

Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Spring 2004
Vol. 20, No. 2

FIGHTING **FOR OUR** NEIGHBORHOODS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

How tuition deregulation is affecting UTSA
Alumni authors publish first novels



SPRING 2004

Sombrilla

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Graffiti covers the wall of a convenience store in a neighborhood near downtown San Antonio.
Photo by Mark McClendon.

On this page

Wildlife at the Downtown Campus.
Photo by Mark McClendon.

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Write back!

We welcome your letters pertaining to Sombrilla's content. Please send them by mail or e-mail to the addresses below. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Alumni with the write stuff

When I was 8 years old, I wrote a story about a little girl whose sack lunch magically transformed itself into a monster on her walk to school. My third-grade teacher, Mrs. Herman, gave me an A (or a gold star or a check-plus-plus—whatever it is that third-grade teachers give their students for a solid creative effort) and wrote across the top of my paper that I should become a writer when I grew up.

Some days, especially when I've just finished writing or even editing a story I particularly enjoyed, I say a silent thanks to Mrs. Herman. Other days—heck, the whole two (OK, three) weeks I procrastinated before I finally got around to writing this column—I curse Mrs. Herman and the whole U.S. public school system.

Which is why I'm fascinated by—and envious of—the four UTSA alumni featured in one of the articles in this issue, "Paperback Writer." Neither Frank Jakobs, Gary Branfman, Roberto Rosas nor José Uranga has ever written for a living. For them, writing their first novels was a diversion from their real jobs as, respectively, a sales manager, a plastic surgeon, a police sergeant and an environmental lawyer (though Uranga is now retired and his "real job" consists of, among other activities, playing golf and tennis, and volunteering as a museum docent and a children's court advocate).

They wrote for *fun*. Imagine that.

So the next time I think I have writer's block, I'll remember and find inspiration in my four muses.

I'll think about Frank Jakobs, who wrote most of his book on airplanes, writing on his laptop while his fellow business travelers *read* books.

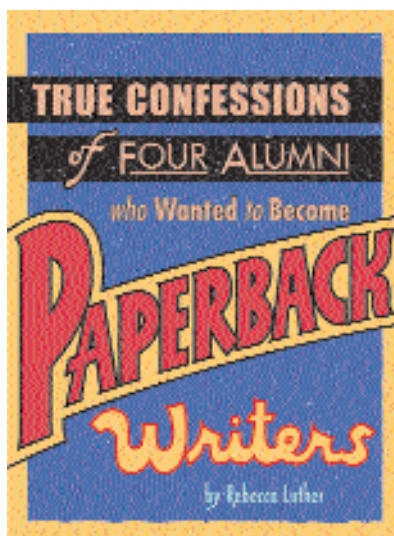
I'll think about Roberto Rosas, who was working a second job as a security officer at a construction site when he started writing his book, and used pieces of scrap paper to scribble his ideas on during his downtime.

I'll think of José Uranga, who researched and wrote his book during his spare time—in between trials and depositions—over more than a decade.

And I'll think of Gary Branfman, who bought a laptop and a thesaurus and stayed up weekend nights writing at his dining room table while his family slept. Who was *still* sitting at the dining room table, covered with notes, crumpled paper and books, when his wife and daughters came down for breakfast.

This writing thing isn't so tough after all.

— Rebecca Luther





THE IDEAL STREET

At the end of the fall semester, first-year students in the School of Architecture turned Bill Miller Plaza at the Downtown Campus into a stick village. As the culmination of their first semester, the students were challenged with creating an “ideal street,” one that included places for gathering, greeting and contemplation.

Students worked on the activity in groups of four and were limited to three materials: wood lattice, a string or rope, and fabric. Each group was assigned a six-by-six-foot site along a row of sites that formed the “street.” In total, 37 full-scale stick frame designs were on display.

Because of the full-scale construction, the project allowed students to develop their ideas while gaining hands-on practice with tools and materials. It also addressed fundamental issues of architectural design by grounding them in actual experience.

“Because it is full scale, it is the first realized design project where students can physically experience their own design concepts from the actual interior,” said assistant professor Stephen Temple. “It is an enlightening moment when we first assemble the projects into a street, and design students really enjoy making a creative mark on the landscape of their campus.”



A spiritual experience

Spelunking indoors at the Institute of Texan Cultures

Travel through a cave and experience the spirituality and worldview of the ancients in “Creation and Cosmos: American Indian Spirituality.” The new exhibit, which includes artifacts from the Red McCombs Collection, is on display at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

“This exhibit provides clues to help us understand everyday lives millennia ago,” said ITC archaeologist Shirley Boteler Mock. “Despite the fact that many American Indians today no longer make ceramic vessels, traditional concepts of the cosmos continue to influence their customs, religion and art.”

In addition to the vessels from the Caddo tribe of northeastern Texas and Oklahoma, the exhibit explores the sacred landscape

of American Indian spirituality and the perspective of ancient Americans. In a specially constructed cave, visitors can see a tree of life, listen to creation stories and hear the ancient spirits at play.

“Creation and Cosmos” is an ongoing exhibit. Displays in the exhibit, including “Treasures of the Spirit,” “The Cosmos: Invoking the Sacred” and “The Rhythms of Life,” examine the possible uses of the artifacts, the reasoning behind the designs and how these reflected the beliefs of many tribes.

The exhibit is included with regular ITC admission. For more information, call 210-458-2330 or visit www.texancultures.utsa.edu.

— Tina Luther

First Edition

Recent faculty publications

Champagne in France

Customary at weddings and when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve, champagne has been used for celebrations throughout the world for hundreds of years.

But how did this luxury wine originally become a cultural fixture for celebrations and special occasions and a drink for the wealthy in France?

That's the question **Kolleen M. Guy** addresses in her new book: *When Champagne Became French: Wine and the Making of a National Identity* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

Guy, an associate professor of history at UTSA, looks at this central element in French culture and the rural communities that profited from its production. She takes the reader on a journey through France, exploring the development of the champagne industry between 1820 and 1920.

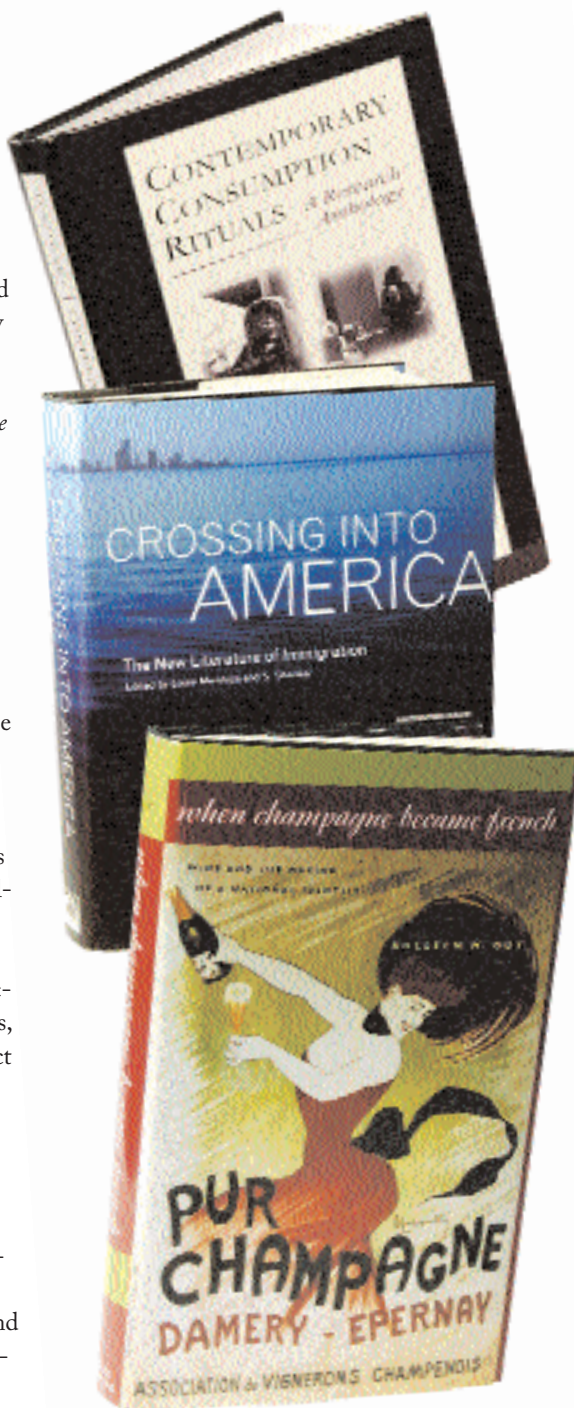
Drawing on concepts from social and cultural history, Guy shows how champagne helped fuel the revolution in consumption as social groups searched for new ways to develop cohesion and establish social status. By the end of the 19th century, Guy concludes, the marketing success of champagne-producing provinces convinced government officials, both nationally and internationally, to protect champagne as a French heritage.

Bubbly, anyone?

Immigration stories

"Immigration is a very controversial and political topic," says **Louis Mendoza**, associate dean for the College of Liberal and Fine Arts. "When you have these debates, you tend to think in either raw demographics or numbers—you don't always think about the real people that are being affected by these laws."

For that reason, in Mendoza's new book, *Crossing Into America: The New Literature of Immigration* (The New Press, 2003), dozens of "real people" tell their stories about immigrating to the United States, and their lives before and after their journeys. The book, which was co-edited by a colleague of Mendoza's (S. Shankar of the University of Hawaii), contains poems, memoirs and essays by immigrants and descendants of immigrants from Latin America, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.



"We wanted to put some flesh behind the numbers—put some real life experiences behind the controversial topic," he says.

Mendoza explains that literature about immigration has come in waves throughout the years, heating up when a new law affecting immigration emerges. For instance, immigration studies were popular following the 1965 Hart-Celler Immigration Act, which ended a bias toward European immigrants, and California's Proposition 187 in

the '90s, which denied certain public benefits to immigrants who enter California illegally. Discussions regarding immigration laws were also brought to the forefront following the terrorist attacks in 2001.

"When [we were] putting this together, 9-11 happened. We knew immediately that there would be new debate about immigration. A couple of the writers do talk about it," Mendoza says. "We wanted to see all of these very important moments in the last 40 years."

The book ends with a look at past public policy issues that includes political cartoons and editorials.

Consumption rituals

Mom starts shopping the day after Thanksgiving in search of the toy that tops her child's Christmas wish list. Grandma starts preparing the menu for Christmas dinner on Dec. 1. Dad irons his Santa Claus suit three days before the holiday. All three are preparing for the perfect Christmas. But come Dec. 25, the child wants a different toy, the turkey is too dry, and the family dog chews up Santa's beard.

This ritual of seeking the perfect Christmas is explored in *Contemporary Consumption Rituals: A Research Anthology* (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2003), which UTSA associate professor of marketing **Tina M. Lowrey** co-edited. The book describes timeless rituals from around the world—everything from holiday and wedding rituals to the rituals of college drinking and exchanging gifts.

"Our research is on consumer fairy tales and how the quest for the perfect Christmas is inevitably unachievable—but people keep trying," Lowrey says. "There are villains in their stories that keep them from getting their perfect Christmas."

Lowrey (with Cele C. Otnes of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) began her research more than a decade ago, meeting with the same study participants yearly. In 1990, her research was focused on gift-giving, but through the years it expanded to include other ritualized events.

Contemporary Consumption Rituals also contains a section on how the media portrays or influences particular rituals.

—Lori Burling

Snapshot, Texas

From the photographic archives of the Institute of Texan Cultures

BREAD AND BUTTER KRUST

Through the 1960s and into the '70s, the *San Antonio Register*, the leading newspaper of the city's black community, ran a successful advertising campaign for Richter's Bakery's Butter Krust bread. Photographs of families enjoying Butter Krust were printed as news photos, with captions identifying the people in the photo and some of their favorite Butter Krust products. Families chosen to appear in the ads were given \$15, a week's worth of products from the Richter's Bakery, and a copy of the family portrait that appeared in the newspaper.

This long-term campaign was successful not only in promoting Richter's, but also in creating strong ties between the *San Antonio Register* and its readers. Today there are many San Antonio residents who have fond memories of this campaign and their families' participation in it.

— Kendra Trachta

The Zintgraff Collection, Institute of Texan Cultures at UTSA, Z-0244. Gift of John and Dela White.



Se habla marketing

Learning the language of business—in Spanish

Even though the word “marketing” is the same in both English and Spanish, Lecturer Daniel Tablada’s Principles of Marketing course is not.

Tablada’s class is the first College of Business course taught entirely in Spanish. Using a Spanish-language textbook and Tablada’s PowerPoint presentations, the 10 students enrolled in the Downtown Campus course are learning not only marketing principles, but also how to enhance their Spanish language skills for the business world.

“While Spanish will be the medium of instruction, students will not be required to have any prior formal language training in Spanish,” said Tablada, who was born in Mexico and had a distinguished business career there, first with General Motors and later in

consulting. “The purpose is to use the language of commerce as it is spoken in Mexico and other Latin American countries so that students can begin to feel at ease in dealing with Spanish-speaking business contacts.”

Much of the initiative for this course comes from Ernest Bromley, CEO of San Antonio-based Bromley and Associates, one of the largest Spanish-language advertising agencies in the United States. Bromley, a graduate of UTSA, encouraged the college to offer business courses in Spanish so that Spanish-speaking students can utilize their language abilities early in their business careers, with an eye toward gaining a competitive advantage in the world of international business.

“This course demonstrates the college’s commitment to international business and

diversity in the study of business,” said Bruce Bublitz, dean of the College of Business. “We encourage our students to explore international business opportunities.”

For the class, which is split evenly between Mexican Americans and Mexican nationals, it gives them an opportunity to broaden their horizons. “I signed up for this class to expand my Spanish-speaking skills in business,” said senior Fabiola Calderon. “But I’ve found that I also enjoy the camaraderie of the class due to its intimate nature.”

“People believe that Spanish is spoken well in San Antonio,” Tablada said. “Unfortunately, most people do not use Spanish properly while conducting business. I hope to remedy that situation student by student in my class.”

— Wendy Frost

iBravo!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

Robert Ayoub, a student in the Master of Science in Information Technology program, was selected as a recipient of the Texas Business Hall of Fame scholarship; **Kolleen M. Guy**, Department of History, was selected as editor for H-FRANCE, the online discussion list for French historians; **Jeffrey A. Halley**, chair of the Department of Sociology, was guest professor at the University of Metz, France, in December 2003; **Joe Martinez**, chair of the Department of Biology, was awarded the 2003 Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs Education Award in recognition of his "outstanding contributions to research, education and a distinguished career in the neurosciences"; **Robert Milk**, director of the Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, was honored for exemplary professional service by the Texas Association for Bilingual

Education; **Dibs Sarkar**, assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science, is guest-editing three special editions of *Environmental Geosciences*, the quarterly peer-reviewed journal of the Division of Environmental Geosciences of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the largest professional geological society in the world; **Deborah Schwartz-Kates**, assistant professor in the Department of Music, received an NEH fellowship to support her research on Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera; **Valerie Sponsel**, associate professor in the Department of Biology, was appointed to the managing editorial board of the journal *Plant Growth Regulation*; **Minghe Sun**, professor in the Department of Management Science, received the 2003 Best Theoretical/Empirical Research award from the Decision Sciences

Institute for his paper "Multiple-Group Discriminant and Classification Analysis with Linear Programming Approaches"; **The Texas Folklife Festival** earned several Pinnacle awards from nearly 1,300 entries from the International Festivals and Events Association: the Silver Award for Best Sponsor Solicitation, the Silver Award for Best TV Promotion, the Bronze Award for Best T-shirt Design, commemorative shirt category, and the Bronze Award for Best Pin or Button, event category; **Jason West**, senior civil engineering student, was selected to make a presentation at a meeting of the Transportation Research Board, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

— From staff and press reports

Based on statistics ...

