent to spread out in.

But working in a cramped tent was sometimes preferable to working outdoors by lantern light, she says.

"The lantern would of course attract gnats and moths and whatever. They'd be landing on your papers, and you'd be trying to brush them off—unless it was one you needed for your collection, and then you caught it and put it in your kill jar."

Usable workspace aside, students cited the lack of modern bathing facilities as their biggest frustration of the trip. Shower bags, they contend, don't hold much water and offer little pressure. On the way to New Mexico's Lincoln National Forest, instructors promised students there would be a creek by the campsite where they could bathe. When they arrived at the campsite and found the creek dried up, graduate student Marilyn Pfeiffer says, "We just laid down in the grass and giggled and laughed tears."

Pfeiffer, a former interior designer who, at 45, claimed to be the oldest student in last year's program, advises future participants to bring along a luxury item or two to offset the lack of creature comforts: she brought a feather pillow and an inflatable mattress.

If the shower situation was the worst part of the trip, the best part, Pfeiffer says, was the grand desert scenery.

"It was beautiful," she says. "If you could keep your head out of the books long enough to look up, it was beautiful."

The Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona has only been a destination for the program for the past five years or so, Van Auken says. Every year, the instructors vary the trip a bit to keep it interesting for themselves, and the itinerary has changed markedly since the program's inception. When Van Auken started UTSA's field biology program in the late '70s, the trip was confined to Texas. The first year, the group traveled in a caravan of



"It was beautiful. If you could keep your head out of the books long enough to look up, it was beautiful."

borrowed university vehicles and student cars. There wasn't a Ryder truck to store equipment in; everything was piled on car roofs or loaded in trailers.

Instead of heading west, they went east—to the pine forests and grasslands around Bastrop. Then down to Port Aransas to the coastal environs. Then to Brownsville before heading back to San Antonio for a weekend break, before continuing to West Texas.

But the wildlife encountered on the East Texas route proved too much to bear. "In Bastrop and the grasslands there, everybody would get chiggers," Van Auken says. "Then we'd go down to Port Aransas, and we'd get mosquito bites. Then we'd go down to South Padre Island and end up with 10 times as many mosquito bites."

To escape the bugs, the trip started moving west.

"We traded the problems with the mosquitoes, the chiggers and the ticks in Central and East Texas for the potential problems with rattlesnake bites and other venomous creatures in the Southwest—scorpions and black widow spiders and tarantulas," he says. "It's worked out pretty well for us."

Only two of the Bio Bootcamp 2000 students got to see a rattlesnake—while walking back from a shopping excursion to the camp store. In other years, rattlers have been more abundant.

About 10 years ago, Van Auken says, the field biology program suffered its one and only rattlesnake bite to date. A student who had caught and handled several snakes during the trip without incident finally met his match in Black Gap, outside Big Bend, when a rattlesnake he had scooped up bit him on the hand. Van Auken made a hurried 100-mile drive to the nearest hospital, in Alpine, stopping only once when the speeding van drew the attention of a patrolling INS agent.

The patient recovered—and hitchhiked back to camp a couple of days later to rejoin the trip—only to fall ill shortly after. A second trip to the emergency room revealed that he had a bacterial infection. Apparently he had not been given antibiotics along with the antivenom, Van Auken recalls. The student decided then that he had better just go on home.

"It seems like every year we have to take somebody to the hospital some time and place," Van Auken says. "Whether it's an allergy problem, whether it's an upset stomach that's gotten serious or whether it's bruises, cuts and abrasions and things like that."

Students have suffered snakebites from non-venomous snakes, he says. Since the rattlesnake bite in the early '90s, program leaders tell students not to pick up venomous snakes; finding one, pointing it out and identifying it is sufficient to earn credit for the vertebrate collection.

But there have been plenty of encounters with animals the students weren't looking for. Free-roaming cows have wandered into their campsites, as have javelinas, skunks and raccoons.

In his fourth-floor office in the Science Building, Van Auken keeps a photograph of one of his favorite camp visitors, a black bear. Van Auken was in the middle of a lecture in New Mexico's Lincoln National Forest when a student noticed that a bear was watching them from some nearby trees. Van Auken ran to grab his camera; his students simply ran.

