

Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Summer 2004
Vol. 20, No. 3



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE: A unique look at UTSA's campuses
Faculty and students work to improve water facilities





SUMMER
2004

Sombrilla

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The "Labyrinth Gateway" is a suspended sculpture that hangs outside the Durango Building on UTSA's Downtown Campus. See "A Closer Look" on page 18 for more campus photos. Photo by Patrick Ray Dunn.

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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

I'd like to buy the world a Cola Turka

This probably should be obvious, but one of the great things about being at a university is that you can learn cool stuff.

As an undergraduate, Stephanie Deacon decided to supplement her math major with another major in Spanish—"to give myself a break from the math classes." Now a master's student and teaching assistant in UTSA's math department, she finds herself still craving nonmathematical stimulation. So she's learning Turkish.

No, UTSA doesn't offer courses in Turkish. But the Turkish Student Association—an active organization even though you can count its members on just two hands—does. Since fall 2003, students in the association have been teaching free Turkish classes for interested students.

Understandably, the response to the offer of a noncredit course has not been overwhelming. However, the small but active group of Turkish students has found a small but dedicated group of students to teach. In one of two sections offered in the spring, Stephanie was joined by fellow math teaching assistant Sam Slocum and psychology major Isabel Sagnite Rodriguez, a native of Nuevo Laredo who learned English at age 12. Not content to be bilingual, Isabel started studying French eight years ago and plans to focus on language research.

And finally, me. (My associate editor thinks this would be an appropriate spot to mention why I'm taking the class, but my response is, why isn't she?) We started the semester with twice as many students, but after the first few weeks, we were whittled down to four, because despite what our teacher says, Turkish is not easy. The c's are pronounced like j's, and to say "I ate dinner with my husband," you need to reverse the word order: "Spouse my with evening meal ate I."



Our instructor is Serkan Dursun, the president of the Turkish Student Association and a doctoral student and teaching assistant in electrical engineering. When any of us use our busy schedules as an excuse for not doing our homework, Serkan raises his eyebrows politely and refrains from mentioning that he's the busiest of all. But his motivation for teaching the twice-weekly class is simple: He loves his culture, and he wants to share that with people in the United States. Just as Turkey is a bridge between Europe and Asia, he says, "the Turkish language constitutes a bridge" between his culture and religion and that of his American students.

Serkan strives to teach us proper grammar. But he is good-natured enough to laugh when I turn in homework that is peppered with tourist phrases I've learned from language tapes. (My favorites are Bu cezve kaç lira?—"How much is this coffee pot?"—and Afiyet olsun, the Turkish equivalent of "bon appetit" and a phrase that I recall by imagining that I'm dining with Yasser Arafat and the Olsen twins.)

Serkan is also the epitome of Turkish hospitality. After a trip to Houston, he brought us each a bottle of a new soft drink, Cola Turka, and at the end of the semester, he invited us all to his house for a Turkish meal. None of us passed up the opportunity to break ekmek and get together over steaming cups of çay. As my classmate Stephanie put it, "As students, we have the opportunity to learn so much about other cultures and languages that we may not have after graduating."

How refreshing, here at the university where many students are focused only on their degree, that there are plenty who come to college for something more—an education.

— Rebecca Luther

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Joe Martinez Jr. holds the Ewing Halsell Distinguished Chair in Biology. Martinez was misiden-



THE “MAIN” EVENT

UTSA is opening its latest building project just in time for the start of the fall semester.

The new Main Building includes administrative office space, classrooms, lecture halls, specialized teaching labs and academic support space. The 240,000-square-foot building is located just east of the John Peace Library Building on the 1604 Campus. Construction on the \$52 million project began in 2002.

An open house was scheduled for July 30. The event also was planned to commemorate UTSA’s 35th anniversary and to announce The UTSA Plan: A Roadmap to Excellence.

Write back

Letters from Sombrilla readers

A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

I was appalled to read Joseph McBride’s “Perspective” on killing the pig for the family celebration (Spring 2004).

I had family that lived in the country and that lived from the land. So, yes, I understand the harsh realities of life. But Mr. McBride starts off by saying that he wasn’t sure about killing, etc. And then he tells us that he had to do it? If his wife’s uncles made him jump from a bridge, would he do that, too?

You are right, Mr. McBride, it is their customs, their way of life. But it is not yours (at least that is what you stated). Instead of feeling pride, you should be ashamed. Ashamed that you did not stay true to your feelings, your way of life, and felt the need just to please others.

If her relatives should come to your home in the United States to visit, will you demand that they follow your customs? Your traditions? Will they be made to dress like us? Eat only our foods? No, I would guess not. Hopefully you and yours would accept them for who they are. But obviously you didn’t

think they would accept you.

No, I think that you were not doing it to survive; you did it to fit in and to please.

Tracy Haven Hopkins ’92

The first and last article I just read from the recent edition of Sombrilla (Spring 2004) was Mr. McBride’s, in which is featured what looks like a charming picture of him and perhaps his pet pig. I was appalled and disgusted after continuing the article, hoping that surely he did not actually kill this pig—only to learn that he indeed did, and seemed proud of it! As an animal lover, I feel completely sick and cannot believe that you would publish such a thing in Sombrilla. Certainly there is enough torture, death and mutilation in this world without using this as one of your features.

Judith B. Calhoun ’88, ’90

SE HABLA MARKETING

I wanted to comment on an article in the Spring 2004 Sombrilla, “Se Habla Marketing” by Wendy Frost. The first sentence states, “Even though the word market-

ing is the same in both English and Spanish ...” In my experience this is not totally correct.