State demographer joins UTSA faculty

State Demographer Steve H. Murdock joined UTSA in January as the Luther Brown Distinguished Chair in Management Science and Statistics in the university's College of Business. As part of his appointment, UTSA will create the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, which Murdock will direct.

"I am extremely pleased to be joining the faculty at UTSA, as this is an exciting opportunity for our programs and research," said Murdock, formerly the Regents Professor and chairman of the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University.

"Through the establishment of the institute and our ongoing State Data Center we enhance our ability to fulfill our statewide mission while being part of a dynamic university and a great city—both of which represent the future of Texas."

As state demographer, Murdock heads the State Data Center, a network of 45 university, state, regional and municipal agencies that provide access to demographic information on the socioeconomic characteristics of Texas. The center also provides population estimates used by state agencies and other organizations for planning purposes.

"A distinguished scholar in demography and sociology, Murdock brings to UTSA the caliber of research found only at the top universities in the United States," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "UTSA and San Antonio are very fortunate to be the new home for



the state's demographer and an institute that is critical to the future of our great state."

"The decision by Dr. Steve Murdock to join the faculty at UT San Antonio is most welcome news," said UT System Chancellor Mark Yudof. "He is one of the nation's most distinguished demographers and sociologists, and his research is of fundamental importance for both the public and private sectors as they plan for the future of Texas. We are delighted that Dr. Murdock is going to become a member of the UT family."

"Steve Murdock's research and the work of the State Data Center comprise important components of much of the strategic planning that supports major statewide initiatives," said Cyndi Taylor Krier, a member

of the UT System Board of Regents. "His association with UTSA and San Antonio is an important milestone in UTSA's move toward becoming a premier research university."

Murdock earned his Ph.D. in demography and sociology from the University of Kentucky and is the author of 11 books and more than 150 articles and technical reports on the implications of current and future demographic and socioeconomic change. One of his books is *The New Texas Challenge: Population Change and the Future of Texas*, which examines the implications of demographic change in Texas.

A nationally respected demographer, Murdock was named one of the 50 most influential Texans by *Texas Business* in 1997. He is a member of numerous national organizations and honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa.

— David Gabler



And more to grow on University plans more than \$100 million in new construction

The UT System Board of Regents last November approved \$108.2 million in new building projects for the UTSA 1604 Campus. "This action enables UTSA to continue building the next premier research university for Texas," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "As we grow in both student numbers and academic programs, it is essential to have quality facilities in which we can expand learning and engage in more sophisticated research to improve the lives of all our citizens."

Most of that money, \$75 million, will be used to build a second phase of the Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building, an \$83.7 million, 221,440-square-foot building already under construction and scheduled to open in 2005. Phase two calls for a 160,000-square-foot addition, primarily of science lab space.

Another \$5 million will be used for a cooling/heating system for that building.

Nearly \$21 million will be used to provide additional parking at the 1604 Campus, including a parking garage.

Finally, \$7.5 million will be used for a 12,000-square-foot West Campus facility for teaching and research laboratories. Along with the BSE Building, this facility adds 120 new laboratories to campus and will help the university with its goal of adding 120 faculty members to the College of Engineering and College of Sciences over the next four years.

The \$108.2 million planned building campaign is in addition to several multimillion-dollar projects already underway:

- The Main Building, which includes classrooms, teaching labs and academic support space, due to open this spring (\$52.3 million)
- Chapparal Village, a 1,000-bed residence facility scheduled to open for the fall semester (\$38 million)
- A 16,000-square-foot student dining facility, due to open by the end of 2004 (\$7 million)
- The Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building.

ON MY HONOR ...

UTSA students are spearheading an effort to create a university-wide honor code. The Honors Alliance, a committee representing campus honor societies and other organizations, was formed last year in response to reports of cheating on college campuses. The alliance plans to create a code that will become a guide to academic integrity at UTSA.

"We're trying to keep this positive and educational ... [something that can be] a learning instrument for incoming freshmen and transfer students," said Chris Denham, chair of the Honors Alliance. "We're raising the bar for UTSA. People care about this and it does matter."

The code will become part of the admissions documents and will be based on the student code of conduct. Issues that will be addressed in the code include academic dishonesty, integrity, cheating and plagiarism.

— Tina Luther



TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Around the world in 80 days? At the Texas Folklife Festival, visitors can explore the far regions of the Earth in just four days of food and fun. The 33rd annual festival will be held June 10–13 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in downtown San Antonio.

Festival visitors can savor authentic international cuisine, delight in the music and colorful costumes of entertainers, and browse through the arts and crafts market. To order advance tickets (available May 1–June 1) visit www.texasfolklife festival.org, or for more information, call 210-458-2390.

Scientists join in effort to combat bioterrorism

Three biology researchers at UTSA are collaborators in a five-year, \$48 million grant to help protect the nation against bioterrorism.



Mention the words *anthrax* and *plague*, and an array of images comes to mind. But utter the words *tularemia* and *alphaviruses*, and most people are left scratching their heads. While many may not be familiar with the terms, tularemia and diseases associated with alphaviruses are among a list of threatening bioterrorism agents and diseases cited by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). And finding vaccines for these potentially deadly diseases has become the focus for UTSA researchers Karl Klose, Bernard Arulanandam and Hans Heidner.

The three represent UTSA in one of eight U.S. Regional Centers of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Disease Research (RCE), which support coordinated interdisciplinary research.

Klose and Arulanandam are concentrating their efforts on tularemia, an illness that occurs naturally in the U.S. and is caused primarily by bacteria found in rodents, rabbits and hares.

The lesser, more common forms of tularemia, which occur in 80 percent of cases, are caused by a scratch or bite and can be treated with antibiotics. Symptoms include sudden fever, chills, headache, joint pain and progressive weakness. However, the more virulent pneumonic tularemia, which is airborne, can lead to severe respiratory illness, including pneumonia and systemic infections. Klose said physicians are unfamiliar with the symptoms of pneumonic tularemia and would be totally unprepared for a tularemia attack.

“Tularemia can be transmitted by aerosol and is highly infectious—only 10 organisms are needed to infect the lungs,” said Klose. “Left untreated, it has a high mortality rate, between 30 and 40 percent, and is difficult to diagnose.”

According to the CDC, tularemia is a risk to national security because it has a high mortality rate and the potential for major public health impact. Arulanandam and Klose are working with researchers from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research to identify potential vaccine candidates for tularemia. Their findings on tularemia were released in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a top-tier scientific journal.

According to Arulanandam, normal treatment for the lesser forms of tularemia requires prolonged use of antibiotics. But, he reports, combining an antibiotic with a cellular substance (a cytokine) found naturally in the body reduces the number of doses needed for a cure.

“Now we need to use our aerosol machine to test it with the virulent strains,” said Arulanandam.

While Klose and Arulanandam are studying tularemia, UTSA virologist Hans Heidner is concentrating his efforts on developing vaccines for certain alphaviruses that may cause mosquito-transmitted diseases and have a history of being developed into weapons.

Heidner is focusing on the Sindbis virus, almost a genetic and molecular twin to three deadly alphaviruses: Venezuelan equine encephalitis, western equine encephalitis and eastern equine encephalitis. Although these three naturally cause disease in animals, they can all be modified easily and aerosolized to infect humans.

Some of the more common symptoms include high fever, headache, coughing, sore throat and vomiting. While the overall fatality rate is only 1 percent, it can be as high as 35 percent in children.

Heidner’s studies with the Sindbis virus will be combined with those of the other RCE researchers who are working with deadly encephalitis viruses to produce a vaccine that will protect against the disease but will be easier to tolerate than the current vaccine.

“The beauty of vaccines is that your immune system does not have to see the entire pathogen to mount immunity, it just needs to see the critical parts,” said Heidner.

For some phases of vaccine development that require direct handling of deadly pathogens—like tularemia or some of the alphaviruses—it will be necessary for the scientists to work in biosafety level three laboratories (BSL3). UTSA has one such lab already under renovation; another is planned for a new science building on West Campus. Once these labs are completed, they must be certified by the CDC and access to them will be heavily controlled.

The RCEs were established with a \$350 million grant from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, an agency of the National Institutes of Health. UTSA’s inclusion in the RCE has encouraged many of the national researchers who used to compete against each other to collaborate to reach a common goal. The new faculty, research projects and funding that grow from this effort will boost the educational opportunities for UTSA students interested in studying infectious diseases.

— Kris Rodriguez

Trash dump and wall tell a story

Researchers with UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) have uncovered a 35-foot-long wall that was connected to a presidio, or Spanish military garrison, in the 1700s. But just uncovering the wall wasn't enough to verify its origins. Researchers also found what they call a midden—or trash dump—containing artifacts dating from the 1700s to the 1900s. "It's like putting pieces of a story together," said Steve Tomka, CAR director.

The city was pulling up a parking lot in November on the corner of Commerce and Camaron in downtown San Antonio when UTSA archaeologists began to dig. Their findings came in layers: first, they discovered a wall that was part of a 19th-century orphanage that later became a hospital. Researchers used old insurance maps to determine what stood at the location during each time period. The wall was made of cut limestone covered in mortar—an architectural style used by the Germans who lived in San Antonio at that time, Tomka said.



Later, a second wall was found. This one—made of uncut, jagged stones—is believed to be the presidio wall.

"When we uncovered the presidio wall ... it became evident that this was a colonial construction method, predating the German occupation of San Antonio," Tomka explained.

According to old city maps, the wall had at one time continued underneath what is now Commerce Street, connecting the presidio to the Spanish Governor's Palace, which sits on the corner.

To verify the time period, researchers studied artifacts found in the nearby midden. These ceramics, arrowheads, bison bones and gunflints strongly suggested that Native Americans were in the area when the wall was constructed. Native Americans made gunflints for the Spanish soldiers, often visiting the presidio, Tomka said.

"Trash bins are sort of like treasure troves for archaeologists. You find everything that's important from that culture and time period in the dumps," he said.

Before the wall was destroyed, the archaeologists documented their findings with notes and photos. "In archaeology we do not have inexpensive ways of saving segments of walls," said Tomka. "At best we can sample portions of it and document it the best that we can."

—Lori Burling

Tracing the history of an infamous book

How did a third-century Sanskrit text morph into what Assistant Professor Anne Hardgrove calls "a best-selling, erotic how-to manual in book markets around the world"? Hardgrove, a historian of India and South Asian cultures, is researching the long, strange trip that the Kamasutra has taken in the Western imagination.

"Why is there so much fascination in the West with the Kamasutra?" Hardgrove asks. She even found a *Complete Idiot's Guide to the Kama Sutra* at Barnes & Noble. In her research she follows the text from its origin and role in ancient Indian life (the book was originally composed as a marriage manual), its late 19th-century "discovery" by the British explorer Sir Richard F. Burton, its subsequent translation into English and Burton's own efforts to make the study of global sexuality and erotica respectable to his Victorian audiences.

Hardgrove's research traces the publication history and censorship battles that surrounded the text, situating the translation and popularization of the Kamasutra in light of contemporary debates on sexuality, race, nationalism, gender and imperialism. Burton's translation has been the most popular version, but Indian scholars have reclaimed the book. Hardgrove notes that Indian translations tend to place more emphasis on the Kamasutra's historic and scientific value. In some, lists of activities for the courtesan are changed into lists of activities for the dutiful wife.

Hardgrove's research took her to the Library of Congress to study different translations of the text, where she noticed that some copies were locked up. When she kept asking to see different versions of the book, the librarian responded with a slightly incredulous, "How many do you need?"

The so-called sexual revolution of the 1960s brought the text to the attention of a new audience. Alex Comfort, author of *The Joy of Sex*, drew heavily upon the ancient Kamasutra and other related texts in his reformulation of "new" attitudes toward sexuality. In the 21st century, a consumer culture of products has grown up around the Kamasutra, using the name as an advertising "brand." Hardgrove plans to publish a book on her research, tentatively titled *The Global Erotic: Translating the Kamasutra*. She recently received an NEH Extending the Reach Faculty Research Award to continue her work.

—Lynn Gosnell

Research funding increases 4.6 percent

UTSA received \$30.2 million in sponsored program awards in fiscal year 2003, which is \$1.3 million or 4.6 percent higher than the previous year. Of the \$30.2 million, more than \$14.5 million was directed toward restricted research.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding of UTSA research projects began 29 years ago with a few hundred thousand dollars and increased to more than \$8.6 million in fiscal year 2003. Of that amount, \$7.7 million went to 45 research or instructional grant projects.

"NIH's increasing financial support reinforces the university's goal to become a premier research university," said Ricardo Romo, president of UTSA. "In 2002, UTSA was ranked among the top third of 515 domestic institutions of higher education in the United States."

Some of the funded projects include using mathematical models and computer simulations to study Parkinson's-related diseases, studying the biogeochemistry of contaminated soils and helping high school teachers include engineering principles in their math and science curricula.

—Kris Rodriguez

An Interview with John Poindexter

John Poindexter's first day of work at UTSA was the day the 1604 Campus opened its classrooms in September 1975. It was then that Poindexter began a 28-year career as university photographer (and sole photographer until the late '90s). His past endeavors in aerial photography and television allowed him to share the development of UTSA with others—as one campus turned into three and enrollment increased by the thousands. Before his retirement in January, Poindexter had photographed all five UTSA presidents, covered more than 30 commencements, was a board member for the University Photographers Association of America and welcomed the age of the digital camera.

What was your job description in 1975?

Basically what it entailed was doing everything photographic required by the university—shooting photos, processing film, making prints, making slides. Almost all of my work in the very beginning revolved around professors.

What was UTSA like in the '70s?

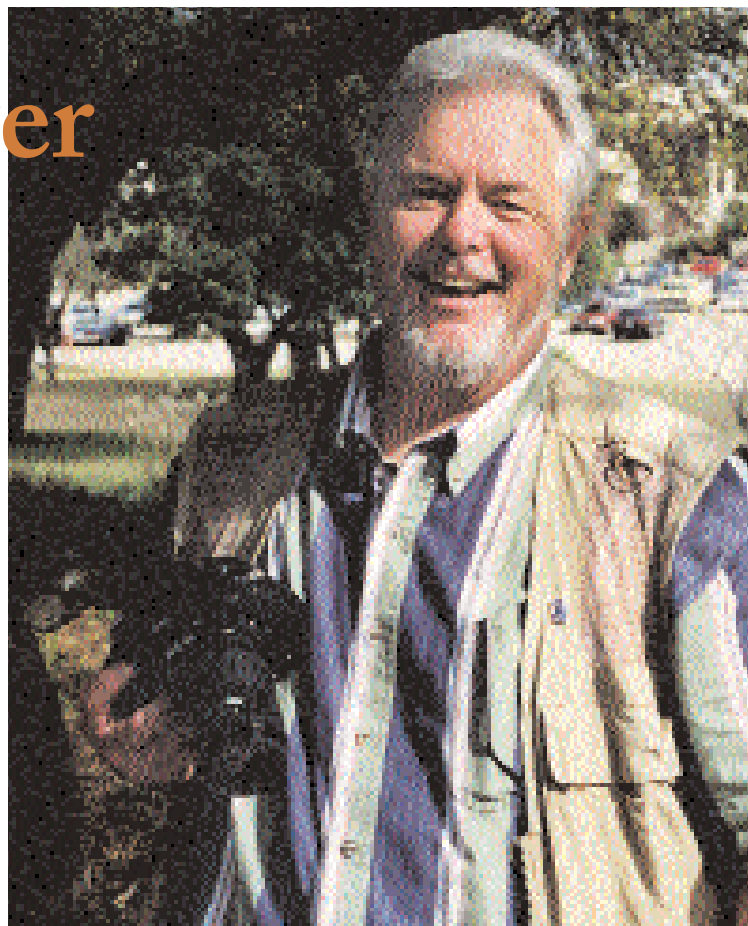
Not only was the Downtown Campus not here, the Downtown Campus wasn't even a dream. We actually physically started at HemisFair Park; we outgrew it very rapidly. A lot of people were against us having this [1604] campus where it is now because it was so far out in the country. We were literally out in the country. My father hunted on this piece of land, so it had sentimental value to me.