"I was going to get my camera, and everybody else thought I was panicked," he says, laughing. "Students were running everywhere. They were jumping up on cars, crawling under the vans, getting in the vans. There was a cloud of dust from the people scattering."



Field biology, like most college classes, reaches a fever pitch of cramming at the end. Instead of studying for a final exam, students are readying their collections to turn in. Even those who haven't procrastinated on the trip usually find themselves searching for a few bugs or refining their work up until the vans drive into the UTSA parking lot.

A number of students pulled an all-nighter on the final night of the trip, which the group spent in Junction on the northwest edge of the Hill Country. Kimball worked until 5 a.m., took an hourlong cat nap, then had to get up to take a final insect quiz. "Well, by that time I was so delirious that I ended up failing that insect quiz," he says.

He may have failed the quiz, but almost a year after turning in his insect collection for the class, Kimball maintains a collection as a hobby. And while his previous interest in birds had been limited to quail and dove hunting, he took his copy of *Birds of North America* with him when he spent his winter break working at a Colorado ski resort. After a day on the slopes, he would go home to identify the birds he had seen.

"I thought the whole trip was just awesome," he says.

Pfeiffer says the plant names she learned from Van Auken stick in her head like a poem memorized in childhood—Little walnut. Spanish dagger. Honey mesquite. Apache plume. Bracted strawberry. When she saw *All the Pretty Horses* with her teen-age daughter, Pfeiffer excitedly identified the cactus shown in one panoramic scene as teddy bear chollas. It's the little things like that, she says, she'll remember for the rest of her life.

"You'll never forget how bright red a vermilion flycatcher is," Pfeiffer says, "because you'd never expect a bird could be that color, except maybe at the equator."

Class Notes

Alumni

74 Yuhunter W. Woodard, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, is director of certified personnel for South San Antonio Independent School District.

76 Gary L. Bridges, M.B.A., is the new director of the Small Business Development Center National Information Clearinghouse, part of UTSA's Institute of Economic Development at the Downtown Campus.

Sandra Swierc Poth, M.A. in education, accepted a position as testing coordinator for Northside Independent School District after 21 years as head of counseling, guidance and testing for Pleasanton Independent School District. Sandra also serves as secretary for the newly chartered Texas Statewide Network of Assessment Professionals.

77 Douglas Mae Clack Newton, B.B.A. in management, married Jerome "Jerry" Benjamin Newton in December. Douglas is special project coordinator for the Small Minority Business Assistance Program at Austin Community College. She is an adjunct faculty member for ACC Riverside Campus, teaching one class.

Guadalupe Cisneros Ruvalcaba, B.A. in early childhood education, is the principal at Esther P. Carvajal Elementary in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Richard E. Williamson, M.B.A., is director of finance for City Public Service.

78 Candace Kaye, M.A. in education, a professor of teacher education at California State University, Long Beach, has been awarded a 2000-01 Contemplative Practice Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. She is the only recipient to be chosen from the field of education. She will use the funds to develop a course on visual literacy.

Desiree Linson, B.A. in English, assumed command of the Defense Enterprise Computing Center-Detachment San Antonio, Defense Information Systems Agency on Jan. 12. She was presented the Meritorious Service Medal for her outstanding service as special assistant to the Deputy

Assistant Secretary of the Navy and as a professional staff member of the U.S. House of Representatives Small Business Committee from June 1998 to December 2000. Desiree is married to the Rev. Jack Gentry and has one son, Preston Linson-Gentry.

79 Gary Branfman, B.S. in biology, received his medical degree from Texas Tech University, and completed his general surgical training in Miami, a burn fellowship in San Antonio with the U.S. Army, a microsurgery fellowship in Houston and a surgical residency at St. Joseph Hospital in Houston. He is now in private practice in Victoria, Texas, as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. Gary and his wife, Susan, a registered nurse, have three daughters, Sarah, Shaina and Hannah.

80 Arthur Castanon, B.B.A. in accounting, is regional credit manager for the International Truck and Engine Corporation. Arthur lives in Plano, Texas.