Last summer I completed a monthlong, intensive advanced Spanish business course in Cuernavaca, Mexico, where the word mercadotecnia was used in class and in the textbook for marketing. While the textbook [Exito Comercial, 3rd ed., by Michael Scott Doyle, T. Bruce Fryer and Ronald Cere] does list marketing as an acceptable Spanish word, it is borrowed from English. Spanish words listed are mercadotecnia, mercadología and comercialización. The textbook covers business terms and vocabulary for all Spanish-speaking countries, so different words may be used in different areas.

I am happy to read that UTSA is offering a business Spanish course!

Susan K. Swenson Butcher ’91

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Students can come here and live here

Campus Life Initiative expected to change the face of UTSA

Thirty-five years ago in front of the Alamo, Gov. Preston Smith signed a bill to create UTSA, triggering the university's humble beginning in an old French restaurant at HemisFair Park.

Today, the university comprises more than 600 acres, three campuses, nearly 4,000 employees and 25,000 students. This spring, those students wielded their collective power in shaping a new vision for the university, voting by a 63 percent majority to pass an initiative focusing on campus recreation, athletics and student services. Though proud of the university's academics and research, the students hope to build a UTSA experience that extends well beyond classroom walls.

Athletic Director Lynn Hickey called the drive for the Campus Life Initiative the most important vote in her four-and-a-half year tenure. "The initiative was student-led and student-driven, and it's great to be at a university where you can get that kind of support for athletics to go forward," said Hickey. "That's

a tremendous morale boost—a confidence boost—that the students here are ready to take this university to the next level and are really concerned about campus life."

Passage of the initiative meant splitting the student services fee into separate fees for athletics and campus recreation, and increasing costs by as much as \$34 in fall 2004, depending on how many hours a student takes. The following fall, the fees will jump by \$53 with another \$64 increase slated for fall 2006. Finally, there will be a \$118 increase once the Recreation and Wellness Center expansion is completed.

The monies generated by the change in fee structure will help pay for improvements and expansion in both athletics and campus recreation facilities. The campus recreation part of the student services fee will then be dedicated to the areas for which it was originally intended—student programming, speakers, concerts and social events. As the average age of UTSA students drops each year—from 27

five years ago to 24 today—campus life has become increasingly important in keeping pace with the university's transition to a more traditional campus environment.

Senior marketing major David Montemayor was part of the student committee that developed and pushed the initiative. "What we've been trying to do is build a community," said Montemayor. "You want the future of UTSA to be something more. I wish these things had passed at the beginning of my four years."

Montemayor's wish for something more resonated with both students and staff who have watched the university grow faster than expected. This fall, Chaparral Village will open, adding 1,000 beds to the 2,000 already available for on-campus housing. By May, all 3,000 beds had been claimed for the 2004-2005 academic year.

"We have more people who are coming to UTSA, who are living here, who want to be here on weekends, and we also have more commuters who are excited about what's happening on campus," said Rosalie Ambrosino, vice president for student affairs. "Research shows that students who are engaged in their campus do better academically, so I think the goal is to give students a holistic kind of campus life. That's what the students who were part of the Campus Life Initiative wanted."

A more holistic experience is exactly what students need, according to Suzy Gray, director of campus recreation. In a short time, Gray has seen the Recreation and Wellness Center become a hub for student life. "The initiative said to me that students agree not all learning goes on inside a classroom with chalk and a PowerPoint," said Gray. "Learning that goes on outside the classroom is just as important."

Many students led the drive for and voted for the Campus Life Initiative knowing they will have graduated by the time its goals have been achieved. For those students the initiative wasn't about individual concerns. "I just felt as a student I should give as much back to my school as my school's given to me," said Monica Patterson, committee co-chair.

When asked what the Campus Life Initiative will mean for the university five years from now, Patterson and her fellow students did not describe new stadiums, intramural fields, camping trips or concerts. Instead, their answers spoke of intangibles. Their vision of the future of UTSA may have begun with money and buildings, but it ends with pride, ownership and fun.

— Leigh Anne Gullett



HOW FUNDS GENERATED BY THE CAMPUS LIFE INITIATIVE WILL BE USED

STUDENT SERVICES

Additional staff in areas such as financial aid, career services, judicial affairs, student life, counseling, student ombudsperson, Tomás Rivera Center and Greek life

Additional funding for campus life programming (concerts, speakers), student success programs (supplemental instruction, tutoring), student organizations, and alcohol and drug prevention/intervention

CAMPUS RECREATION

Will add an estimated 130,000 square feet to rec center, including indoor track, natatorium, smoothie bar, fitness studios, racquetball and wallyball courts, basketball/volleyball and badminton court, additional space in both the weight room and cardio room, and locker room space

Outdoor programs, including additional intramural fields

ATHLETICS

Provide funding for initiatives such as track/soccer stadium, baseball stadium, softball stadium and renovations to Convocation Center

Additional NCAA sports: women's golf and women's soccer (fall 2005)

Snapshot, Texas

From the photographic archives of the Institute of Texan Cultures

Inspired by movie star Colleen Moore in the 1925 silent film *Desert Flower*, bathing beauties took to water by the barrel! The pickle barrel, that is.

A San Antonio Light photographer posed barrel bathers Ferl Lavelle, Irene Park and Grace O'Brien in this hogshead at a public pool but also gave directions for making your own backyard bathing barrel: "To simulate the briny deep, all that is necessary is to add a pinch of salt and a spoonful of jelly to float on top. A dime's worth of spinach thrown in the bottom will do for seaweed and will last all summer." Bathers were further advised to place the barrel in the shade to foil Old Sol's efforts at freckling.