You were promoted in 1999 to Assistant Director of Multimedia Imaging. Did you shoot photos following the promotion?

No. No action for me. I am the one who got us into the digital world, and now both [university photographers] Mark [McClendon] and Patrick [Dunn] shoot nothing but digital. We got rid of all of our film-based cameras, replacing them with high-resolution digital cameras.

Why was it important to make the change from film photography to digital photography?

Cost and speed. For what we do, it was only logical to make the switch. Everything can be downloaded from the camera to the computer, then to the client or the designer of the publication we're putting together. When we were using film, I had two film processing labs and two print rooms, plus sometimes I had to send film to outside labs because of the number of jobs we were working. At that time, I had one part-time assistant and one or two student assistants. I would shoot the photo, develop the film, make a contact sheet, then print the picture our client chose. The normal turnaround time from shooting the photo to delivering it to the client was at a minimum of two weeks. We were spending approximately \$25,000 a year for an outside lab and \$12,000 on chemicals and paper. We saved nearly \$40,000 the first year after we went completely digital. And I could give a client the opportunity to see their photos the same day the event took place. We shoot the images, download them onto a CD and give it to the client the same day. No chemistry. No water. No pollution. No mess.



Do you foresee film cameras becoming antique?

No. Film will never go away. It has its place aesthetically and mechanically. Negatives will literally be around forever. Digital images are very delicate. They can easily be destroyed by a click of a button. *But* the digital camera opened many doors. The color quality of the images are far superior to film, and you can reuse your memory card a thousand times.

You worked with all five UTSA presidents. What was it like photographing each of them?

Regarding Dr. Arleigh B. Templeton: I seldom took his picture. He was usually involved in it, but we were taking pictures of the building, the beginning of the university. This was before I was employed by UTSA. I was a commercial photographer then and shot for the UT System on several occasions.

Regarding Dr. Peter T. Flawn: Dr. Flawn was very much the academician. He was an engineer by trade, but his real love was teaching. Dr. Flawn only liked to be photographed at social events. He would really prefer that it was his wife being photographed. Dr. Flawn has a very lovely wife. She enjoys entertaining visitors, and the two of them are a great team. He is a very good-looking guy himself—he is kind of rugged, outdoor looking with a little pencil mustache.

Regarding Dr. James W. Wagener: He was the first president I really had the opportunity to photograph in a professional way, using my professional skills as an executive portrait artist. That's also when we started taking more and more pictures at social events—a lot of growth during his tenure.

Regarding Dr. Samuel A. Kirkpatrick: I took more pictures of Dr. Kirkpatrick than I have of anybody. Oh, he was always having his

picture taken. He used to complain a lot that I was taking too many pictures of him. It was decided that we needed a better presence in the community socially, so [he held] a lot of events at his home. He had a nice big home that he had purchased upon coming to UTSA. Mrs. Kirkpatrick said they thought they were going to have to put a cot in their basement for me because I was there so much.

Regarding Dr. Ricardo Romo: I've known Dr. Romo since high school. We're both from San Antonio. He went to Fox Tech, and I went to Harlandale. We were both in track. I was not a runner, though—being a football player, I didn't run very fast. I threw the shot put and discus. I was a weight person, but I was also the school photographer. I photographed him several times at the Harlandale Stadium because we had one of the better facilities in town for running. Then in 1999 when they were deciding who the next president would be, they told me to go to Austin to take pictures at the board of regents meeting. So I went up there, nearly one of the last assignments I did ... I took my first portrait of him right there in the regents' office. He's very photogenic so it's very easy to get his picture.

How do you see UTSA in the next 10 years?

I see this university continuing to grow through this century. I do not see us slowing down any time soon. When I started here, students carried notebooks and pens to class. Now they carry laptops. I've seen this campus grow into three campuses. When I started, administrators were working in the physical education building and library. Now, we've grown to more than a dozen buildings with dormitories and apartments. We'll continue to grow, it may come in spurts, but I don't see us slowing down. I think the Downtown Campus also has a lot to offer. If the city of San Antonio and Texas legislators are willing to participate, that campus could continue to grow into a fantastic institution.

What is the most photogenic spot on the 1604 Campus?

Probably the University Center because it's got the most interesting architecture and it's not all concrete. The most photographed is probably ... around the Sombrilla area.

What is the most photogenic spot on the Downtown Campus?

[I] got some really great pictures of the Downtown Campus. It's a much more colorful, much more striking architecture, every part of it. I've won peer-judged awards ... for my photography of the Downtown Campus.

Where is your favorite spot to shoot when you're not taking university photos?

The most photogenic spot in this region is in the Hill Country ... the Lost Maples State Park near Leakey. Every few years when everything is just right, the leaves just scream at you, it's so beautiful. The sugar content has to be just perfect with the right amount of moisture, and then the temperature has to hit just right to set it off. And it just takes your breath away for us folks down here. We're used to short trees and big egos.

How have you spent your time since retiring?

I'm a fisherman. I love to fish. I hunt, but I very seldom shoot anything. I haven't shot a deer in about three years. Once you pull the trigger, it's nothing but work. So I go out and sit and watch them. My wife Valerie and I are hoping to make a trip through the Northeast.

— Lori Burling

WEB EXTRA:

To see more images from John Poindexter's 28 years of photography at UTSA, go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.



THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR COMES THROUGH UTSA

By Rick Nixon



Every year, national and local TV, print and radio media join sports fans on college campuses across the nation with two words and one road in mind—**IT'S MARCH MADNESS, BABY!**, and for the second time in seven years, the “Road to the Final Four” has ended in San Antonio.

Welcome to March Madness. The Final Four, the pinnacle of men's college basketball, returns to the Alamodome April 3–5.

This year's event serves as a midway point for UTSA in its role as championship venue. Over the past seven years, UTSA has served as host institution not only for two men's Final Fours, but it has also hosted a women's Final Four, three men's basketball regionals and a men's golf regional. The university is set to host two future Final Fours, two more basketball regionals and a women's volleyball championship over the next six years.

When the clock strikes April 2010, UTSA will have a sports-hosting resumé unequaled by any other school in America, with 11 major NCAA championship events over a 13-year period.

“For the NCAA to reward San Antonio with two more Final Fours is spectacular,” says UTSA Athletic Director Lynn Hickey. “It's a testament to the strong local organizing committee of the City of San Antonio, the Alamodome, San Antonio Sports Foundation and UTSA that we have been able to work

together over the years to make this a premier site for future events. We are a proven commodity when it comes to hosting these types of prestigious events and obviously the NCAA feels the same way.”

It wasn't always this way. When San Antonio first approached the NCAA about hosting Final Fours, the Southwest Conference (SWC) was the organization's choice as host institution for the event. But when the SWC dissolved in the mid-1990s, then-UTSA athletic director Bobby Thompson placed a phone call to the NCAA offices, hoping to get a foot in the door.

As it turned out, the NCAA Basketball Committee already had San Antonio on its radar. Not only did the city feature a domed downtown facility, but it also had a variety of hotels within walking distance of the venue.

Thompson notes that UTSA was lucky with the timing of events: “The NCAA had made a decision to find five or six sites and develop a rotation for future events. We had a combination of a great downtown location that was accessible, a new facility, community

and university support. We fit what they were looking for at the right time in history.”

In 1994, the NCAA Men's Basketball Committee awarded San Antonio future events which included the 1997 Midwest Regional and the 1998 Final Four.

“Being included as the host school for a Final Four was the ‘Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval’ in San Antonio,” Thompson says. “There are a lot of schools out there that have been in existence for a hundred years and have never hosted such an event, [and] all of a sudden here UTSA was, only 18 years old as an athletic department and hosting the biggest amateur sporting event in the world.”

The response to both the 1997 Midwest Regional and the 1998 Final Four was off the chart. Teams, fans and the NCAA were ecstatic about San Antonio.

“Everywhere I go as a coach and I mention that I am from San Antonio, the next response I usually get is how much they enjoyed having the Final Four in San Antonio,” says UTSA men's basketball coach Tim Carter. “Most say that they wished that

the NCAA would move the games to San Antonio permanently.”

The 1998 Final Four was not only a success on the court, it brought an estimated \$45.7 million to the Alamo City.

For UTSA, the Final Four has turned into a labor of love. It's not uncommon for personnel in the Athletic Department to spend months on the project and work upwards of 100 hours during Final Four week.

“There is a lot of coordination involved in the event and as a host you want to make sure that everything is in place so that things run smoothly for everyone involved,” says UTSA senior associate athletic director Scott Street, who will also serve as game management liaison for the 2004 Final Four. “We understand the significance of the event. We have proven that we will make it work no matter what circumstances are involved.”

Game management is UTSA's top concern. Whatever happens on or around the court, UTSA has a hand in it. This includes taking care of the teams, referees, bands, cheerleaders and media, as well as credentials, accommodations, transportation and security.

In 2002, UTSA hosted the Women's Final Four, which boasted the largest crowd to ever watch a Women's Final Four when more than 30,000 fans packed the Alamodome for the championship game. UTSA also hosted men's basketball regionals in 2001 and 2003. In all, more than 300,000 fans have filled the Alamodome for these events.

“I believe San Antonio's success is due in large part to the unity of the San Antonio Local Organizing Committee,” says Susan Blackwood, executive director of the San Antonio Sports Foundation. “UTSA, the City of San Antonio and the Sports Foundation work as one unit when we bid for these major NCAA events. The NCAA has confidence that the SALOC will work together to host spectacular Final Four championships.”

The impact on UTSA has been substantial.

“Being a host of the Final Four has given UTSA instant credibility,” Thompson says. “I think it has moved UTSA up the road 20 years because of its impact. It makes UTSA a bigger player in San Antonio and gives the school mention across the country. To have your school name associated with the Final Four is pure gold.”

Thankfully for UTSA, that yellow brick road continues to wind back to San Antonio. *Rick Nixon is assistant athletic director for media relations.*

Sports Briefs

UTSA RETIRES BROWN'S JERSEY

In February, the UTSA men's basketball program recorded a first in its history by retiring the jersey of former standout Devin Brown. Brown, UTSA's all-time leading scorer with 1,922 points, had his No. 23 jersey retired to the Convocation Center rafters in a ceremony held prior to the Roadrunners' Feb. 12 victory over Louisiana-Monroe.

Brown's was the first jersey ever retired by the UTSA basketball program, and only the second by any university sports team; softball player Amanda Michalsky's jersey was retired in 2001.

“It's something as a player that you never think about, getting your number retired,” Brown said after an emotional pregame tribute that moved the current San Antonio Spurs star to tears. “It ranks up there in my life. Whenever you get your number retired by the university, it is a big deal.”

Brown, who played for the Roadrunners from 1998 to 2002, is also the all-time leading scorer in San Antonio high school history, a distinction he earned while playing for West Campus High School. His high school jersey was retired in November.

“When it happens, you are glad it happens,” Brown said. “It's something you take and cherish for the rest of your life ... I wasn't aware that they were going to do all of this for me. It's a great honor for me.”

SEVENTEEN ROADRUNNERS ON ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL

The Southland Conference named 357 student-athletes, including 17 from UTSA, to its 2003–04 Fall Academic Honor Roll, league officials announced recently.

The Southland Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who competed in league championship sports during the fall semester and maintained a 3.0 semester GPA while enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours. Each Southland institution is responsible for selecting the student-athletes in men's and women's cross country, football, soccer and volleyball for the fall roll.

SLC freshman of the year Meagan Daniel is among the UTSA student-athletes on the fall roll. The outside hitter in volleyball is joined

by five other teammates who helped finish the season strong, tying for third place in the league with two other schools. Other volleyball team members named are Roxann Calderon, Brandace Cantu, Toni Rocheleau, DeeDee Strickland and Rachel Tilson.

In addition, 11 cross-country athletes complete the UTSA contingent, with Meghan Chance, Caitlin Glover, Brittany Harris, Shalayne Hobbs, Ashley McDonald, Veronica Silva and Chonna Wright earning mention from the women's team. Men's team honorees include Adam Cowdin, David Martinez, David Stonestreet and Adrian Vargas.

Student-athletes in sports played during the winter and spring have the opportunity to be named to the Southland Conference Honor Roll following the spring semester. Other Southland Conference academic awards include the F.L. McDonald Scholarship, the Commissioner's Award for Academic Excellence, scholar-athletes of the year (presented to one male and female from each institution), student-athletes of the year (presented in each league-sponsored sport) and the all-academic teams for each conference sport.

ROADRUNNERS WIN SLC, MAKE THIRD TRIP TO NCAA TOURNAMENT

The men's basketball team scored a 74–70 victory over Stephen F. Austin in the championship game of the SLC Tournament at the Convocation Center on March 12. This is the first time the Roadrunners have won both the regular season and tournament titles (UTSA shares the regular season title with Southeastern Louisiana and Texas-Arlington).

SLC Player of the Year LeRoy Hurd joined teammates Justin Harbert and Kurt Attaway on the All-Tournament team.

With the win, the 19–13 Roadrunners advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third time, with past appearances in 1988 and 1999. The No. 16-seeded Roadrunners lost to the top-seeded Stanford Cardinal in the first round March 18 in Seattle.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

Go to www.goutsa.com for the latest Roadrunner sports news, stats and schedules.

JUST SAY **KNOW**

Science course
teaches students
the facts about
drugs

By Leigh Anne Gullett

Deborah Armstrong says she was a typical student at her small Ohio college in the 70s down to smoking the homegrown marijuana her botany friends cultivated in the woods.

Nearly 30 years and three degrees in biopsychology later, Armstrong splits her time between duties as interim dean of the College of Sciences and professor of a course with one of the highest enrollments at UTSA—Drugs and Society.

While Armstrong clearly has the academic credentials to explain both the psychological and physiological effects of most drugs, her experience as a child of the '60s and '70s has helped her find a rapport with students that goes beyond the frying-pan “this-is-your-brain-on-drugs” warning.

The class Armstrong began teaching as Biology 1033 in 1983 has undergone an odd evolution over the last 20 years. From a biology degree elective to a 3000-level class that delved into neuropharmacology, Drugs and Society has been popular at every level. Before becoming an interdisciplinary studies course, the class, which Armstrong modeled after a pharmacology course she took as a graduate student at Syracuse University, even became part of the general education requirement so non-science majors could take it. One semester Armstrong taught a class of 352 students in the University Center's Retama Auditorium.