Guadalupe I. Lopez, B.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, is administrative assistant for San Antonio City Council District 4. She retired in May 2000 after 28 years of teaching in Texas and enjoyed a three-and-a-half-month vacation in Italy before accepting her current position.

81 Olga Mendoza Alvarez, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, is a retired teacher and part-time supervisor for Region 20, Floresville ESL and GED programs.

Frank L. Flacy, M.A. in education, is the author of five books, available from 1stbooks.com. Other degrees include a master of art, a master of divinity and a doctorate in psychology and theology. He is a family therapist at WCC Prison in Kyle, Texas.

Christine Hernandez, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, has ended her appointment as regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Dallas. E-mail her at hernandez124@yahoo.com.

Kevin Jetton, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. '83, was elected as the 2001 national association executive vice president/president-elect for the Association of Information Technology Professionals. Kevin heads up GeniSys Consulting Services in San

Antonio and has taught information systems courses at Southwest Texas State University for 16 years. E-mail Kevin at Kjetton@compuserve.com.

82 Patricia Alvarez, B.B.A. in finance, J.D. from UT Austin '87, was recently appointed vice chair of the Trucking Law Committee of the Defense Research Institute, the nation's largest association of civil litigation defense attorneys. She is a partner in the law firm Alvarez & Notzon, LLP. Patricia is a member of the American Bar Association and numerous law associations in Texas and Florida. She resides in Laredo.

83 Richard W. Blake, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president/controller at BNY Asset Solutions LLC in Irving, Texas. Richard lives in Waxahachie.

Diane Marie-Lise Gilbert, B.S. in chemistry, is a physician with Eclipsys Corporation. Diane married Scott David Bradley on April 29, 2000. The couple reside in Redmond, Wash.

84 Brian E. DuBois, B.Music, is in his eighth year as a music teacher at Indian Creek Elementary in the Southwest Independent School District and his fifth year as a football official. Brian and his wife, Laura, have one son, Jacob, 2.

John M. Pickett, M.S. in environmental science, is president and CEO at Pickett's Primer on Explosives, which provides videotape training and personal presentations on identification and safety procedures for dealing with explosives. E-mail John at MikePickett@PickettsPrimer.com

85 Carolyn R. Knandel, B.B.A. in management, is senior vice president of human resources for First American Trust in Santa Ana, Calif.

86 Pete Delgado, B.S. in chemistry, M.S. in chemistry '92, was recently promoted to senior scientist I in the chemical preparation research division at Alcon Laboratories in Fort Worth, Texas. Pete and his wife, Olga, have three children, Sarah Faith, 5, and twins Ethan Peter and Eric Daniel, 3. E-mail Pete at pete.delgado@alconlabs.com.

Joseph F. Mansfield, B.F.A. in art, is project architect at Ralph R. Mackin Architects, PLLC in North Salem, N.Y. Joseph and his wife, Karen, were married in December 2000. They reside in Carmel, N.Y.

Patricia Spencer Potyka, B.A. in criminal justice, is director of development at Boysville Children's Home in Converse, Texas. Patricia announces the opening of PR Works; she is president and CEO. E-mail her at pspotyka@aol.com.

87 Joanna Orthmann Demopoulos, B.B.A. in management, is a buyer for Travis County in Austin. Joanna and her husband, Peter, married in May 1994 and have a 4-year-old son and newborn twin daughters.

Deborah McPherson Eisenbrown, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president/administrator for Norwood Apparel in San Antonio.

Chris A. Hancock, B.B.A. in economics, is secretary/treasurer for KEL-LAC Uniforms Inc. in San Antonio. Chris and his wife, Toni, were married in June 1999.

Linda Collins Montgomery, B.A. in political science, is vice president/CEO for Dominion Food Group in San Antonio.

Maria ReBeca Tamez-La Lanne, B.S. in physical education, M.A. in education '97, is teaching seventh-grade life science and Texas history at Ed White Middle School in the Northeast Independent School District. ReBeca is also a singer/songwriter and has released two albums. She has two sons, Brandon and Nicolas La Lanne, ages 14 and 10. ReBeca married Richard G. Drury on June 3, 2000.