Beyond inspiring barrel bathers, Moore, as naughty-but-nice Pat Fentriss in *Flaming Youth* (1923), also sparked the daring flapper look and lifestyle of the Roaring '20s.

— Mary Grace Ketner

The San Antonio Light Collection, Institute of Texan Cultures at UTSA, L-0436-A. Gift of the Hearst Corporation.



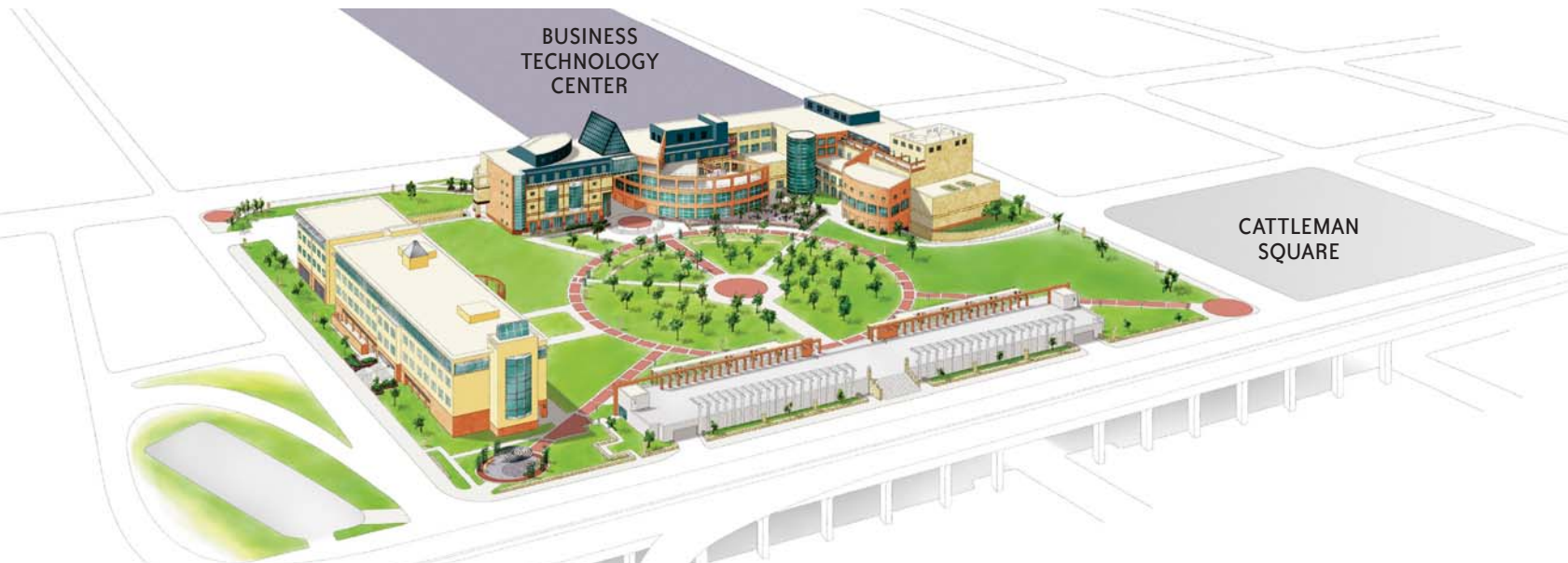
iBravo!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

The student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers won first place for best overall design, first place for most aesthetic design and second place for most innovative design in the Online National Timber Bridge Design Competition; Management doctoral students **Craig Armstrong, Lakami Baker, Tammy Beck, Robert Griffith** and **Stephanie Thomas** were invited to present papers at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Management; **Bernard Arulanandam**, faculty researcher in the Department of Biology, and Dennis Metzger were awarded a U.S. patent for the "Enhancement of immunity by intranasal inoculation of IL-12," an application of Arulanandam's research on nasal, noninvasive methods of providing immunization; Students **Brenda Briones, Sarah Gonzales** and **Amanda Vela** made up the winning team that took home top honors at the 2004 Texas HR Games, sponsored by the Texas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management; **The College of Business**

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team—comprised of management students **Edward Gatzert, Alberto Dumas** and **Claudio Garza**—was named Rookie of the Year at the 2004 SIFE regional competition ... **Consuelo M. Ramirez**, lecturer in management and team adviser, was named a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow in recognition of her leadership and support of the SIFE program at UTSA; **Department of Communication students** set a record for the most student papers (21) from a university accepted for presentation and publication at the 16th Annual International Academy of Business Disciplines Conference, earning UTSA the High Caliber of Students' Research Productivity Award ... **Isabell Valdez** brought home the Top Student Paper Award for her project, "Telling the Story of Texas Public Schools Today: The Critical Role of Public Relations"; Communication students **Zinnia Dunnis, Jorge Garcia, Perry McDonald, Darlene Talamantez** and **Isabell Valdez** received an honorable mention in the

Public Relations Student Society of America National Bateman Case Study Competition, in which competing teams developed public relations and marketing communication campaigns to educate high school seniors and college students about the responsible use of credit cards; **Mike Lewis**, doctoral student in environmental sciences and engineering, was awarded the David Brower Conservation Award by the American Alpine Club for his achievements and service as chairman of the club's conservation committee for domestic issues and as a member of the board of directors; **Steve Murdock**, director of the UTSA Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, Lutchter Brown Distinguished Chair in Management Science and Statistics, and the official state demographer, received from the Center for Public Policy Priorities the 2004 Hobby Visionary Award, named after former Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby, for his work on Texas' future demographic trends and their implications for public policy.



Changing the lay of the land UTSA Downtown Campus celebrates 10-year anniversary with land exchange

As the shuttle rolled past the skeleton of a building, an enthusiastic voice rang over the hushed riders, “And this is where the students will gather ...”