“The class, I think, is a stable one that people pass on to their friends, saying, ‘you know, this is worth taking,’” says Armstrong. “We actually had students who found it was a science class they really enjoyed and could see had a direct impact on their lives.” For example, Armstrong says, students taking her class understand the correlation of toxicities and blood-alcohol level; they can explain to their friends exactly why they got sick after drinking too much.

In part, the popularity of the class coincided with the drug boom of the '80s as drug cartels emerged in Miami and the nation's focus landed on the war on drugs. “You had the invasion of crack into urban neighborhoods, and it was just on the front page and in every magazine,” Armstrong says. “I think when people found out that we did talk about drugs like that, there was a lot of interest.”

Overall, Armstrong believes society's evolution has followed that of the class, leaving students more sophisticated than the students 20, or even 10 years ago. She believes the allure of drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy has diminished. “That's really one of the biggest effects I've seen in how society can have an impact—when something just doesn't become socially acceptable,” says Armstrong. “People are a little bit wiser now, but we also have to know that new drug trends will always appear, such as the current methamphetamine craze.”

People may be wiser, but Armstrong is quick to point out that getting rid of experimentation with drugs is a pipe dream. “[The United States has] some of the most affluent teenagers in the world,” says Armstrong. “We have people who have too much money and too much time. Unfortunately, we're the biggest customers out there.”

Accepting youthful experimentation as a given, Armstrong hopes to educate students and demystify some of the lore attached to drug and alcohol use. It's not easy. Each semester students in the class tell anecdotal stories that begin, “I know this guy who ...” Armstrong has heard it all—from the friend of a friend's cousin who did LSD, then weeks

later jumped on a desk and barked like a dog, to the 95-year-old who smoked five packs of cigarettes a day without effect—but she tries to impress on her students how drugs normally affect people.

“What I really hope is they walk away from the class no longer having this feeling that getting high, or getting drunk, or getting intoxicated is some kind of weird, magical lore-type thing,” says Armstrong. “I want them to really understand these are just chemicals that people have discovered, by accident or by planning, [that] get in and affect the function of nerve cells, and they're going to change behavior.”

While classroom time is spent on the why and how of drug effects, Armstrong inevitably has one-on-one conversations with students who want to talk about a specific problem. “I can almost see it when they're listening to me lecture,” she says. “At one point in any semester, a student

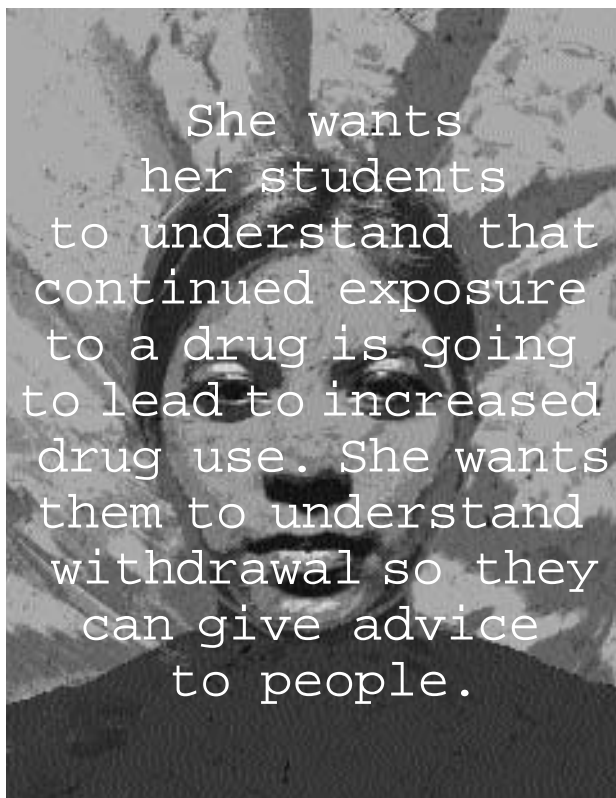
will come up and want to talk to me. It might be, ‘I finally figured out I think my dad's an alcoholic.’ I've had people ask me, ‘I had a friend who was smoking marijuana in a water pipe where you get more of the smoke in you and all of a sudden their heart started to pound and they started hyperventilating. Was there something else in the pot?’”

In each case Armstrong has answers—alcoholism has no socioeconomic barriers and marijuana does elevate your heart rate. She's also covered the all-important question, “How do you stop?” Most recently, she talked about the newly banned drug Ephedra. “One student said, ‘Well, I try and stop, but I'm so tired,’” says Armstrong. “They have immediate withdrawal ... If a drug makes you feel peppy, the withdrawal is going to be, ‘I can't get out of bed.’ I said, ‘Well, one of the things you can do is actually withdraw gradually, and if you really want to stop this, you need to let your body wean itself.’”

Throughout every change in the class, Armstrong's primary mission has remained intact. She wants her students to understand that every person is different and one example never represents the whole. She wants her students to understand that continued exposure to a drug is going to lead to increased drug use. She wants them to understand withdrawal so they can give advice to people. In short, she wants them to have a more informed view about the chemicals and their effects. The final message, Armstrong believes, is that there's a price to pay: What happens when the person reaches the dosages where they really become addicted?

“I want them to know that there are different chemicals that work because there's a certain mechanism in the brain they're affecting, and not to believe people that sometimes have these wild stories,” says Armstrong. “If nothing else, I think that's good.”

From the girl who once bought a “beautiful, blue ceramic bong” at a head shop while visiting her brother at Kent State University to the scientist fascinated by the psychological aspects of addiction to the dean taking a moment to talk to a student about his friend's drug problem, Armstrong's own evolution has matched that of her class. And in so doing, she may have made a difference in hundreds of lives. If nothing else, that's good.





Who Pays

for Higher Education?

How new state rulings affect the cost of college

By Lori Burling

Tuition deregulation. Budget shortfall. Funding cuts. Discounted tuition rates. Tuition caps.

These terms have been heard frequently during the past year as funding for higher education institutions became a priority for state legislators in their last session. The key results of that session were that the Texas Legislature passed its power of setting tuition rates to university administrators and cut funding for the UT System, which includes nine academic universities, by 6 percent.

What does all of this mean for The University of Texas at San Antonio and its students? The short answer: UTSA is working with a smaller budget while trying to reach its goal of becoming a top-tier research facility and keeping up with a student enrollment that continues to grow by thousands each year. These changes in funding have triggered an entirely different outlook on tuition rates for administrators and students.

"I don't want to see [the state] cut funds, but deregulation is about giving some flexible options. It gives us flexibility to help the students in more ways," says Lisa Blazer, assistant vice president for financial aid at UTSA.

Happenings in Austin

In the latter part of 2002, rumors circulated that legislators might cut funding for public universities and colleges, among other things, because the state was facing a \$9.9 billion budget shortfall. It was also said that legislators were considering handing their power to set tuition rates over to administrators at four-year public universities and colleges—which some believed could result in a never-ending increase in tuition.

Roger Garza, former student body president at UTSA, says many students feared they would be unable to afford a college education, noting that 70 percent of the 2003–04 class qualified for financial aid.

"It was real interesting. Right in the middle of the legislation we heard that deregulation was not going to be an issue," says Garza, who served as treasurer of the Student Government

Association before taking the presidency, then resigning in February. "But 10 days before the end of the session, they passed this bill on us. In all reality, this was not on our radar."

Garza was among hundreds of college students who signed petitions and protested at the state capitol in Austin in hopes of defeating the bill. To their dismay, legislators voted to allow universities to set their own tuition rates. Then a double-whammy—they voted to cut funding.

Garza, who later took a leadership role on UTSA's tuition committee, was frustrated with their actions. "The legislature cannot shuck their responsibility *and* cut the funds," he says.

Tuition rates are going up

Before the passage of House Bill 3015, which uncapped tuition rates, a public university or college could not charge more than \$88 per credit hour. At the time the bill was passed, only 15 of the state's 35 public institutions were charging that much. But this semester and for fall 2004, universities across the state have seen anywhere from 7 percent to 29 percent increases in tuition.

In the summer of 2003, following the passage of the bill, administrators at the University of Texas System directed each of its component schools to form a committee of administrators, faculty and students to develop a fair approach to tuition increases to compensate for the cuts. UTSA's 22-member Tuition Deregulation and Fees Committee, which included 13 students, worked for weeks on end, listening to presentations and surveying students, to reach a decision. It was one of the few UT System committees dominated by students, administrators say.

At UTSA, students saw a \$15-per-credit-hour increase this semester and will be hit with an additional \$15 increase for the fall 2004 semester—a total of a 25 percent increase over two semesters. UT Austin, the largest university in the UT System, will see a 29.2 percent increase over the same period. The lowest increase will be at UT Pan American, where students will see only a 7 percent increase from 2003, according to the UT System's Web site.



For the fall 2003 semester at UTSA, an in-state undergraduate taking 12 hours of classes paid \$1,104 in tuition. In the spring, according to the university's Web site, the same student paid \$1,284, a difference of \$180.

The increase in tuition will generate about \$4.5 million for the university's budget.

"We discussed increases anywhere from \$12 to \$25 per credit hour. Students are still deeply opposed to tuition deregulation. It's the reality that once the tuition is deregulated the state can keep cutting our funds," Garza says. "But we can't just make cuts. We are one of the fastest-growing universities [in the state]. We had to come up with some sort of increase to make up for the state cuts."

In fall 2003, UTSA had an enrollment of 24,665 students, a 12 percent increase from the previous year. University administrators have estimated that enrollment will increase to 27,000 students in 2005, 33,000 in 2010 and 40,000 in 2020.

"The students felt very strongly that they didn't just want to maintain the status quo at UTSA. They didn't just want to use the money generated from a tuition increase to make up for the cuts that we experienced in the legislature. They were very passionate about UTSA," says Rosalie Ambrosino, vice president for student affairs and co-chair of the deregulation committee. "They saw this as an institution on the move. One of the students said something like, 'We're tired of always playing catch-up. We want it to grow, and we want to see it move faster.'"

Hence, it was students who suggested a higher increase than \$12, which was the original proposal.

"The students, if anybody, drove the committee," Ambrosino says.

Garza adds that the committee, now a permanent entity, worked hard to find a compromise between administration and students. He says increases may continue, but hopes that other options can be used to ensure an affordable education for all students.

Across the country

Tuition rates are not just a problem in Texas. A majority of states are wrestling with the same financial constraints as Texas administrators, says Donald Heller, associate professor of education at Pennsylvania State University's Center for the Study of Higher Education.

"In the last couple of years, state cuts in higher education have affected nearly every state. Four-year institutions are seeing an average tuition increase between 14 and 25 percent," Heller says.

In a study conducted last summer by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, more than 25 state colleges or university systems—more than one-third of the respondents—increased their tuition by 10 to 20 percent. Five institutions raised

tuition more than 20 percent, and another four by 30 percent or more. In California, the University of California system raised tuition by 30 percent, and tuition was raised 39.2 percent at Northern Arizona University in Arizona.

Heller says these increases have come about because many states, like Texas, have deregulated tuition. He contends that it's only fair to allow universities and colleges to set their own tuition rates since state governments are cutting back on funding for education—and it seems to be a growing trend.

Heller says this trend may not benefit the entire state—which is a public educational system's responsibility.

"When you have a state body, you've got an organization that has the responsibility to look at the state as a whole. When you change the model to give the educational institutions that authority, the state may not benefit," Heller explains. "University administrators have their institutions at heart, the boards and presidents of those institutions have the responsibility to care about the university. What's good for the university may not be in the best interest of the state and its citizens."

Heller also fears that lower-income students could be forced out of an education because tuition rates are increasing but financial aid pools are not.

"That's got to be a concern for students," Heller says. "More and more of the financial aid is in the form of loans—that's problematic. UTSA has a high percentage of Latino students who are averse to taking out loans because of their culture. Those families tend not to borrow money, whether it's for higher education or a car."

Hispanic students make up nearly 50 percent of UTSA's enrollment.

"The single best way to keep kids in the classroom is to have low tuition. The second best way is for the state to maintain a commitment to need-based financial aid," Heller says.

Financial aid

UTSA is required by law to spend at least 20 percent of the additional revenue generated from the increase in tuition on financial aid. Tuition deregulation committee members agreed in 2003 that the university would use 25 percent to hire more student workers and award additional loans to students who may be strapped for cash. Five percent of the 25 percent must go to a state pool that funds the B-On-Time Student Loan Program, which was established by Texas legislators. The zero-interest loan has provisions for forgiveness of the debt if the student graduates on time with at least a B average.

"We decided to take part of the money for the work-studies program because we have a high percentage of students who work. Statistics also show that retention rates are higher with students who

work [on campus] while in school,” Blazer says. “There are also departments at the university that need the extra help.”

The program starts students out at \$6.88 an hour and guarantees at least 14 hours a week, Blazer said. The hourly wage can increase depending on the student’s performance and seniority. With the additional funding for the spring semester, 40 more work-study students were hired at the university and 50 more will be added to the payroll this summer for a total of 400 participants.

The rest of the money will create loans and grants for students who need the help. Also, at the request of students, about \$250,000 was set aside to help students on a case-by-case basis. This money pool will increase for the fall 2004 semester.

“This money is for students who have exhausted everything—loans, scholarships and grants. We’ll be able to help them, even if it’s just a small amount to get them through the semester,” Blazer says.

Blazer said at press time that tuition and fees had been covered for 80 percent of the students who had applied for financial aid this semester. The other 20 percent were still working with her office to find funding.

“I have had no student come to me and say they can’t afford to come to UTSA. We’ll help them find the money,” she says.

Where is the money going?

Of the \$4.5 million generated by the tuition increase, 25 percent will go toward financial aid. The remaining 75 percent will go toward hiring new faculty, providing upkeep for the new Main Building scheduled to open in the fall and leasing additional space for the architecture program at the Downtown Campus, says Richard Lewis, UTSA presidential fellow.

Lewis, a co-chair of the deregulation committee, said roughly \$1.7 million will provide funding for 72 new faculty and academic adviser positions for the fall 2004 semester. The student-to-faculty ratio is currently 24-to-1.

“We listened to the students. This is what the students wanted. It was one of the top priorities,” Lewis says. “They wanted more faculty members so they will have more flexibility in the terms of availability of classes.”

The remaining \$1.6 million will be used for infrastructure support—an attempt to keep up with UTSA’s growth. This spring, the School of

Center for the Study of Higher Education. “I think what you’re seeing—differential pricing—is a trend across the country. I think institutions are trying to wring every dollar out of these tuition increases.”

Garza says students could soon see lower rates for classes scheduled during irregular hours—specifically early-morning and late-afternoon classes. The University of Oregon is one public university that is experimenting with this approach. The four-year facility began the program nearly two years ago.

“It started because of budget cuts,” says University of Oregon registrar Herb Chereck. “And it’s too early to tell at this point if it’s working. It’s still a pilot program.”

Chereck explains that the university, which operates on quarter terms, offers discounted rates for classes scheduled before 9 a.m. and after 3 p.m.—hours that the university calculated were the least productive in terms of students taking classes. The classes must also enroll at least 60 students. For in-state residents, a student taking nine hours at regular rates and three hours at a discounted rate would save a little more than \$40. An out-of-state student with the same credit hours would save nearly \$180, Chereck says.

“I think this will be a permanent option for a while. Parents are noticing the price differences—definitely with out-of-state students. They want to save money,” he says.

Next semester, UTSA administrators will enact an interest-free loan program for students studying education—part of the loan would be forgiven if the graduate teaches for a certain number of years. Administrators are also looking at providing a tuition rebate for seniors taking their last 14 hours.