88 Rena Sardo Buley, B.A. in English, left her position as associate director of alumni programs after nine years at UTSA. Rena is now a full-time mother of her two boys, Stephan, 4, and Thomas, 1 1/2. E-mail Rena at renabuley@hotmail.com.

Dan Cable, B.B.A. in economics, is a major in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Randolph Air Force Base. Dan and his wife, **Misty Neely Cable**, B.B.A. in accounting '87, announce the birth of their son, Slate Daniel, born March 23, 2000.

Ray Trevino Garcia, B.F.A. in art, is facility leader in manufacturing for HEB Grocery Company in San Antonio.

Richard Cody Wilkenson, B.S. in mechanical engineering, and his wife, **Cynthia DeLeon Wilkerson**, B.B.A. in finance '89, announce the birth of their son, Cameron Thomas, born July 5, 2000.

89 Pat Clynes, B.B.A. in accounting, was elected to the board of directors for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Houston.

Lorrie Michele Darr Ortega, B.B.A. in management, and her husband, Abel, announce the birth of their son, Austin Kyle, born June 12, 2000.

90 Albert Kachich, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is senior product design engineer at Cooper Cameron Corporation in Houston. Albert recently placed third in the annual Excellence in Design Competition hosted by *Design News* magazine. He holds three patents for designs related to the pneumatic tool industry. Albert and his wife, Denise, have one son.

Warren J. Pearson, B.A. in psychology, received a master's degree in social work from Our Lady of the Lake University in 1993 and a master social worker license in 1994. Warren is employed with the Veterans Administration in Waco, Texas. He hopes to pursue a doctorate in psychology at UT Arlington. Warren and his wife, Katherine, have been married for 13 years and live in Woodway, Texas. E-mail Warren at pearsonwj@aol.com.

Lisa Jewell Woodstock, B.S. in biology, is a Pacific consultant to the University of Hawaii. Lisa lives in Lake Tahoe, Calif., and has one son, Dustin Tylor, 2. E-mail Lisa at lwoodstock@aol.com.

91 Penelope Smith Singleton, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. '95, is statutory filings coordinator for SunAmerica Inc. in Century City, Calif. Penny and her husband, Glen, live in Van Nuys, Calif. E-mail Penny at PennyRed@aol.com.

92 Alfred David August, M.S. in computer science, is owner/consultant for Integrated Billing in Dallas, Texas.

Mark A. Everett, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. '94, is president of the Pet Pact, a preferred provider insurance plan for pets. Mark lives in Bulverde, Texas.

Maria Yolanda Medina-Vasquez, M.A. in education, is a counselor at Rayburn Elementary in the Harlandale Independent School District. Maria was listed in *Who's Who in America's Teachers 2000*.

93 Rick Cantu, B.A. in economics, is president and CEO of ClearPath Telecom Inc., a provider of diversified telecommunications services based in San Antonio. Rick and his wife, Angela Farrell Cantu, were married in October 1999.

Kimberley Leal Isaacs, B.B.A. in finance, is an attorney with Alley Cat Allies in Washington, DC. Kimberly and her husband, Cory, live in Arlington, Va.

Earl Kessinger, B.B.A. in accounting, graduated from Central Michigan University with a master's degree in administration. Earl was recently promoted to GS-13 as the director of budget for the Airborne Laser Program, Kirkland Air Force Base, N.M.

Robert Lee Masten, B.B.A. in personnel/human resources, announces the birth of grandson, Tyler Robert Masten, born Sept. 25, 2000.

Jay P. Menchaca, B.A. in political science, received his J.D. from the George Washington University Law School in 1998. Jay is an associate in civil litigation with the firm of Gaw, Van Male, Smith, Myers and Miroglio in Fairfield, Calif. E-mail Jay at jay@gvmsmm.com.

Cory David Miller, B.A. in psychology, and **Stephanie M. Sanchez**, B.A. in communication '96, were married March 10 in Las Vegas, Nev. Cory is employed with Southwest Research, and Stephanie is program coordinator in the Office of Alumni Programs at UTSA.

Glenn C. Stella III, M.P.A., is a business development executive with Lucent NPS. Glen lives in McKinney, Texas.