In 1996, Gina Mendez, UTSA community relations director, and Jesse Zapata, associate vice provost for the Downtown Campus, were a common sight in the area that would soon become the UTSA Downtown Campus. It was Zapata and Mendez’s job to convince UTSA faculty, staff, students and even the downtown community that the dream of a thriving campus would soon be a tangible reality.

“Gina and I had to paint a visual portrait of the campus for the faculty and staff,” said Zapata. At times, he said, those portraits were embellished for good measure. “We did tell them that if they taught down here, they would have covered parking—although the cover was provided by the freeway overpass.”

Now, 10 years after the university began offering classes downtown, they are painting a visual of an even larger campus.

Thanks to the combined efforts of many individuals and groups, including UTSA President Ricardo Romo and North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Chairman T.J. Connolly, the City of San Antonio in April agreed to give UTSA two tracts of land adjacent to the Downtown Campus: the Cattleman Square surface parking lot located just north of campus and the Business

Technology Center (BTC) property to the west. UTSA was already using the BTC building; the School of Architecture has been renting space there since it moved downtown in 2003.

In exchange for the land, the university will transfer to the city approximately six acres next to HemisFair Park at the university’s Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC). This parcel consists of a parking lot and two buildings, including the Women’s Pavilion, built for the 1968 World’s Fair.

In a recent article in the San Antonio Business Journal, Connolly stated that the expansion would allow the landlocked Downtown Campus to grow, thereby giving access to more students.

Need for additional space became clear as enrollment grew nearly 50 percent in the last three years. When the Downtown Campus first opened its temporary location in 1994 at Cypress Tower, it served 909 students. Today more than 6,000 students call the Downtown Campus home. In addition, the campus houses all courses and faculty for the College of Public Policy and the rapidly expanding School of Architecture.

The Downtown Campus has proven to be an economic benefit to the city, providing access to higher education to a community longing for a local university. An educated populace, in turn, helps sustain the city’s economic vitality. In recognition of this, the Downtown Alliance, a group whose mission

is to protect and enhance the values and usage of downtown properties and businesses, in 2003 awarded the campus the Downtown Best Award for Best Academic and Public Service Program. The Downtown Campus also hosts a number of state, national and international academic conferences with a direct impact on the local economy.

“This is a win-win for UTSA and the city,” said Romo. “UTSA now can plan for much-needed expansion to better serve our students at the Downtown Campus and the entire San Antonio community.”

Hopes for the Cattleman Square parking lot include recreational facilities and faculty offices. Zapata said that as many as three faculty members have been forced to share a single office. At the same time, the rapidly growing student population demands a richer student life. With the additional space to build now available at Cattleman Square, Zapata looks forward to relieving much of that pressure.

“We are sorely in need of larger classroom space, faculty offices, recreational facilities, library and bookstore space ...” and the list goes on.

With the promise of expansion offered by this land exchange, Zapata and Mendez now look forward to the continued success of the Downtown Campus and are ready to paint an even richer visual portrait.

— Stephanie Mota

Opening doors ...

Newly endowed chairs, professorships expected to draw more top faculty

UTSA Executive Vice President and Provost Guy Bailey must be feeling like the NBA coach who has been told by his team's owner, "Money is no object. Just go out and recruit the very best players in the country to help us win the championship."

With what he calls a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" of having 12 new endowed faculty positions available all at once, Bailey is optimistic that UTSA can field a team of nationally and internationally renowned scholars—scholars that can help UTSA reach its goal of becoming a premier research university in the next 10 to 15 years.

"The number of endowed positions you have is really one of the distinguishing features of a research university," said the provost. "When Dr. Ricardo Romo came as president in 1998, we had only seven endowed positions. In the last five years, we've tripled that number, including 10 distinguished chairs that are funded at \$1 million each."

The significance of this growth can be seen in the ripple effect that these endowed positions create, Bailey said. A scholar who fills an endowed chair will likely bring ongoing research funding to UTSA and help secure even more research grants. This not only strengthens the university's teaching and research efforts at both the undergraduate and graduate levels but also increases its economic impact on the city and region.

Bailey says that having endowed chairs available is the difference between being able to hire "good faculty and faculty who are the best in the country."

"That's how you get prominent faculty," he noted. "And that is true not only in science and engineering but in other areas as well. To get topflight faculty today, you really need



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endowed chairs to do it."

To celebrate, university officials are planning a 35th anniversary commemoration, scheduled for July 30 at the new Main Building on the 1604 Campus, to announce a \$630 million construction plan, the hiring of 350 new faculty in the next five years, as well as the addition of the 10 new endowed chairs during the current fiscal year.

"The construction alone is a huge boon to the economy," said Bailey. "Think about the people who will build and sell 350 new homes, think about the support staff that UTSA will need to hire. If you think about all

of this together, the economic impact on San Antonio will be tremendous for both the short and long term. This will really send a signal to a lot of people that we've come of age."

The Jane and Roland B. Blumberg Professorship in Biology became the first endowed academic position at the fledgling UTSA in 1981 when the UT System Board of Regents officially accepted a \$100,000 gift from one of its own—Regent Jane Blumberg and her husband Dr. Roland B. Blumberg of Seguin, Texas. Some of the new faculty positions are made possible by gifts from such donors as the George W. Brackenridge Foundation and the Houston Endowment, with several others funded by a large estate gift UTSA received a number of years ago. The new endowed chairs are already making a difference for the university.

"We were able to hire a chemist who has an endowed chair at Georgia because of our new chairs. We were able to hire top-notch researchers from the Medical College of Ohio because of these chairs," said Bailey. "These are people who, without the endowed chairs, we really couldn't talk to."