In the future

The tuition increases and deregulation came as a shock to many in 2003, but the future may hold better options for the university and its students.

“Deregulation opened a very, very good mechanism for having a dialogue on campus about these issues,” Lewis says.

Lewis added that university officials will closely examine flat tuition rates in the upcoming semesters. Flat tuition rates would allow students to pay the same tuition for anything at and above a set number of credit

“Educating citizens of the state of Texas is important not just for those who get educated, but it’s important for the economic and social and cultural development of the state.”

Architecture leased two warehouses near the Downtown Campus because additional space is needed for projects, Lewis says. UTSA’s architecture program is the second-largest program in the state after Texas A&M’s.

“We have the least amount of space available in the state for the number of students we have. We use our classrooms and buildings nearly to capacity five days a week,” he says. “With the tuition deregulation, we can raise tuition a bit and that allows us to at least address growth issues, more so than if we didn’t have the flexibility.”

Other options

Both Garza and Lewis said students and committee members will continue to discuss the best options for the university to increase its income other than raising tuition. Committee members have thrown a number of ideas onto the table: flat tuition rates, cheaper rates for seniors, cheaper rates for classes scheduled during off-peak times and different rates for different colleges or majors.

“The devil’s in the detail and how you implement,” says Heller, of the

hours; at UTSA, that would probably be 14 hours. For instance, a student taking 16 hours would pay the same amount as a student taking at least 14 hours. Statistics show that flat-rate tuition motivates students to graduate on time—limiting their debt and helping the university manage its growth, Lewis says.

After the fall 2004 semester, Lewis adds, “I don’t think you’re going to see any more increases until we know what legislators are going to do in January 2005.”

Ambrosino agrees with that assessment, but cannot predict whether students will see increases in their tuition after that.

“That’s a crystal ball question. So much of it depends on what happens with state funding,” she says. “Educating citizens of the state of Texas is important not just for those who get educated, but it’s important for the economic and social and cultural development of the state. We all lose if we don’t provide that. If the state chooses not to increase allocations for higher education, then the students are going to have to continue to afford those costs. UTSA is about access and opportunity. We don’t want to price higher education out of the market.”★



FIGHTING FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

By Leigh Anne Gillett





HERE'S HOW THE STORY GOES... It's early morning, mid-afternoon, late evening, whenever, in Any Town, U.S.A. The police get a call about a shooting in front of a seedy tavern a half-mile from a local elementary school and miles from any hospitals or clinics. The victim is alive—barely. The shooter is long gone. Nobody saw a thing, and the ground is so littered with shell casings, the police aren't sure which ones are from today's crime.

It's a common story in most large cities—Detroit, Miami, Chicago, New Orleans. But not in San Antonio. Something has protected the Alamo City from the explosive crime rates every indicator says it should have.

Michael Gilbert, chair of UTSA's criminal justice department, has spent five years studying homicides in San Antonio and the city's surprising combination of high poverty and low crime. What he found was a city with very little material wealth, yet rich in family. He found a city working to build strong neighborhoods. He also found an ally in the San Antonio Police Department, which decided to include Gilbert's research findings in the curricula for its training academy and captains' school.

Gilbert has lived in San Antonio since moving from Arizona in 1987. After more than a decade working with military police and state departments of corrections, he had gone into private practice as a criminal justice systems consultant. In 1991, Gilbert joined the UTSA faculty, maintaining involvement with local law enforcement and the San Antonio Crime Commission.

The longer Gilbert lived in San Antonio, the more he noticed it experienced violent crime differently than other cities. He wanted to know why. So he gathered San Antonio homicide case files from a 20-year period (1978–1997) and began studying.

"We're one of the few big cities to have such low crime rates, and we've had them consistently," Gilbert says. "The news is not depressing here. I'm not trying to minimize the problems in San Antonio. I'm just trying to say that, comparatively, something is really good here and we need to understand what it is, because if we can understand what it is, it can help drive policy in the future."

One of the things Gilbert found in San Antonio was a different approach to policing. The SAPD was already instituting a community policing strategy with SAFFE officers (San Antonio Fear Free Environment) dedicated to specific neighborhoods. The SAFFE officers work closely with schools and youth programs as a resource to residents who want to reclaim their neighborhoods.

While Gilbert has high praise for both the SAPD and its training, he sees the department's community involvement, such as SAFFE, as a large part of its success. "They don't want people to work solely from an enforcement perspective," he says. "They want them also to understand that a community is created by people, and these people are more than simply the individual that the police officer is chasing. These are people with a cultural heritage. These are people with feelings. These are people who are doing good things in the community, and they want police officers to practice the craft of policing in a manner that's sensitive to them."

Gilbert would like to see the department's strategy of community policing continue to grow. "[Police officers] have to think about what's in a community and what's not in a community, and they have to extend themselves so that they can help that community improve itself," Gilbert says. "Simply saying, 'It's your neighborhood, fix it,' doesn't address the problem, it ignores the problem. We're trying to help police officers understand they're in a position to help fix the problem, but not necessarily in the traditional way they are expecting."

Looking beyond an individual crime to the community surrounding it is important, according to Gilbert's research. After plotting 20 years of homicides in five-year increments on a map of San Antonio, Gilbert found interesting patterns. A homicide can happen anywhere, but the majority of homicides tended to be concentrated in specific areas.

Delving deeper into those areas, Gilbert found a slew of common denominators, none of them good. Gangs and taverns permeated the area. Residents worked multiple jobs only to see 30 or 35 percent of their income going toward rent on a home worth as little as \$25,000. Teenagers were getting pregnant and dropping out of school. The nearest grocery store was really only a local convenience store that charged inflated prices for low-quality food.

The result, Gilbert says, is while most of the people in neighborhoods like these are good, law-abiding citizens, the neighborhood is highly attractive to street criminals. More important, the residents lack



Empowering neighborhoods is something Gilbert says will go a long way toward helping neighborhood populations manage their own crime problems.

the ability to fight off criminal activity coming into their neighborhoods, unlike residents of more middle- and upper-class areas.

These multiple deprivations and lack of social capital consistently increase feelings of helplessness and hopelessness in the neighborhoods, Gilbert says, adding that there must be investment from the outside in order for improvements to take place.

“We tend to lose sight of the fact that we’re not raising children to be citizens of a particular neighborhood, but to be citizens of the United States, citizens of Texas, citizens of this city—and that means it’s relevant to all of us,” he says. “You cannot write off neighborhoods. Neighborhoods are important to us.”

Gilbert sees the police department as the front line of community outreach. SAPD agrees, which is why Gilbert now spends two hours sharing his research findings with cadets in their final week at the SAPD academy, as well as another two hours with officers at the captains’ school.

Patrol Officer David Nouhan’s shift takes him into one of San Antonio’s crime hot spots on the East Side, and he agrees with Gilbert’s assessment of a neighborhood’s relationship to crime.

“It could be the North Side, Northwest, Central, East ... you could have X amount of dollars there, but you put a gang in there and you put narcotics in there ... it’ll tear it up,” Nouhan says. “It’s not individual people. You put a gang of Crips, Bloods or any other gangs in that environment with their narcotics, with their drive-by shootings, it’ll tear down that community just as quick as it’ll tear down any other community.”

A large part of the problem is the availability of cheap housing in the neighborhoods. Because of the housing authority’s new one-strike laws, convicted criminals are automatically evicted from public housing. Landlords who rent houses in these areas, on the other hand, tend not to check details such as arrest records and credit history, or even the number of tenants, which leads to run-down, revolving-door rental properties that create a headache for law-abiding neighbors, Nouhan says.

“You have a house here that’s been owned by a family for 35 years and the next-door neighbor is a slumlord or someone who rents their house out for \$200 a month, and they don’t do a background check,”

says Nouhan. “There’s plenty of those [houses] around. You can drive to different parts of town. There’s certain streets and avenues, you can go up and down, you see ‘for rent’ signs every other month.”

To clean up the problem, Gilbert says, both local police and neighborhood associations have to get involved. The neighborhood associations can put pressure on homeowners for certain code compliances, and the police can follow up with fines for code violations.

“Simply arresting people who are offenders on the street is not enough,” Gilbert says. “[Police officers] in fact have to think about what’s in a community and what’s not in a community, and they have to extend themselves so they can help that community improve itself. So, if that means that they see a child who is hungry, they need to extend themselves and get that child to the right authorities. If they see a family that is having severe problems, they need to extend themselves and make sure that they call the right agency.”

And yet, as Gilbert discovered, while deprived neighborhoods in San Antonio experience crime just like similar neighborhoods in other cities, crime rates are lower here. According to the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics 2001*, out of 13 major cities (San Antonio, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Diego and Washington, D.C.) in 1990, 1996, 1999 and 2000, only San Diego had lower rates of violence, rape and murder than San Antonio.

According to Nouhan, San Antonio’s people combined with the fact that the majority of the police force hails from San Antonio play a key role in keeping crime rates down. Nouhan joined the SAPD after a stint on the police force in Dallas and immediately noticed a difference in the way San Antonio police officers are perceived by the community. There is less fear and more of a working relationship between the people and the police, says Nouhan.

“I think there’s something about the [largely Hispanic] cultural aspects of our community that suppresses the levels of crime you would normally see if you had equivalent populations in poverty in other cities,” Gilbert says. “The pains of poverty are less highly experienced.



Michael Gilbert (back right) believes that the close working relationships between neighborhood residents, city government and police officers is one reason why San Antonio boasts a lower crime rate than most cities its size.

When there's month at the end of the money, they can get some assistance from others who have and are willing to share. I think there's a real strong sense of family that you don't normally see in other cities with this level of poverty."

From the classroom to the streets

Gilbert, like his colleagues in the criminal justice department at UTSA, feels a sense of mission beyond the ivory towers of academia. "It's a wonderful luxury to be able to sit in your office and read, to be able to study what you want to study and write what you want to write, teach what you want to teach," Gilbert says. "But, with that comes an obligation to share what we learn with the community around us."

Gilbert sees his research as an argument for the importance of that obligation, adding that his findings could help drive policy in the future. Society today, Gilbert believes, is a result of past policies and decisions.

For the first half of the 20th century, Gilbert says, there were housing covenants that forbade homeowners from selling or renting their homes to Hispanics or blacks. The covenants confined these minority groups to specific geographic locations within the city. After World War II, the GI Bill of Rights exacerbated the problem, according to Gilbert. The bill would lend money only to low-risk citizens living in

low-risk areas. With the housing covenants in place, Hispanics and blacks were barred from buying or renting homes in those GI Bill-approved areas. The result left very few minorities with GI Bill loans. The combination of factors kept the net worth of minority families lower than the average American as they were unable to build equity as homeowners.

Gilbert isn't just asking police officers and neighbors to get involved. His call goes beyond that, landing on a blueprint poet John Donne outlined four centuries ago. "We are not islands," Gilbert says. "We do not pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps. We help one another. That's how you build a society. If you want a society that's stable and decent and constructive, then you have to recognize we have an obligation to each other."

It was with that obligation in mind that Gilbert first approached SAPD Capt. David Head with the results of his research. Head, who leads the police cadet training team, found the research findings as fascinating as Gilbert did, which led to Gilbert's SAPD academy involvement.

Although Gilbert's session is still a new part of the academy, cadets are clear on its importance. "I'll definitely see more of it in a different light now," says Joseph Swan, one of the first future SAPD officers to view Gilbert's presentation. "I'll understand the dynamics a little bit more."

Swan admitted that Gilbert's extensive statistical information is overwhelming, but it helped him develop an understanding of the troubled neighborhoods that hit close to home. A native of Laredo, Texas, Swan escaped the rough neighborhood where he grew up by joining the military at the first opportunity, spending 20 years in the service.

In his old neighborhood, Swan says, the people he used to know are either dead, incarcerated or living in poverty. Swan joined the SAPD hoping to make a difference in the community, just as another police officer once made a difference for him. "[A police officer] was the one who said, 'Hey, you know what? You're getting into a lot of trouble, fighting in the street. Join the military, get out of here.' He planted that seed that was like, 'I really can get out of here.'"

Swan's personal experience leads back to Gilbert's assertion that neighborhoods need outside help. "We all have a stake in these neighborhoods, and if we don't pay attention to them, they're going to make us pay attention to them," Gilbert says.

Empowering neighborhoods is something Gilbert says will go a long way toward helping neighborhood populations manage their own crime problems.

"The problems stay. People come and go," Gilbert says. "How do you explain a neighborhood that's been violent for 75 years? One that's had three or four generations and even cultural shifts?"

"If we want to change the future," Gilbert adds, "we've got to change our decisions today so that we produce a more equitable society ... If we want to build a lower-crime society, we need to build a fairer society."

Maybe it's time to pick up those shell casings and turn that seedy tavern into a decent grocery store.★

WEB EXTRA: Go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla to see a video interview with Michael Gilbert.

TRUE CONFESSIONS

of **FOUR ALUMNI**

who Wanted to Become

PAPERBACK

Writers

by Rebecca Luther

It's a thousand pages, give or take a few

I'll be writing more in a week or two
I can make it longer if you like the style
I can change it 'round
and I want to be a paperback writer
Paperback writer Lennon/McCartney

Their motivations may be different, but the end result is the same: In the last year or two, these four UTSA alumni have published their first novels. Though all are established in careers unrelated to fiction writing, each was compelled to put pen to paper and pursue that creative tangent of the American Dream: writing the Great American Novel.

"Many people who write have very different reasons for writing. I do think that for those who love to write, there is a unifying motivation," says Catherine Kasper, creative writing instructor and assistant professor in UTSA's Department of English, Classics and Philosophy.

"The reason art exists at all is because it is an essential, human activity," Kasper says. "Sharing our stories with others is personally enriching, as is being engaged in [any] artistic activity."

"Writing is a way of life, one that is difficult but rewarding."

Whether or not writing becomes a way of life for any of these first-time novelists remains to be seen. But, with the satisfaction of having written a book at all, they already feel they've reaped their reward.

Frank Jakobs '89

is a salesman first, a writer second. But the first job inspired the latter.

A native of Germany, Jakobs (B.B.A. in management) works for German skincare/medical products company Beiersdorf as the company's Southwest sales agency manager; his territory includes seven states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. "Basically, what that means is I spend a lot of time in airplanes and hotels," says Jakobs.

"I always look around on the plane when I'm traveling to see what the people are reading," he says. "Most of these guys are traveling sales guys, like myself. But generally they're reading the Grisham stuff about lawyers, or they're reading the Crichton stuff about scientists or the Clancy stuff about the military or the CIA."

"I always wondered, wouldn't these guys be curious if the lead character or the hero of the story was someone a little bit more like them?"

Following the principle that first-time writers should write about what they know, Jakobs wrote *The Rep*, a 71,000-word story about salesman Jake Hanson, who gets his dream job with a large pharma-

ONE IS A POLICE OFFICER
WHO CHALLENGED HIMSELF
TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING
BETTER THAN THE BAD MOVIE HE HAD JUST
WATCHED. ONE IS A LAWYER
WHO WANTS TO TEACH A
NEW GENERATION OF
YOUTH ABOUT THEIR
CULTURAL HERITAGE.
ANOTHER IS A DOCTOR
TRYING TO UNDERSTAND
SEPTEMBER 11.
AND ONE IS A SALESMAN
WHO LOVES BOOKS AND
JUST WANTED ONE WITH
HIS NAME ON IT.

ceutical company that's about to launch a new vitamin, only to learn that the salesman he's replacing was mysteriously murdered. (Jakobs acknowledges the story was loosely inspired by Grisham's *The Firm*.) Like Jakobs, Jake Hanson works in the medical products industry. Both are involved in martial arts (Jakobs is a fourth-degree black belt). Jakobs even decided that Jake Hanson should drive the same model Porsche that he did.