94 Deborah Jones Cope, M.B.A. in human resources, was elected president of the Jalapeño Chapter of the Texas Society of Enrolled Agents (licensed to represent taxpayers before the IRS). She also serves as bylaws committee chair for the society.

Profile Success and the city

When he started thinking about college, Eddie Gutierrez, B.A. in communication '99, knew he wanted to experience college life away from his hometown of McAllen. And when he started thinking about what he would do after graduating from UTSA, Gutierrez set his sights farther north.

In the year since relocating to New York City, where he works at advertising firm Saatchi and Saatchi, Gutierrez says, for the most part, he has acclimated to his new environment.

"The city was overwhelming at first. The streets were crowded, the people were in a hurry, the coffee shops were plentiful and the subways were confusing," he notes.

Little differences between New York and South Texas continue to plague him. "We don't have HEB," he laments. Those quaint neighborhood groceries that dot Manhattan? "They're nothing like HEB."

But Gutierrez has no regrets for choosing New York to start his career in public relations and advertising.

His intention to "start big" is why, when seeking an internship for the summer of 1999, Gutierrez concentrated on firms in New York, Los Angeles and Miami.

He launched a rigorous marketing campaign with himself as the product.

"I faxed and e-mailed endless numbers of cover letters and resumés and then made plenty of phone calls."

The effort paid off with an internship at Marina Maher Communications in New York. His experience was such that he actively sought to return to New York after graduation. He accepted another internship, this time at Saatchi and Saatchi, hoping it would turn into a full-time job, which it has. The global company employs 7,000 people and handles 40 of the world's 50 largest advertising accounts, such as Kodak, General Mills, Visa, Toyota and Procter & Gamble.

Gutierrez's job? Selling pain reliever—since March he has been an assistant account executive for the Tylenol account. During his first six months on staff, he was assigned to the Yellow Box Cheerios account, for which he worked on television and print ads as well as an Internet campaign. He's looking forward to seeing his efforts pay off when the first commercials he's worked on begin airing in June. "Cheerios turns 60 this year, so we've got some great ideas coming up—on-air and in stores by October."

Gutierrez has also been invited to represent Saatchi in a video that will be presented at the upcoming American Association of Advertising Agencies management conference.

In his free time, Gutierrez continues to explore Manhattan.

"I've realized that the stereotype about rude New Yorkers is as ridiculous as the stereotype about all Texans wearing cowboy boots and having accents," he says.

"It's a good kind of culture shock."

— Rebecca Luther



Class Notes

Jeff DeCuir, B.F.A. in art, married **Jessica Barnett**, M.F.A. in art '96, in St. Louis, Mo. Jessica is an artist and teacher at San Antonio College and an adjunct faculty member at Southwest Texas State University; Jeff is a musician with an independent record label, Unclebuzz Records, in San Antonio. Check out their work at www.unclebuzz.com and www.unclebuzz.com/artlab.html.

Juan B. Garcia, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is the new director for enrollment services at the University of Houston–Downtown. He received his master's degree at Texas A&M University–Kingsville in December.

Edwin A. Hobbs, B.B.A. in management, is manager of Implementation Engineering for WorldCom Inc. in Tulsa, Okla. Edwin lives in Broken Arrow, Okla.

Violet Medellin, B.B.A. in accounting, is senior accountant for Trammell Crow Company in Dallas. She works in the company's property management reporting segment.

Elizabeth W. McLain, B.S. in biology, received her M.D. from Louisiana State University Medical School in Shreveport, La., in June 1998. She is a resident in family medicine at East Jefferson General Hospital in Metairie, La. Elizabeth plans to open a private practice in Eunice, La., in August.

Jack Robbins, M.F.A. in art, designed the historical marker system for the San Antonio San Pedro Springs Park project. Since its completion last year, the project has received design excellence awards from the American Institute of Architects, the Mayor's Office, the San Antonio Conservation Society and the Society of Landscape Architects.

Francisco J. Russi, B.S. in electrical engineering, is a corporal applications engineer at Synopsys Inc. in Austin. Francisco and his wife, Rosaura, have two children, Sebastian, 3, and Marcia, 5.