Perhaps the most significant example is Texas state demographer Steve Murdock. Formerly the Regents Professor and chairman of the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University, Murdock came to UTSA in January as the Lutch Brown Distinguished Chair in Management Science and Statistics to establish the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research.

Bailey said that UTSA could not have hired Murdock without being able to offer him the Lutch Brown Distinguished Chair. "It's just that simple," he said. "If that doesn't show you the value of one of those chairs immediately, nothing will."

Endowed chairs and professorships recognize and foster academic excellence among the faculty and are reserved for distinguished scholars. The growing portfolio of such positions at UTSA now includes the following:

DISTINGUISHED CHAIRS

Ewing Halsell Distinguished Chair in Biology
Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature
Lutch Brown Distinguished Chair in Management Science and Statistics
Lutch Brown Distinguished Chair (six positions)
Robert F. McDermott Distinguished Chair in Engineering

CHAIRS

Elmo James Burke Jr. Chair in Management of Building/Development
Brackenridge Endowed Chair in Literature and the Humanities
Robert F. McDermott Chair in Engineering
Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Endowed Chair in Biotechnology

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

Janey and Dolph Briscoe Distinguished Professorship
USAA Foundation Distinguished Professorship
Amy Shelton and V.H. McNutt Distinguished Professorship in Geology
Brackenridge Endowed Distinguished Visiting Professorship
Robert E. Clarke Jr. Distinguished Professorship in Electrical Engineering
Loretta J. Lowak Clarke Distinguished Professorship in Health and Kinesiology

PROFESSORSHIPS

Jane and Roland Blumberg Professorship in Biology
Roland K. and Jane W. Blumberg Professorship in Bioscience
San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professorship in Honor of Mary Ann Blocker Castleberry

Note: A \$2 million initiative is under way in the College of Business to fund a distinguished chair in infrastructure assurance and security.

Studying minds and bodies

From the sponsored research files at UTSA

Ready for school?

Just because you've bought everything on the back-to-school list doesn't necessarily mean that your kids are ready to go back to school.

After four years of assessing more than 900 children in child care centers throughout San Antonio, Suzanne Winter, assistant professor of early childhood education, is finding that the city's preschoolers are coming up short in their language and literacy skills. Winter believes that one reason for this is the belief—shared by parents and teachers (whom Winter and her staff have also studied as part of their research)—that day care centers are responsible only for watching the kids and keeping them safe while mom and dad are at work.

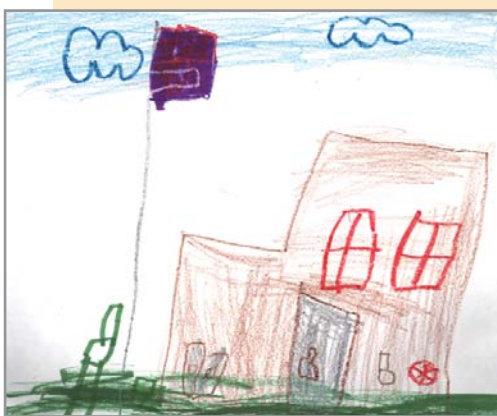
"Our child care centers need to have more intensive programming," Winter said. "We still don't realize that early childhood years are critical. It's OK to play, but play is enhanced by adult participation and stimulation."

Winter now hopes to expand upon her dataset of preliminary findings with more comparative, longitudinal studies that would go beyond the child care centers to examine other influences in the children's lives, including doing research on children who stay at home with a parent or another relative before starting kindergarten.

While Winter's research has been funded primarily by the City of San Antonio for its Kindergarten Readiness Project, she's also

received funding from other organizations, including the YWCA, San Antonio Area Foundation and BEA Foundation. "The community really now sees the university as a partner and sees the value of research in formulating programs," she said.

The research is also proving to be of value to UTSA's education students. The project allows students to gain research skills and become involved in the early education efforts of the community. Through this service learning, Winter says, more than 400 UTSA students each year gain practical experience with the assessment tools introduced in their course-



A better prosthesis

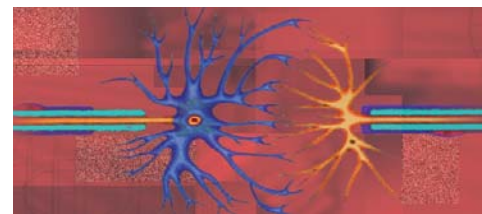
Dawnlee Roberson, research assistant professor in the College of Engineering, has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to study electrophysiology and biomechanics in diabetic amputees.

Roberson, also an adjunct associate professor of rehabilitation medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, anticipates that the study will provide new scientific guidelines for physicians in determining the most suitable prosthesis for a patient's age and lifestyle. Roberson is focusing on finding a correlation between muscle-control signals measured at the nerves and muscles and the force generated. Additionally, she seeks to develop a new area of research in gait analysis of diabetic amputees.

With the help of the Andrew J. Gitter Research Laboratory, a joint venture of the

Health Science Center Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and the South Texas Veterans Health Care Administration, Roberson is working with diabetic amputees to collect data on walking mechanics using prosthetic legs. Subjects are evaluated and given a prosthetic leg to test at home for a month, where they are instructed to follow their normal routine. After additional tests and data collection, they are fitted with another prosthesis and a repeat of the monthlong home test.

"I would like to see better design, so that when the prostheses are produced and marketed they would have to meet certain durability and pressure standards," said Roberson. "A 30-year-old active male amputee is going to need a different prosthetic than a 75-year-old man who only ambulates around the house."