"Basically, you take a little of what you know, and then you make up the rest," he says. "I've never been chased through the hallways of the hotel I stayed at for a sales meeting by psychotic hit men, so that part's completely fabricated."

With no creative writing experience to speak of—"other than maybe an occasional 'I'm sorry' letter to an angry girlfriend"—Jakobs wrote the original draft of *The Rep* in four months. "And I would call it, at that point, garbage," he says. He rewrote it twice before submitting it to

VirtualBookworm.com, a print-on-demand publisher, in 2002.

He chose a print-on-demand publisher to get the book published quickly and forego the hassle of soliciting agents and publishers. His goal for *The Rep* was very modest: "For the most part, I just like books. I think books are cool, and I just wanted to have a book."

But now Jakobs has written a second book, another suspense novel featuring Jake Hanson, who's gotten out of pharmaceutical sales and is running a chain of karate studios. In *Paradise*, Hanson again finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time, this time encountering one of a trio of Saudi siblings involved in terrorist activities. The story is much more ambitious than *The Rep*, and Jakobs had to research a lot of the details in the book, especially regarding Saudi Arabia, where part of the story takes place.

Jakobs also has more ambitious publishing goals for *Paradise* and is querying agents and mainstream publishers. He wants readers to be able to pick it up at their local bookstore instead of having to order it online. One reason Jakobs has higher aspirations for *Paradise* is because he thinks it's a better book than his first. He says now that writing *The Rep* was more of a learning experience, but as his first book, it's still very special to him.

"If I ever walk into a Half Price Books and see it for \$2 on the clearance rack, it'll make my day," he says. "It really will."

TRUE CONFESSIONS *of*

Roberto Rosas '97

Roberto Rosas (B.F.A. with a concentration in drawing) grew up on comic books. So years later when he decided to write a novel, it was no surprise that Rosas wanted to write about a superhero of sorts.

As a 16-year veteran of the San Antonio Police Department himself, Rosas says writing about a police officer would have been the obvious choice—a bit too obvious for his tastes. Stories about cops are “a dime a dozen,” he says. “You turn on the TV and there’s a police show.”

Instead, he looked to his other vocation—a deacon of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio since 2002—for the basis for his novel and his lead character, Father Gabriel Infante, a parish pastor and school principal on San Antonio’s West Side. In creating Father Gabriel, Rosas focused on one question: “How can I make a religious person cool?”

He decided to “roll several saints into one” and make a superman, he says, “a man of God who can heal, who has so much faith that he can walk on water.” But Rosas also imbued Father Gabriel with human characteristics to make him more plausible to readers: he’s a Mexican American from the West Side, a graduate of Central Catholic High School and a former Golden Gloves boxer. Father Gabriel smokes cigars, dances and paints. He takes a drink on occasion and tends to vote Republican.

In Rosas’ book, *The Temptation of the Miracle Weaver*, published in 2002 by PublishAmerica, Father Gabriel’s faith is tested after he is reunited with his high school girlfriend (she went to Incarnate Word) years after her family moved away to keep them apart. And guess what? She’s now a nun.

“There are no obstacles except their own vows,” Rosas says. “That’s the tension that I wanted to create there ... [They’re] trying to make a decision of what’s more important to them: their life together or their vows to God.”

Rosas began writing the novel in 2000 after he was inspired, ironically, by a story he didn’t like. “I saw a bad movie,” he says. “One of those movies that you hope it’ll pick up at some point and it never does ... It was a Mexican movie, and I can’t even tell you the title of it.”

Rosas thought to himself, “I could do better than that” and decided to give it a try. He had never really considered writing a novel before, but like his character Father Gabriel, his own interests are diverse. A native of Reynosa, Mexico, Rosas was trained as a machinist and served in the Mexican army before his family moved to San Antonio when he was 20. He worked in machine shops and delivered pizzas before taking the SAPD entrance exam. After working as a patrolman for five years, he was promoted to detective. He’s been a sergeant for the past three years and serves as an administrative assistant in the department’s support services division. Rosas describes himself as a

“highly paid secretary basically—with a gun, just in case.”

As a patrolman, Rosas decided he wanted to go back to school for his bachelor’s degree. He planned to study management, thinking a management degree would help him advance in the department. But his wife encouraged him to study something that he truly enjoyed, instead of taking courses only to help his career. He enrolled at UTSA and completed his B.F.A. five years later. Rosas continues to draw and paint, and in 2002 created an eight-by-eight-foot mural that now hangs in the Police Officers Association Building in San Antonio.

As for *The Temptation of the Miracle Weaver*, Rosas says he’s ringing up sales by selling copies to everyone he knows. “I’m counting my friends. So far, I have found a couple of hundred,” he says, laughing. He’d like to translate the book into Spanish, his first language, and thinks the story may even make a good telenovela.

“I don’t claim this to be the greatest American novel that ever was written,” he says. “But it’s entertaining; it’s worth the money.”

His goal for *The Rep* was very modest: “For the most part, I just like books. I think books are cool, and I just wanted to have a book.”

José Uranga '75

The fact that the publication of José Uranga’s novel, *The Buenavida Dilemma: Whether to Become “Gringos,”* coincided with his retirement from a long career as an environmental lawyer was just that, pure coincidence. Rather, Uranga (M.A. in environmental studies) had been working on the book for more than a decade before it was published by iUniverse in 2003.

“It was about a 10- to 15-year continuing labor of love/frustration type of research project,” Uranga says, with a laugh. “But over the 10- or 15-year period, on vacation and during slow times, I would pick up the project and do some more research. So it’s got a lot of research because, while it’s a work of fiction, probably 90 to 95 percent of the events [in the book] are based on fact.”

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Uranga began his career in 1973 as assistant staff judge advocate at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio before moving to the Texas attorney general’s office. He served in the Land and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice during the Carter administration, representing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after the 1979 accident at the Three-Mile Island nuclear reactor. In 1981, he embarked on his corporate career, working for companies in Indiana, Texas and California before he and his wife, Joan, retired to Florida in 2002.

A native New Mexican, Uranga says he wanted to write a “historical/cultural/political novel” using several generations of a fictional family to teach something of a history lesson. “There are a lot of things that I think Hispanic youth in the country don’t know about their own roots, their own history. So that’s my target audience, and I thought I

FOUR ALUMNI

could reach them more ably through a book of fiction using this fictional family, the Buenavidas, as the vehicle to do that," he says.

"I wanted to do a novel that—sort of like peeling an onion—would strip away layers of common misperceptions ... about the role in history of the Hispanic in the Southwest and West."

The Buenavida Dilemma begins shortly after the conclusion of the U.S.-Mexico War in 1848 and ends in 2000 as character John Buenavida is nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court—the first Hispanic to be nominated. "I just leave it with that," Uranga says. "I leave it with his address, his opening statements to the Senate judiciary committee."

Though Uranga says he's just as busy in his retirement as he was during his career (he is an art museum docent, serves on the board of directors for his homeowner's association, advocates for abused children in court and plays on tennis and golf teams), he has tried to make some time to promote the book through book signings, fairs and talks. He says it was especially gratifying to have the opportunity to talk to students in after-school classes in Las Cruces, N.M.—his target audience—and is now working to get approval from the book review committees for state education departments for *The Buenavida Dilemma* to be used as part of middle- and high-school curricula.

"I wanted it to be well received," Uranga says, and he believes it has been, citing both positive newspaper reviews and comments from readers. "To me, that vindicates the time and effort to have published it, to have done the work."

Gary Branfman '79 Gary Branfman's original intent when he published *Surreal Eternity* with print-on-demand publisher TurnKey Press was simply to have a book that he could give to his family and friends. Maybe send copies to some book clubs and the local libraries. But that has changed.

"My goals have evolved from humble to delusions of grandeur," says Branfman, who is medical director of the Victoria Plastic Surgery Center in Victoria, Texas. "Now my goal is to see if anybody is interested in writing a screenplay and actually making a movie out of it."

He's not kidding, either. Branfman (B.S. in biology), who studied radio/TV/film in his native New York City before moving to Texas to pursue medical school, is a movie buff who claims to see a "minimum of 100 movies a year" and has his own home movie theater. Last year, he attended the Toronto International Film Festival and used the opportunity to walk up, introduce himself and hand over a copy of *Surreal Eternity* to no less a figure than Francis Ford Coppola. Kevin Spacey, too. On a trip to California, he put a copy of the book in a

Ziploc bag and tossed it over the gates of Oprah Winfrey's house. And he's sent it to film and television producer Jerry Bruckheimer.

"There's a word in Yiddish: It's called chutzpah," he says, "and I think I have a chutzpah-secreting tumor."

Though he hasn't gotten a bite yet, Branfman truly believes his love story about a Jewish widow and a Muslim widower would make a great movie. The story first came about because Branfman was inspired after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to make some sense of the tragedy.

"I had to sit down with my children and kind of explain the situation the best I could, but I really couldn't," he says. "That's what inspired me to start writing some notes. The original plan was to write an essay or short story about something that related to Sept. 11, and next thing I knew, a year, a year and a half went by and I had 120,000 words written."

Branfman wrote the story at his dining room table on weekend nights between midnight and 7 a.m. while his wife, Susan, and three daughters (now 17, 14 and 6) slept. When he realized he was writing not just a story but a full-blown novel, he decided to close his practice on Mondays, so that he could write on Sunday nights, too.

But when he finished his draft, he didn't know what to do next. So he went to a bookstore and purchased an armload of books on writing.

"After having done college, medical school, two residencies and two fellowships, if there's anything I know how to do, it's how to study," he says. "I basically made my own course. I sat down with these books—one at a time—with a yellow highlighter

and a 14-inch legal pad, and I took notes and I studied them. And when I finished, I took my 120,000 words and I chipped it away until it was about 75,000 words."

After studying the craft, Branfman felt like he had the critical eye to shape up his manuscript. "You don't want a lot of words, you want descriptive words. You don't want an adverb and a weak adjective, you want a strong adjective," he says. "Me and my thesaurus became best friends. We stayed up nights together."

For now, though, Branfman's thesaurus is staying up on the shelf. He says that writing a book "was never an aspiration or a dream or even a thought" of his; even now that he has written and published a novel, he doesn't have any plans to be a career novelist.

"I may never write another book; this may be it. I would love to pursue this as a movie. But I wrote this book for a reason, for a purpose. Not to be an author, but to make a statement." ★

For information on any of the novels mentioned in this article, go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.

On a trip to California, he put a copy of the book in a Ziploc bag and tossed it over the gates of Oprah Winfrey's house.



Clif Tinker '92, '01

His art is all around us

Clif Tinker was fresh out of art school in 1993 when he received, literally, the biggest assignment of his life—80,000 square feet, to be exact. The San Antonio Spurs commissioned him to design a series of thirty-eight 90-foot-tall banners to hang in the Alamodome, making it the largest work of art in Texas. But when the plum project landed in his lap, Tinker wasn't exactly elated.

On the contrary, he doubted he could execute such a monumental task. "I was intimidated by the scope of the project. I even tried to give it away to some professor friends of mine and other people," says Tinker, who earned a B.F.A. with a specialization in painting. "At first, I thought, 'I can't do this.' The most I had done was a painting six feet by 17 feet, and I thought I had gone all out."

Before accepting, Tinker suggested he show his portfolio to the Spurs management and Devon Snyder of project manufacturer Team Design Studios. Within an hour of the meeting, and after learning of the only stipulation, that the team colors—fuchsia, teal and orange—be used, the artist agreed to the challenge.

Tinker spent the next 15 hours sketching away while Paul McCartney's *Off the Ground* CD played non-stop. He had seen the superstar perform when the Alamodome first opened, and he drew on those first impressions for inspiration. He also wanted to capture the flow and energy of basketball and the spirit of San Antonio, specifically Fiesta.

Titled *The Transition Game*, the work was commissioned in August, and by October the colorful

banners were hanging for Spurs fans to enjoy. "It was like 10 times Christmas," says Tinker of the experience of seeing the completed project. "I walked in when the stadium was empty, and to see all the work I had put into it, I was astounded."

The Spurs have since moved to the SBC Center, but the banners remain at the Alamodome, although they have been turned backward so that a black side is showing. However, the artist has seen the panels displayed during concerts by U2, Eric Clapton, Tina Turner and Fleetwood Mac.

Last year, Tinker designed the official poster for the 100th anniversary of the San Antonio Public Library. It was done as a paper cutout on Arches Cover printmaking paper and then hand painted with opaque watercolor. William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Maya Angelou and San Antonio author and UTSA alumna Diane Gonzales Bertrand are featured prominently.

Tinker, who teaches art at Madison High School, paints almost every day. His bright colorful works, influenced by Matisse and Van Gogh, exude a sense of energy flowing upward. His work is sold at Artistic Endeavors in La Villita.

Though Tinker's claim to fame may very well be as the artist who created the largest work of art in Texas, he doesn't consider it his magnum opus. Another project proved far more difficult: a 275-page thesis on the defunct Aztec Theater in downtown San Antonio, which he wrote to complete his master's degree in art history from UTSA in 2001.

"That was by far the hardest thing I've ever done," he says. "It took me two years to complete, and I went through 15 revisions. I'm still trying to get it published."

— Rudy Arispe

75 Mary Colbert Earle, M.A. in Spanish, has two books scheduled for publication this year by Morehouse Publishing: *Holy Companions: Spiritual Practices from the Celtic Saints*, due in July, and *Beginning Again: Benedictine Wisdom for Living with Illness*, due in October.

Kaye Lenox, M.A. in education, was named Fundraising Executive of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for 2004 Leadership Texas.

77 Pamela Watson Bain, M.A. in education, is president of Bain Medina Bain Inc. in San Antonio. E-mail Pamela at pbain@bmbi.com. **Pete M. Gonzales Jr., B.B.A.** in accounting, is president of the Association of Government Accountants. **George Shuler, B.A.** in history, is a social worker for Weed Army Community Hospital in Fort Irwin, Calif. George and his wife, Lois, have recently turned their home into a therapeutic foster home under Alpha Treatment Centers. E-mail George at George.Shuler@nw.amedd.army.mil.

78 Christopher Long, B.A. in history, is an associate professor for architectural history and theory at the University of Texas at Austin. His book *Josef Frank: Life and Work* was recently published by the University of Chicago Press. He is a frequent contributor to architecture and design journals, including *Studies in the Decorative Arts*, *Journal of Society of Architectural Historians*, *Harvard Design Magazine* and *The Burlington Magazine*.

79 William M. Fisher, B.B.A. in accounting, and **J. Randy Vogel, B.B.A.** in accounting, have joined The Hanke Group as principals. Both are CPAs. **Patricia James, M.A.** in education, has published her book *I Love Monday Mornings*. It is available by writing to her at jerjames@aol.com. Pat says it is "the book every teacher was going to write."