95 Gabriel Cruz, B.A. in political science, is senior consultant for KPMG Consulting in Austin. **Janice Cruz**, B.A. in psychology '94, is executive assistant for the deputy attorney general, Office of the Attorney General of Texas. They are proud to announce the birth of their son, Marco Gabriel, born Jan. 28.

Damien Herrera, B.S. in civil engineering, was named the 2001 Young Engineer of the Year by the Bexar County chapter of the Texas Society for Professional Engineers.

Cindy Lewis Wallace, B.A. in humanities, serves as vice president of communications for the San Antonio chapter of the Association for Women in Communications.

96 Renee Cornett, M.B.A., was promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Department of Dental Hygiene.

Dorothy Pritchett Ganther, B.A. in psychology, is a teacher of adult education at Northside Community Education in San Antonio.

Gary F. Grieco, B.B.A. in accounting, is a claims specialist for State Farm Insurance Company in San Antonio.

Michael A. Henderson, B.B.A. in management, is a broker with Charles Schwab & Co. in Austin, Texas. Michael is a member of the Brain Injury Association of Texas and PACE (Promoting the Acceptance and Education of Challenged Employees). He became an advocate for people with disabilities after his fiancée, Chasin Reynolds, was severely injured in a head-on collision. Michael produces a Web site, www.chasinreynolds.com.

Rick Klar, B.S. in geology, and his wife, Carol Ann, have a one-year-old son, Matthew.

Bradley A. Moore, B.B.A. in personnel/human resources, married Veronica Iracheta on Dec. 9.

Lisa Kirkland Parks, B.B.A. in accounting, and her husband, Kelly, have one daughter, Mary Katherine, 1. Lisa and Kelly are the owners of Aqua-Man Water Conditioning in Boerne and have won the Circle of Success Award from Hague Quality Water International for the third year. They are members of the Texas Water Quality Association and the Boerne Chamber of Commerce. Lisa is a member of Hill Country Women in Business.

Denise Ellen Resendez, B.A. in sociology, is a fourth-grade teacher for Irving Independent School District in Irving, Texas.

Regis Darrell Shephard, M.F.A. in art, is assistant professor of art at St. Philip's College where she received a 2000 NISOD (National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development) Excellence Award.

Thaddeus Fanon Wordlaw, B.S. in kinesiology, is a fifth-grade teacher at McKinley Elementary in Bellwood, Ill. He attends graduate school at Concordia University in River Forest, Ill.

97 Catherine "Katie" Boyle, B.A. in psychology, is a caseworker for City Public Service. She recently returned from living in Guinea, West Africa, for two years.

Brent A. Carson, B.A. in political science, is a community supervision officer for the Frio County Probation Office. Brent lives in Poteet, Texas.

Wendy A. Lomers, M.B.A. in management, married Lester Carlin Lomers in February 2000.

98 Erin A. Alexander, B.A. in psychology, is the sex offender officer and presentence investigator for Atascosa County and a member of the Texas Corrections Association. Erin is pursuing her master's degree at UTSA and expects to graduate in May.

Linda Crompton Gann, M.S. in mathematics education, received the 1999 President's Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching.

Greg Smith, B.S. in biology, is a sales specialist for Sepracor in Odessa, Texas. Sepracor is a biotechnology firm dealing in single isomer and active metabolite drugs. E-mail Greg at gks1975@aol.com.

99 Clint S. Clouse, B.B.A. in personnel/human resources, is a personnel staffing specialist with the U.S. Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base.

Elizabeth Delgado, B.A. in communication, is a public affairs technician at USAA.

Daniel Derek Hierholzer, B.B.A. in information systems, is a senior programmer at Asset Works.

Mark D. Howard, B.Music, is a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force in training at Randolph Air Force Base. Mark married **Shannon Charles**, B.A. in communication '98, on Jan. 20. Shannon is manager of human resources at Target Stores. The couple will transfer to Omaha, Neb., after Mark completes his training.

Florence Mari Guerra Lanigan, B.B.A. in accounting, is assistant vice president for Citicorp/Citibank in San Antonio. Florence married J. Patrick Lanigan on May 27, 2000.