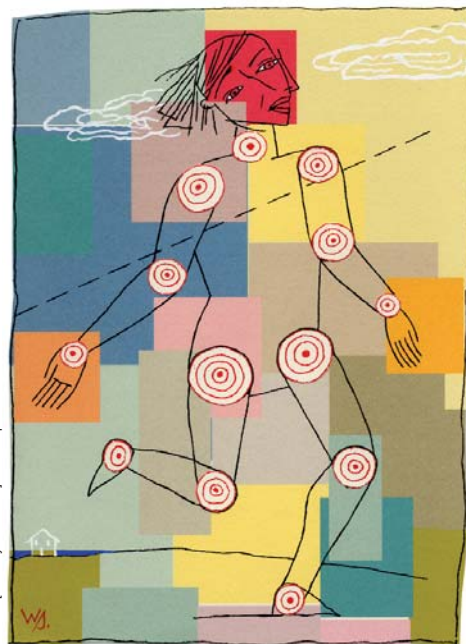


How the brain works

Charles J. Wilson, a Department of Biology faculty researcher, was named a Javits Investigator by the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. These are seven-year research grants awarded to scientists who have demonstrated exceptional scientific excellence and productivity. Wilson is investigating the neurological underpinnings of Parkinson's disease and other similar disorders.

Wilson is interested in computational neuroscience—using computer science concepts and techniques to understand how the brain works. Breakthroughs in computer science have allowed complex models of the brain to be developed that are of use to biologists. Wilson's research group uses mathematical models and computer simulations to bridge the gap between biophysical information and the cellular properties that play a key role in these diseases.

"We would like to see the differences in normal and abnormal activity so we could try to target therapies and develop pharmaceuticals to assist patients," he said.



An Interview with Rosalie Ambrosino

Students have been the sole focus of Rosalie Ambrosino's career in education as a faculty member, as an adviser and in her current role as vice president of student affairs at UTSA. During her three years as a vice president, she has seen enrollment grow by the thousands. The surge in the student population has brought changes to a university once seen as a commuter school. Ambrosino says that UTSA can meet the needs of both commuting and out-of-town students by creating programs to enhance student life. With the opening of Chaparral Village, a new residence complex, in fall 2004 and the passage of the Campus Life Initiative (see story, page 6), which will provide more funding for student programs such as athletics and recreation, campus life is already changing in response to student needs.

How is student life changing at UTSA?

I think traditionally UTSA has been seen as more of a commuter school with older students. We still have many commuters and an increasing number of graduate students, but we also have far more first-time freshmen living on campus than ever before. Those first-time freshmen are pushing hard to have a kind of campus environment with sports events, music events, cultural events, more opportunities for study groups—just more programming on campus. We don't want to lose the students who are commuters, but we also want to have the kind of programming that students living on campus want.

How is the passing of the Campus Life Initiative going to enhance student life?

I think it's going to make a big difference on campus. First of all, right now our focal point of campus life is the Recreation and Wellness Center, but that was really too small when it opened. There are periods during the days and evenings that we can't admit students because of fire code reasons. With the additional funds, there will be a 131,000-square-foot expansion of the rec center. The plan is to expand—adding more racquetball and basketball courts, an indoor track and a swimming pool. That will add a lot more opportunities for students. We'll also add more outdoor fields. Right now we have only one intramural field.

Why is the increase in athletic fees important for students?

The athletic fee increase will do two things—enhance opportunities for student athletes and enhance opportunities for spectators. So we will be redesigning some of our current facilities, such as building a new track and soccer stadium ... I mean, right now our softball field doesn't have any restrooms. It's just going to enhance the quality of the facilities that we have now.

How does the Recreation and Wellness Center enhance student life?

The rec center has become a real hangout, so there are a lot of relationships that are building and students are getting to know each other.



Anytime you have more opportunities for students to come together for inclusion you have more opportunities for what universities are really all about.

How will the Downtown Campus benefit from the passage of the Campus Life Initiative? Will it see more recreation opportunities?

We are adding a full-time person to do more programming for campus recreation at the Downtown Campus now. The addition of the Business and Technology Center Building (see story, page 8) may provide space for some kind of recreation facility. We're pushing for space there. In the meantime, we'll do a lot more programming that can be done in the Durango Building. We'll do more types of things you can do in a smaller space—stress-reducing activities, pingpong and cooking classes. Will the increased opportunities that arise from the additional fees help UTSA compete with other universities?

Absolutely. Students look at what kind of amenities universities have. Students are obviously interested in academics and degree programs, but part of making a decision about where you want to go is what kind of campus life a university can offer. Campus life is what you see when you visit. I think the more

student life we can offer, the more holistic a college experience we're able to provide. That does make us more competitive.

How will the addition of Chaparral

Village—which is increasing the number of students living on campus to 3,000—

influence other aspects of campus life? We are changing our dining opportunities on campus. We're expanding the hours of dining on the weekends. We're going to be extending the hours of the library. There are going to be new resident assistants who will be doing more residence life programming. So there will be more things going on in the evenings and on weekends for students who are living on campus ... It's giving us a good chance to step back and see what we're doing well and what do we need to do differently.

Will UTSA be adding student housing at the Downtown Campus?

Right now, the dean of architecture is doing a survey of students downtown to ask what kind of housing preferences they have. We also are looking at working with a private housing company that would make housing available

to our students. There are all kinds of options that we're discussing right now.

How do you envision student life at UTSA in 10 years?

I think we're on the cusp of having a vibrant UTSA community with all kinds of student life. I think 10 years from now we'll have a lot more students living on campus. I'm hoping that the face of the campus will be completely changed. There will be a lot more diversity in terms of the kinds of things that are available. There will be something here for everyone [commuters and students living on campus]. I think probably we'll have a campus with a lot of positive energy and lots of choice. Why do you like your job?