80 Frank R. Charles, B.A. in history, M.A. in history '95, is teaching U.S. history at Palo Alto College in San Antonio.

82 Kathy Kyrish Gutierrez, M.A. in education, after a 30-year career at Harlandale Independent School District in San Antonio teaching English, French and Spanish, is traveling the world, tutoring, and enjoying her sons, ages 19, 20 and 23. **Kathy Hoermann, B.B.A.** in accounting, is the owner of The Painted Pony, a wholesale ladies' apparel manufacturing company in San Antonio. Kathy was featured in the December 2003 issue of *San Antonio Woman*.

85 Elizabeth Isola Rembert, B.A. in early childhood education, lives with her husband, Jeffrey, and daughters, 12-year-old Ashley and 10-year-old Brittany, outside Orlando, Fla. She is a coach for track and basketball at the middle and high school levels and for adult marathon walkers.

86 Colleen Berger, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president and controller of Catholic Life Insurance. She was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."
Jorge L. Bermudez, B.S. in electrical engineering, M.B.A. in business '94, is a project manager for MISYS, IBS in White Plains, N.Y., where he manages the implementation of banking systems worldwide. Jorge previously served as vice president of operations for JP Morgan Chase in Mexico. He has two daughters, Gaby and Anna. E-mail Jorge at jbermud@yahoo.com.
Michael T. Murphy, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. in international business '91, is a quality assurance coordinator for SER Jobs for Progress in San Antonio. Michael and his wife, Katie, have been married since September 1999, and are the parents of triplets, Isabel Grace, Anna Kathleen and Ian Michael, born June 20, 2003.
Jonathan Sanchez, B.F.A. in art, is an architect with Chugach Management Services at KellyUSA in San Antonio.

89 Rhonda Martin Pool, B.B.A. in management, is owner with her husband Darrell of R&D Propeller Service, an aircraft propeller sales and service company in Houston.
Lorena Fulgham Zuehl, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president of operations for MES Inc., a medical supply company in Seguin, Texas.

90 Marco Alárcon, B.F.A. in architectural design, is owner of Alárcon Design, a San Antonio-based graphic communications firm. Alárcon Design recently was named the agency of record for commercial developer La Hacienda de Salud. Marco's hobbies are playing with his children, running, cycling and "kissing my wife," he writes. He and his wife, Amy, have two daughters, Sophia Annabella, 2, and Lily Isabella, 6 months.
Ruth Burink, B.A. in English, has been a stone sculptor for the past eight years and recently had a nine-day show of her sculpture in Florence, Italy. The show, which included 800 contemporary artists from 74 countries, was by invitation, and Ruth received a full grant for her expenses.
Javier González, B.B.A. in finance, is a law partner with the firm of Royston, Rayzor, Vickery, and Williams, LLP in Brownsville. Javier and his wife, Mireille, have two sons, Javier

Alejandro, 4, and Edwardo Jesus, 3. E-mail Javier at Javier.Gonzalez@roys-tonlaw.com.

91 Walter H. Kokernot, M.A. in English, was appointed division chair of the English department of Ohio Dominican University. Prior to joining the faculty at ODU, Walter was an instructor at Louisiana State University, a post-doctoral lecturer at Texas A&M University and acting chair of the English Division at ODU.

93 Wan-Yu Elisa Chan, M.S. in computer science, is president and co-owner of Unitech Consulting Engineers Inc., and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."
Linda Lee Gould, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual education, is teaching English

as a second language for grades six, seven and eight at Rogers Middle School in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Susan Romanow Jeys, B.A. in English, married Dana Russell Jeys on Sept. 21, 2002. They live outside Santa Fe, N.M., where Susan is a subcontractor for Microsoft in the field of networking and information technology. Major clients have included Merrill Lynch in Manhattan, Exxon in Houston, Blue Cross in Seattle, Compaq in St. Louis, USAA in San Antonio and other companies throughout North America, South America and Europe.

Chris Ranney, B.S. in kinesiology, graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va., in December 2003. Chris, his wife, **Monica Reygadas Ranney, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies '98, and son Noah are relocating to Nashville,

Tenn., where Chris has been assigned to the Violent Crimes/Major Offenses Unit of the Nashville FBI office.

94 Elizabeth Gonzalez Bomba, B.S. in biology, M.S. in environmental science '98, is an environmental scientist at Alan Plummer Associates Inc. in Austin, Texas.

Abel O. Losoya III, B.S. in biology, is operations manager at Magna Blend in Waxahachie, Texas.

Steven D. Marty, M.S. in mechanical engineering, was promoted to director of the Fuels and Lubricants Research Division of Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

Raul Piña, B.A. in English, has been promoted to principal at Marc T. Atkinson Middle School in Phoenix, where he served as assistant principal for two years.



Ben Zapata '87

Life on an oil rig

From eight to five, many people sit behind a desk surrounded by the institutional-gray walls of an office, if they're lucky—or a cubicle, if they're not. Bathed in fluorescent light, they toil away each day.

But Ben Zapata's office has no walls, and he rarely sits. Surrounded by blue skies and the Gulf of Mexico, Zapata works with steel underfoot and sunshine overhead—on an oil rig 4,500 feet above the ocean floor.

Zapata (B.S. in physics) works as a directional drilling supervisor for Schlumberger, the world's largest oilfield and information services company, with more than 78,000 employees and more than \$13 billion in revenues.

The 41-year-old San Antonio native spent the

first five years of his career with Schlumberger as a field engineer, before being promoted to his current supervisory role eight years ago.

Zapata spends long hours at sea operating multimillion-dollar equipment for the international oil and gas industry. A directional driller, he drills down to a certain point in the ocean floor, then turns the drill bit to a horizontal angle and continues to search for oil and gas. The technique helps minimize the number of rigs needed for exploration.

"We have reservoirs to sustain us for the next 50 years and have barely tipped the iceberg in our oceanic explorations," Zapata says. "This is a powerful industry that makes the world go around."

While his office is more beautiful than most, Zapata says life as a drilling supervisor is not an easy one. The trade-off is working more than six months of the year away from his wife and children. When not offshore, Zapata spends his time at home with his five sons and 1-year-old daughter.

Although being away from his family is tough, life aboard Zapata's drilling-rig home, the Ocean Confidence, does offer four meals a day and weight and exercise rooms.

He advises graduates considering careers in the oil and gas industry to be prepared to live abroad and stay a step ahead of industry advances. Zapata encourages job seekers to visit company Web sites and apply in Houston where many oil and gas companies worldwide maintain headquarters.

Zapata credits the physics background he received at UTSA for providing the foundation that led him to the successful career he enjoys today.

— Kris Rodríguez

Richard Keeler '81

Designing healthcare facilities

Richard Keeler has spent the past 30 years of his life in and out of hospitals. Thankfully, not as a patient, but as an architect specializing in planning and designing healthcare facilities in St. Louis and San Antonio.

Keeler, 57, is an architect-principal with Rehler Vaughn & Koone Inc., a firm he joined last year after retiring for "about a week" from Marmon Mok, where he previously worked for 21 years.

"I always liked building things," says Keeler, who earned a master's in environmental studies from UTSA. "I was the kid who played with Lincoln Logs and little plastic bricks, and designed houses and buildings."

Designing multimillion-dollar healthcare facilities was not Keeler's original goal when he joined a St. Louis architectural firm upon graduation from the University of Kansas. The company landed a

hospital contract, and he was assigned to the group of architects responsible for the project. Later, after helping design two hospitals and a nursing home, the architect felt he had found his niche.

Shortly after moving to San Antonio in 1977, Keeler worked for the Bexar County Hospital District, where he was facility architect for what turned out to be one of the biggest projects he had been involved with to date—a \$50 million expansion of the emergency room and labor and delivery unit at University Hospital, which took four years to complete.

"It gives you such a feeling of accomplishment to come up with an idea, see it developed, and come up all the way through the bricks and mortar and be completed. And then you stand back and look, and say, 'I had a hand in that,' " he says. "I still get a kick out of going back to look at buildings I worked on years ago."

Chances are you've set foot in at least one of Keeler's buildings. In all, he has had a hand in the expansion, renovation or construction of more than 45 hospitals and medical and dental offices in San Antonio and South Texas. The list includes Santa Rosa Northwest Hospital, Texas Center for Infectious Disease, Northeast Baptist Hospital, Cancer Therapy and Research Center, Southwest Mental Health Center, Southwest Texas Methodist Hospital, San Marcos Sports Medicine Clinic and Masters Dental Clinic.

A member of the American Institute of Architects, Keeler has seen a major shift in the design of medical facilities over the past three decades. Luckily for the patients, gone are the days of cold-looking rooms, straight white corridors, glaring lights and no amenities.

"The industry is evolving from institutional to hospitality," Keeler says. "Today, with competition so fierce, you have to attract people. That's why hospitals look better. Their design is so important. [Administrators] want it to look like home, so that people aren't intimidated.

"Everything is more customer-friendly. Look at a labor and delivery room—you can't tell it's not your bedroom."

Away from the drafting table, Keeler is an active member of the UTSA Alumni Association.

In February, he chaired the annual Diploma Dash 5K race for the second consecutive year. He also spends time on the road, giving his 9- and 11-year-old sons rides on his Harley-Davidson Road King. Motorcycles, he adds, are a hobby of his since his high school days in his native Kansas City, Mo.

— Rudy Arispe



E-mail Raul at rpina@atki.cartwright.k12.az.us.

Gavino Ramos, B.A. in criminal justice, is senior manager of community relations at Grande Communications and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

Mark Wohlfarth, B.S. in architecture, is vice president of the San Antonio office of Constructors & Associates Inc., and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

95 Sandra Jan Geisbush, M.A.

in education, is a teacher at Encino Park Elementary School in the North East Independent School District and was awarded an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship. She will serve her fellowship at the National Science Foundation—Division of Research, Evaluation and Communication in Arlington, Va., through July 2004.

Jacklyn M. Letendre Green, M.A. in education, and her husband, Randy, announce the birth of their son Tyler, born Aug. 16, 2003. The Greens have another son, 6-year-old Parker.

Carmen M. Pagan, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president of the audit department at Frost National Bank in San Antonio.

Laura Resendez, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, announces her engagement to marry Trinidad Sanchez on Aug. 7, 2004.

Cindy Kay Slavin, B.B.A. in personnel/human resource management, is human resources director at RSM McGladrey Inc. in Dallas.

96 Gary F. Grieco, B.B.A. in accounting, is employed by State Farm Insurance as a catastrophic services reinspector. Gary served on the State Farm Catastrophic Services Editorial Group and worked with the State Farm Business Interruption Team assisting with claims from the San Diego wildfires from November '03 to January '04.

Ana Luisa Avila Lopez, B.S. in electrical engineering, and her husband, Robert, are the parents of triplets, Allyson, Ariana and Ryan, born Feb. 24, 2003.

Bradley A. Moore, B.B.A. in personnel/human resource management, and his wife, Veronica, have one daughter, Raquel Therese, born Nov. 21, 2002.

Adrian Quintanilla, B.B.A. in management, is marketing director for SBC Communications Inc., and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

Eddie Ramirez, B.A. in criminal justice, is a catastrophe claim representative for State Farm Mutual Insurance

in Austin, Texas. Eddie and his wife, Eva, have two children, 1-year-old Matthew Alec and 5-year-old Christopher Austin.

97 Laurie Gist, B.B.A. in marketing, is the owner of Mica Jewelry and Accessories in San Antonio. Laurie was recently featured in the January issue of *Small Business Weekly*.

Julie Ann Jung Schick, B.S. in biology, is director of marketing at ICPG in San Antonio. Julie and her husband, Walter, announce the birth of their son Joshua Michael, born Oct. 23, 2003.

98 John J. Ferencak, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is a mechanical engineering designer with Marmon Mok in San Antonio. John recently earned his registered professional engineering certification.

A. J. Rodriguez, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. in business '00, is vice president of advocacy and community infrastructure for the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

99 Eduardo Magaloni, B.A. in political science, was named development coordinator at Housing and Community Services Inc. in San Antonio. He previously served as the program officer for the San Antonio Housing Trust Foundation Inc.

Oanh H. Maroney, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, is division manager for Parenting Programs at Methodist Healthcare Ministries and was recently named to the *San Antonio*

Business Journal's list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

Jayson Meyer, B.A. in political science, is coordinator of alumni relations at the University of Missouri Alumni Association in Columbia, Mo.

Duane Alexander Miller, B.A. in philosophy, is pursuing an M.A. in theology at St. Mary's University. Duane and his wife, Sharon, were married in May 2003.

Erika Shoupe Pfluke, B.A. in English, is a sales representative for Eli Lilly. Erika is married to alumnus **Jason Pfluke**, B.S. in biology '00, who will graduate from Texas Tech School of Medicine in May with a M.D. E-mail Erika at pfinn77@hotmail.com.

Lisa K. Rode-Collins, B.B.A. in accounting, is a manager for international accounting at SBC in San Antonio.

Michelle Miles Woodard, B.S. in math, and her husband, Conrad, announce the birth of son Colby Grant, born Nov. 28, 2003.

00 Claudia Carranza, B.S. in kinesiology, received a master of physical therapy from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, in December 2003.

Loretta Jean Davies, M.A. in counseling, is an independent contractor, registered nurse/licensed professional counselor for Black Knight Resources in San Antonio.

Mark Hester, B.S. in electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer with Marmon Mok in San Antonio and recently earned his registered professional engineering certification.

Jim Jeffery, M.B.A. in business, is

senior vice president/group leader—corporate banking with Frost Bank and was recently named to the *San Antonio Business Journal's* list of "San Antonio Rising Stars."

Magdalena Sufin Michniadowicz, B.S. in biology, is employed with South Texas Rural Health DDS.

Esteban Morales, B.A. in political science, is Hispanic civilian recruiter for the United States Coast Guard Office of Civilian Human Resources in Arlington, Va. The Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security. Esteban will be traveling across the country to Hispanic-serving institutions, conferences and events in order to assist in diversifying the agency.

Robert R. Valadez, B.A. in history, is a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve and has been on active duty serving in Iraq/Kuwait since February 2003.

01 Michael J. Barlow, B.B.A. in information systems, is a senior system administrator at Computer Sciences Corporation in Arlington, Va.

Jo Ann Peace Jackson, M.A. in education, is special education teacher at the Department of Defense Dependents Schools, Bitburg American High School, in Germany.

William L. Kraft, B.A. in psychology, and his wife, Patricia, were married in June 2002.

02 Mayra Flores Collins, B.A. in communication, is a systems analyst I at UTSA. Mayra married alumnus **Joshua A. Collins**, B.B.A. in information systems '03, in April 2003.

Laura J. Escobar, B.S. in biology, is a physical therapist assistant at University

Hospital-Reeves Rehabilitation in San Antonio.

Aaron Loveridge, B.B.A. in management, is an account executive with U.S. Bank Voyager, Fleet Systems Inc. in Houston.

McEverett Powers, B.B.A. in marketing, was promoted to assistant branch manager with Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company of Texas. McEverett is a former member of the UTSA Roadrunner basketball team.

Raquel Salazar, B.A. in criminal justice, is a border protection officer, recruiter and field training officer with the Department of Homeland Security under Customs and Border Protection in Del Rio, Texas.

Sara Shahsavary, B.B.A. in management, is the owner/director of Happyland Child Care in San Antonio.

Harold E. Von Dran Jr., M.S. in environmental science, received his professional engineering certificate.

Marylou Zepeda, B.A. in criminal justice, is a customs inspector with the United States Customs Service in Long Beach, Calif.