Jesse R. Rodriguez, B.A. in English, is a language arts teacher and assistant athletic director at Holy Name School in San Antonio.

Nancy Valdez Vasquez, B.B.A. in accounting, is an accountant with Southwest Research Center Federal Credit Union.

00 Jaymie Balboa, B.A. in political science, is employed in constituent services for San Antonio District 8 Councilwoman Bonnie Conner. Jaymie lives in Laredo.

Christopher Eric Jacquez, B.B.A. in accounting, is a staff accountant for Clear Channel Information Technologies. Chris married Erin Lozano, a senior at UTSA, on Dec. 16.

Matthew Westerhoff, B.S. in mathematics, is a research engineer with Applied Research Lab in Austin.

Aaron M. Whelchel, B.A. in criminal justice, is a police officer with the city of Waco, Texas.

CORRECTION

Tim McCallum, B.B.A. in accounting '79, and wife, Frankie, are the owners of a dog, Ellie, and two cats, Buck and Spur. In the winter issue of *Sombrilla*, it was erroneously reported that Tim and Frankie have three children.

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth M. Steinbarger, B.A. in business '77, died Dec. 24 in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the age of 73. Ruth had retired from civil service and the U.S. Air Force after 36 years of service. She received her degree from UTSA at the age of 51 and proudly wore her UTSA senior ring. She received a master's degree from Wright University in 1980 and a professional logistician certification for civil service. She was the first in her family to receive a master's degree and was an inspiration to her sons, Doug and Michael, who both received master's degrees.

Spring 2001Calendar

April 12-May 11
Annual Student Juried Exhibition
Art Gallery in the Arts Building
Call 458-4352

April 18
Frost Lecture Series
Lecture by Jamie Rochelle
9 a.m.
Business Building Auditorium
Call 458-4313

April 18
Faculty Recital
Allyson Dawkins, viola
7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall
Call 458-5685

April 20
Fiesta UTSA
11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Sombrilla

April 21
Guest Recital
Aries Brass Quintet
7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall
Call 458-5685

April 26
UTSA Chamber Orchestra Student
Conductors Concert
2:15 p.m.
Recital Hall
Call 458-5685

April 26
UTSA Choral Cavalcade
7:30 p.m.
Recital Hall
Call 458-5685

April 28
Fiesta Under the Stars
7:30 p.m.
Convocation Center
Call 458-4355

April 29
14th Annual
Bowie Street Blues Concert
Noon–6 p.m.
Institute of Texan Cultures
Call 458-2300

May 3
UTSA Alumni Association
Spring Class Ring Ceremony
6 p.m.
Retama Auditorium
in the University Center

May 4
Music Extravaganza
7 p.m.
Oak Hills Country Club
Call 458-5685

May 12
Commencement

June 7–10
Texas Folklife Festival
Institute of Texan Cultures
Call 458-2300



What’s new, Roadrunner?

Send us updates on promotions, relocations, marriages, additional degrees, 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.

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

Place of Employment Title
May we include your title and employer in Class Notes? Yes No

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

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 first 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

Looking Back

Track and (wildflower) field

An empty track, a field of bluebonnets and two good knees made for a fine spring day for one athlete, circa 1983. Although we can't positively identify this runner, we can guess that he's a sprinter or even a distance runner for UTSA's young track and field program. That year, the men's team was led by Roger Soler, a long-distance runner from Peru who holds campus records in the 1,500- and 5,000-meter races. Soler later competed at the 1984 Olympics. His teammates included Danny Spivey, Bill Bochat, Mike LaBay, Mike Villarreal and Tomm Wisloff, a long-jumper who made the leap to South Texas from Norway.

On the women's side, Ann Fitzsimmons and Melanie Hennis starred in both cross country and long-distance track events. Both teams, which competed as NCAA Division I independents, were coached by Jim Skaines.

As the photo attests, it was also quite a year for *Lupinus texensis*, an annual star of fields and roadsides. Those irresistible blue-violet spikes surely hold the record for most photographed bloom in Texas.

— Lynn Gosnell

Photo by John Poindexter



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