I have the best job at UTSA, no question about it. Students give you energy. They keep you challenged. You can have ideas, but it's their dreams and their visions. To me, that's what makes it exciting.

The Home Run Hitters

By Kyle Stephens

Softballs have been soaring out of Roadrunner Field for years, but 2004 saw them fly at a record pace.



The Roadrunners combined for 101 home runs this season, the second-best home run season in NCAA history. UTSA's power hitters included, from left, Krystal Gibson, Aimee Murray, Amanda Horton, Jessica Rogers and Christy Brownlee.

The UTSA softball team enjoyed one of its best seasons in the program's 13-year history this spring with one of the top offensive line-ups in NCAA history. Until the arrival of head coach Corrie Hill prior to the 1999 season, the Roadrunners were more of a pitching- and defense-oriented program, but much has changed since.

"My first year here, the team single-season home run record [had been] nine," Hill said before the 2004 season. "We hit 10 during our first weekend. We ended up hitting 53 that year, and I never thought that would be broken. Well, we hit 64 in 2000 and then I thought that'd never be matched. In 2003, we hit 80 and that led the nation. Who knows what can happen this year or in the future?"

Forty-one games into this season, UTSA had blown past the 80 mark and finished the 54-game season with a school and Southland Conference (SLC) record 101 long balls.

"We don't try to re-invent the wheel when

it comes to hitting," said Hill, who needs just three more victories to become UTSA's all-time winningest softball coach. "Honestly, we don't try to hit home runs. We just try to hit the ball as hard as we can. We don't care whether we hit a line drive, a ground ball through the infield, a gapper to the outfield or one that ends up over the fence as long as we make the hardest possible contact every time."

Hill's approach has worked for senior Christy Brownlee, who led the team and ranked second in the NCAA in home runs this season.

"Our coaches have a different philosophy on hitting, and obviously it's working," Brownlee said. "They want us to use more of a baseball swing instead of slapping at the ball. They teach us to follow a five-step approach—step, slide, hands, push and follow-through—and it produces results. It's comforting to know you can change a game with one swing of the bat."

UTSA's record watch started with a unique home doubleheader against Texas Southern on April 1. In game one, the Roadrunners slugged eight home runs, tying the NCAA single-game record. Motivated to break the record in the second game, they instead hit another eight home runs, tying the elusive record twice in the same day. Following the game several media outlets asked for confirmation that the strange feat wasn't an April Fool's joke.

One week later, UTSA met the Lady Tigers again in Houston. This time the Roadrunners met the challenge, using a five-home-run fifth inning to break the record with 10 in the 26-1 victory.

"Hitting is contagious, and that's very true for our team," Brownlee said. "Once one or two people get a hit, the whole lineup breaks out the sticks. It's fun to be a part of that because you know a lot of the time there's nothing the other team can do to stop it."

Sports Briefs

FINAL FOUR GENERATES MILLIONS FOR S.A.

The 2004 Men's Final Four gave a \$55 million boost to San Antonio's economy, according to an independent study commissioned by the 2004 NCAA Final Four San Antonio Local Organizing Committee and the NCAA.

The 2004 Men's Final Four attracted more than 51,000 visitors, who spent an average of \$229 per day in San Antonio's restaurants, retail stores and other businesses and stayed an average of four nights in local hotels, according to the study. The event was held April 3-5 in the Alamodome, with UTSA serving as the host institution.

UTSA TO ADD WOMEN'S GOLF, SOCCER

UTSA students voted in April to pass a student-driven campus life initiative that will fund improvements to campus recreation, student services and athletics (see story, page 6).

With the passing of the initiative, the athletics department will immediately start planning for the addition of women's golf and women's soccer with the goal of an inaugural 2005-06 season. The initiative will help fund a track/soccer stadium, as well as baseball and softball stadiums on campus. The department also hopes to begin renovations to the Convocation Center, where both basketball teams and the volleyball team compete.

CHEERLEADERS MAKE MARK AT NCA

In only their second year of competing at the national level, the UTSA cheerleaders finished in fifth place at the National Cheerleaders Association's Chick-fil-A National Competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. The rise to fifth place in the 19-team event came one season after the UTSA squad placed 12th.

The squad, led by coach Melissa Rodriguez, consisted of Vanessa Benavidez, Reyes Blanco, Tamika Brown, Alyse Carrillo, Jessica Chavez, Carlos Cortes, Gloria De La Garza, Tasha Eggleston, Kristy Garza, Kalani Hargrove, Jasmine Hasty, Lacy Lehrer, Andrea Mancillas, Monique Martinez, Max Parra, Steven Parra, Jackie Smith, Cari Ramsour, Angie Read, Jeannette Vasquez, Sandy Villarreal, Brenda Whitaker and manager Katrina Ware.

MEZEI WRAPS UP UTSA CAREER

UTSA senior golfer Mike Mezei ended his final collegiate season with a tie for 91st place at the NCAA Central Regional hosted by Purdue University in late May.

Mezei, a first-team All-Southland Conference and SLC All-Academic team selection, fired rounds of 83, 74 and 80 for a 54-hole total of 21-over-par 237 for 91st in the field of 141 players.

TRACKSTER GETTING NATIONAL ATTENTION

Sophomore Ryanne Dupree is emerging as one of the top young athletes in collegiate track and field. The San Antonio native won the Southland Conference (SLC) Indoor pentathlon and has garnered top honors in the heptathlon at two of the more prestigious outdoor meets this year, posting a personal-best 5,383 points to win the Texas Relays and 5,087 to claim top honors at the Drake Relays.