03 Marissa Sanchez, B.A. in communication, is marketing and event coordinator for the *San Antonio Business Journal*.

Daniel Steve Villarreal, M.A. in education, donated platelets in October 2003 under the auspices of the National Marrow Donor Program and saved the life of a 1-year-old girl with acute myelogenous leukemia. He and other donors were recently honored at an awards banquet in San Antonio. Prospective donors can call 1-800-MARROW-2.

Keep in touch

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriages, family, degrees, accomplishments—and a photo, too. Let Roadrunners know what you've been up to by completing this form and sending it to us. Class Notes are printed in each issue of *Sombrilla* and posted on the Alumni Association Web site.

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/alumni

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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If you do not want your Class Note posted on our Web site, check here. <input type="checkbox"/>		

For marriage announcements, 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 or adoption.

A member of the family

By Joseph McBride

My wife is from Taguasco, Cuba, the last town at the end of the Cuban Central Expressway known as La Autopista. Built by the Russians, this underused six- to eight-lane highway is big enough to land a bomber. This massive artery connects the “sugar bowl” of Cuba to Havana. Huge palm trees accentuate the tobacco and sugar cane fields all along the way. Taguasco is about 1,600 people strong and every bit a small town.

In December 2003, for our family vacation, we went to Cuba. We met, it seemed, everyone in Taguasco and enjoyed the company of my in-laws. Thanks to my wife’s Uncle Titi, we feasted on fresh beef daily



because one of the cows from his farm had a “mysterious accident.” Titi has good connections with local government officials and was able to keep a significant portion of the meat. In Cuba, cows are for tourism. Thus, killing a cow carries a harsher penalty than killing a person.

At the bottom of the ethics food chain is the pig. Roasting a pig is like baking a cake for a birthday party. It is done for every major celebration. In December, we were celebrating my and our 3-year-old daughter’s first trip to Taguasco as the newest members of the family. And as the male guest of honor, I got to kill the pig.

Honestly, I had been nervous about this ceremony since my wife hinted that it would be a good chance to bond with my in-laws. Bond? Who was I to break the bond that has held together the chain of masculinity that runs through generations of Cuban families? My only experience as a killer involved a small bird that I clipped in the wing with my BB gun when I was 8. I had to end its suffering with two blows to the head because the first did not work. I swear I wasn’t traumatized.

The idea had novelty, though. What better way to reconnect to the hunter/gatherer history that we all share? And in Cuba, I began to realize just how far removed I am from it. Remnants of an agricultural past seeped through the cracks of the foundations of my urban, metrosexual lifestyle. Amazingly, it was in Cuba that I found out what the well-known phrases “squeal like a pig” and “wring your neck” actually mean. Who would have known that you could kill a chicken by whipping it around by its neck like a towel? Have you ever noticed, too, that many monster movies—*Alien*, for instance—involve creatures that squeal like pigs?

But that world is the norm in Cuba. My wife has two uncles who farm alongside her grandfather. They built their modest homes from palm trees, while her mom lives in a comfortable cement home.

One day during our vacation we met with my wife’s other uncle, Pipi, and his second wife at their home in Siguaney. They live in a small shack with no indoor plumbing. Empty Coke and juice cans adorned a small shelf in the living room, contrasting with the antique porcelain figurines you might find in an American home. There was also a large poster hanging on the wall of a girl who looked like she was posing for a pin-up—in her bra and jean shorts, leaning on a banana tree. To my shock, I learned that it was Pipi’s daughter from a previous marriage. The photo was taken for her *quinceñera*.

Then there were the pigs. We were brought out back to see two pigs. One was very fat, gray and pregnant. She apparently was practically a member of the family. We petted her. This was not my pig.

The other pig looked like Babe from the movie of the same name. Strident and confident, he moved about his cell expressing complete comfort and security. He looked like the kind of pig that you could make your best friend—go on fishing trips with you, sleep at the foot of your bed, fetch your slippers, scare off intruders. At six months old and 70 pounds, he was not the fat smelly blob of a beast that I had expected to cleanse the earth of. He was cute and pink with spots of whitish-gray hair. His eyes were large and affectionate as he greeted me with a sniff of my hand. Mine, I thought, will be the last eyes this pig will see.

Short on sleep, I awoke early on the morning of the family celebration to face an action that I felt numb to. After a breakfast of several cups of coffee, I was ushered to the event on the back of a motorcycle, the third-world equivalent of a chauffeured limo ride. The roads quietly turned from smooth cement-paved to pothole-laden to rock, the bike slowing accordingly. We stopped in front of Pipi’s house. Pipi and Titi appeared wearing straw sombreros, with no shirts covering their large bellies. Their smiles contrasted brightly with their bronzed skin.

It was the uncles’ job to ready the pig. I was more concerned with acquainting myself with the tool that I would use. The knife was a rusty homemade model with an eight-inch blade and a worn wooden handle. I was assured that it was sharp, and I calmly adjusted it in my grip—blade up to blade down—searching for the right position.

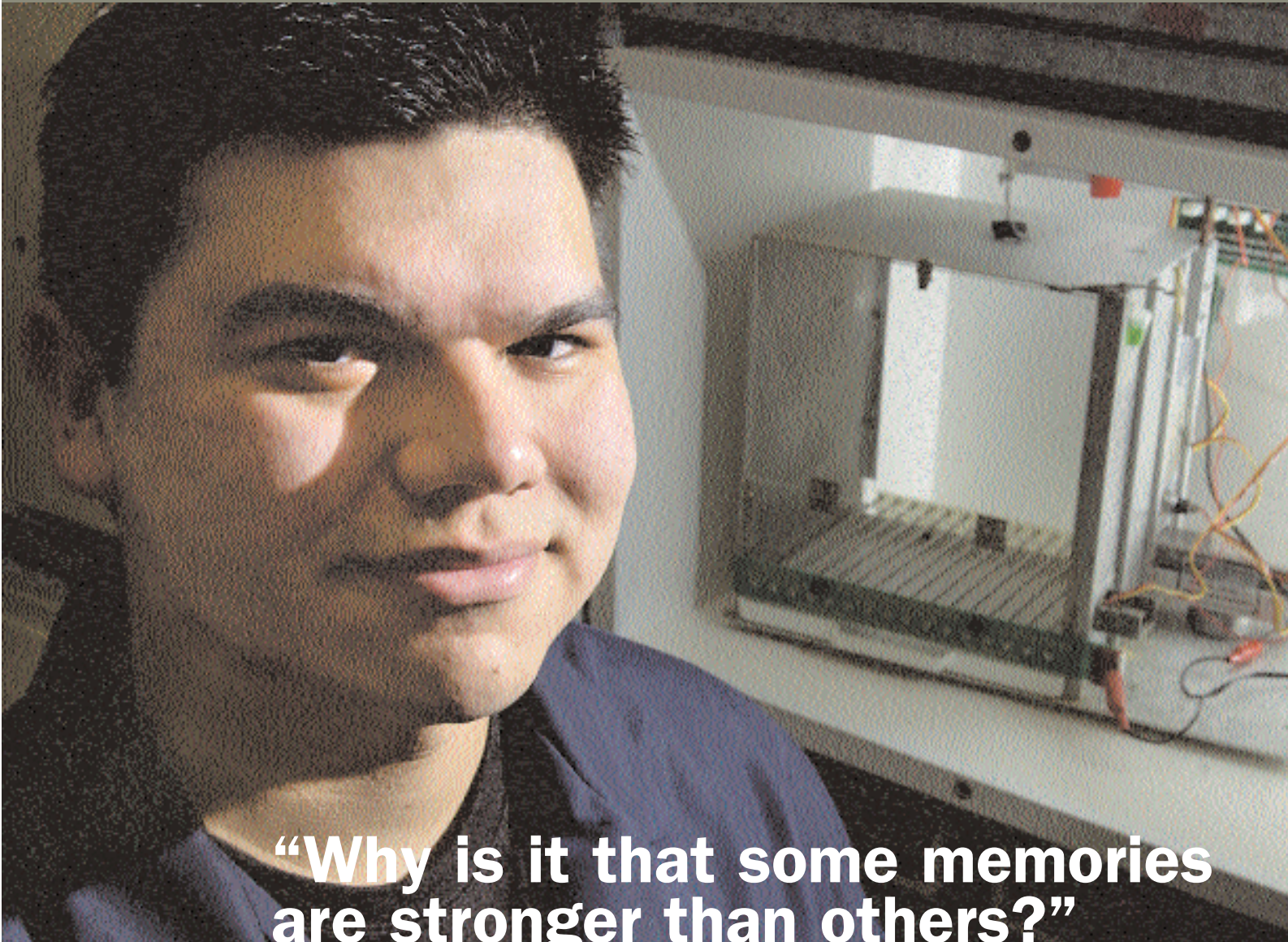
The pig was brought out before I had decided. It squealed in pain as it was pulled by its squiggly tail. It was then unsympathetically lifted by an ear and wrestled to its back by the two 200-pound uncles. The pig, caught off guard, awkwardly twisted and rolled. But she was no match for them.

Or for me.

Minutes later, it was all over. For all my anticipation, my part was brief and final. The thing had to be done without feeling, through complete disconnection. To have either enjoyed or cringed from it would have been an inappropriate—and personally disastrous—display of emotions. Like the other members of my Cuban family, I did it simply as a matter of survival.

Joseph McBride is Webmaster in UTSA’s Office of Communications. He plans to enter the university’s management of technology graduate program and begin classes this fall.

IN YOUR OWN WORDS ... OR 800 OF THEM. Perspective is open to faculty, staff and alumni. Submit your personal essay of no more than 800 words for consideration to sombrilla@utsa.edu.



“Why is it that some memories are stronger than others?”

Luke Flores, a senior biology major from Corpus Christi, has become fascinated with the brain while doing research as an undergraduate at one of UTSA's high-tech laboratories. His research has touched on memory and how drug addiction affects the brain. Luke says this opportunity and scholarship funding is why he chose to study at UTSA—rather than any of the Ivy League institutions that recruited him.

UTSA's Uniqueness

Luke says UTSA offers the opportunity to work under leading researchers, such as his mentor Joe Martinez Jr., Ewing Halsell Distinguished Professor of Biology.

As an undergraduate, Luke says it's rare to be able to work with such a prominent researcher.

“UTSA does a very good job in providing research opportunities for undergraduates. UTSA values its undergraduate.”

Luke says his undergraduate research put him a step above other candidates when applying for doctoral programs at top universities.

Scholarships

UTSA helped pave the road to higher education for Luke. Upon admission, he was awarded two scholarships through the Honors College, then later was awarded a two-year research grant through the university's involvement with the National Institute of Mental Health.

“The UTSA scholarships played a huge role in my decision to come here. I received scholarships to [private universities]; however, my out-of-pocket expenses were still going to be very high. The UTSA scholarships not only covered my tuition and books, but also provided living expenses.”

Future

Luke plans to continue his education, earning a Ph.D. in neurobiology, and hopes to one day give back to his alma mater.

“I want to teach here at UTSA. I want to come back home when it comes time for me to teach.”

As UTSA grows, the need for scholarships to help more students like Luke becomes even greater. To learn more, contact UTSA's Development Office at 210-458-4131 or e-mail development@utsa.edu.

On the Web: www.utsa.edu/development

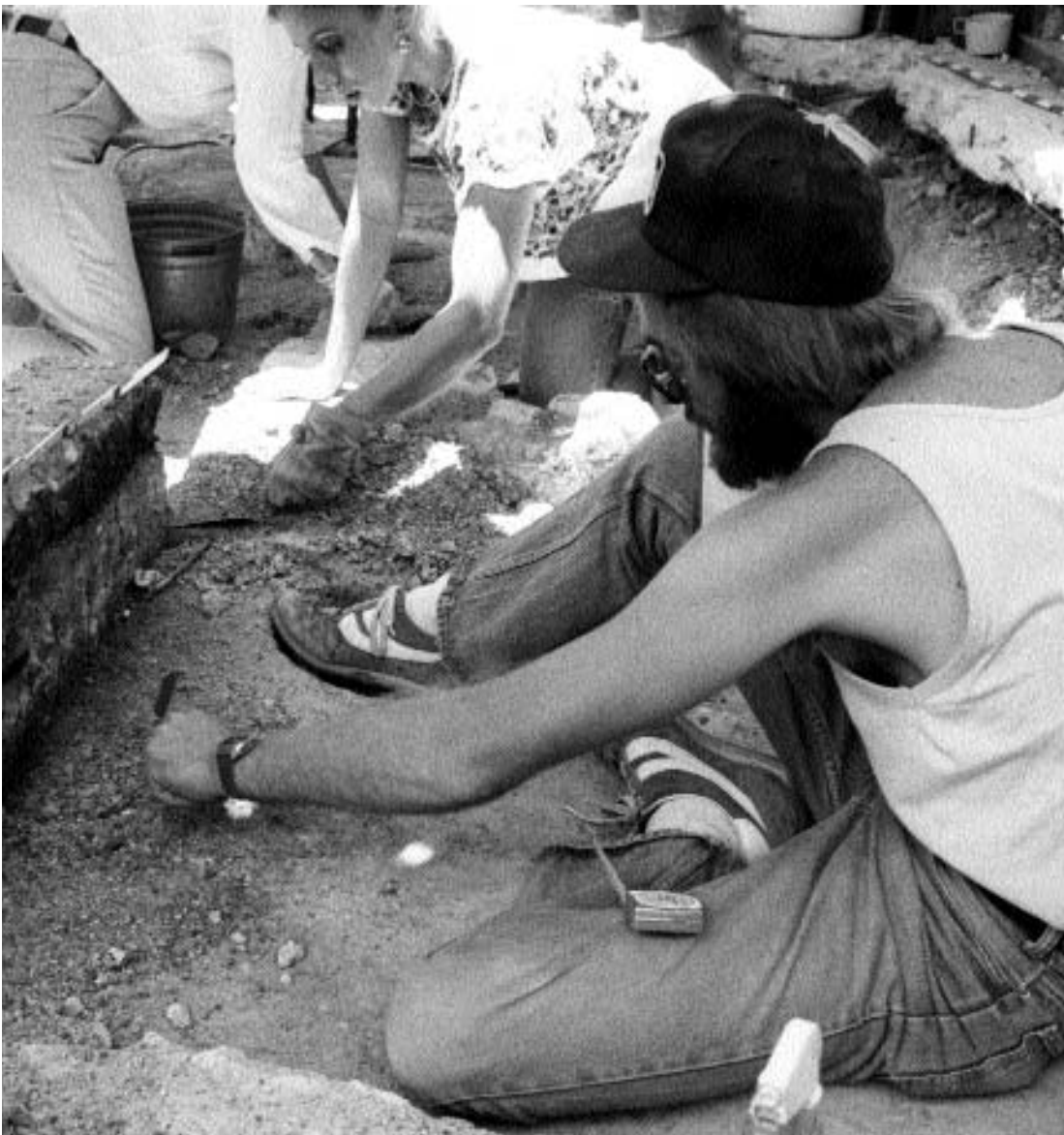


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Looking back

A cooler dig

In 1979, a team of students and staff with the Center for Archaeological Research spent more than a year excavating land across the street from the Alamo—and found a structural timeline dating back to pre-Alamo days. City officials were tearing down buildings to make room for a park that would connect Alamo Plaza to the San Antonio River. The team of researchers were eager to dig and started before the walls of the RadioShack had been torn down.

“We had air-conditioning, fluorescent lighting, it was wonderful,” said Anne Fox, a research associate for the center who was part of the dig.

Fox said more than 80 boxes of artifacts found at the site, including ceramic and metal pieces, pottery and bones, are stored at the center.