Dupree also qualified to compete in the heptathlon at the national meet along with male heptathlete Justin Youngblood and hurdler Carl Johnson.

SLC HONORS TWO ROADRUNNERS

Meghan Chance and Jessica Rogers have been selected as 2004 Southland Conference Indoor Track and Field and Softball Student-Athletes of the Year, respectively. The awards are presented to the top student-athlete in each conference-sponsored sport.

Chance, a sophomore distance runner, helped UTSA's distance-medley relay team place first at the SLC indoor championship. She carries a 4.0 grade point average in education and is a Golden Key Honor Society member.

Rogers led the Roadrunners with a .379 batting average. An all-America candidate as well as first-team All-SLC and All-South Region honoree, Rogers boasts a 3.84 grade point average in kinesiology.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

Go to www.goutsa.com for the latest Roadrunner sports information, including feature stories, stats and schedules.

— *Compiled by Rick Nixon*

In that game, UTSA also tied the NCAA single-game record for total bases with 64, thanks to an SLC-record 28 hits (10 home runs, four doubles and one triple).

It was only April 8, and the team already had tied its previous school and league home run records. Meanwhile, the Roadrunners were in the middle of a wild conference race, picking up wins in 22 of their last 23 contests to claim the first SLC softball title in school history. UTSA then rolled through the three-day conference tournament with a perfect 4-0 record to add another trophy to the season's list of accomplishments.

UTSA earned the No. 7 seed in the Waco Regional, marking their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. After an 18-day lay-off between the SLC Tournament and the first-round meeting on May 20 with No. 2-seed Illinois, the Roadrunners' once-hot bats could not find any holes in a 3-0 loss to the Fighting Illini. Facing elimination in a matchup with sixth-seeded North Carolina later that evening, UTSA fell 4-0.

It was a quick ending to a remarkable season for the Roadrunners. In all, UTSA hit homers in 39 of 54 games, tallying 101 home runs for the year, which ranks as the second-best home run season in NCAA history behind perennial power Arizona's 126 in 2001. However, UTSA's 1.87 home runs per game average eclipsed the 1.83 average that Arizona registered in 2001 in 69 games.

UTSA also broke school records for batting average (.312), runs (329), runs batted in (310), total bases (843), slugging percentage (.582) and on-base percentage (.382).

Brownlee assaulted the record books in her final season, setting career marks in runs (154), home runs (55), extra-base hits (92), runs batted in (136), at-bats (721) and walks (89). Her UTSA and SLC record 22 long balls this season and her 55 career home runs both rank in the top 15 on the all-time NCAA charts. Also in double figures in homers were Jessica Rogers (17), Krystal Gibson (16), Amanda Horton (13) and Aimee Murray (11).

The outlook is bright for UTSA softball, as the team loses only Brownlee and fellow senior Tammy Nelson. The graduating duo will be difficult to replace, but the Roadrunners appear to have a full head of steam for the future.



By Kris
Rodriguez

Making a Splash

The name Mitchell Lake, for many native San Antonians, triggers childhood memories of rushing to roll up the car windows as an offensive odor permeates the air.

For almost three decades, the 600-acre body of water near Pleasanton Road and Loop 410 South served as a dumping ground for raw sewage for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). When the Rilling Road treatment site came on line in 1931, a cleaner wastewater treatment process was introduced to the area. Although the wastewater discharge continued, the odor diminished considerably, and the lake's contents served as a source of nutrients for migratory birds, including pelicans, egrets and roseate spoonbills. Mitchell Lake began to earn notice as a great birding spot, and in 1973, the City of San Antonio designated the lake as part of a 1,300-acre wildlife refuge.

Now efforts are under way by SAWS, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (MLAC) and the UTSA Center for Water Research (CWR) to make the lake more attractive to birding enthusiasts and to provide a safe educational and recreational resource for Southside families. But improving Mitchell Lake is not the only CWR project. From creating new wells in Honduras to tracking down arsenic contamination across the United States, the CWR is making significant contributions to water resource management around the world. An important component of the larger Institute for Research in Water and Environmental Resources, the Center for Water Research is providing new and exciting opportunities for UTSA's students and faculty alike.





UTSA Leads the Way in Water Research

Testing the Waters

One of those taking advantage of these opportunities is researcher John Branom. A graduate student and former Coast Guard rescue swimmer who spent most of his childhood in and on the water, Branom now is one of the UTSA students assessing the water quality of Mitchell Lake by studying the baseline nutrient and heavy metal composition of the water and of sludge-affected sediment samples.

Branom was planning a career as a marine biologist but changed his mind after learning about UTSA's graduate environmental science program.

"I figure if you're going to protect wildlife, you need to start with its habitat," he says.

The Mitchell Lake project has become such a focus of Branom's attention that he's basing his thesis on the nutrient assessment of sediments of a sludge disposal lake. Sludge disposal lake floors consist of muddy, solid deposits that formed as a result of water and sewage treatment processes.

Branom first learned about the Mitchell Lake project from CWR graduate student supervisor Dibyendu Sarkar in 2001. Sarkar, who is a faculty member in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science was intrigued with the lake's history and SAWS' proposed improvement plans.

"There are not very many sludge disposal lagoons in the limestone country of Texas, so it's a unique ecosystem at this point," Sarkar says. "From a scientist's point of view, it's a gold mine [for research], but we have to generate good results to present to the scientific community and sell the idea to the regulators. We're associating ourselves with the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center to try and generate some local funding. After we show the impact it will have on Southside residents, then we can go after state and national funding to conduct a more in-depth study."

Sarkar thought Mitchell Lake would make a great research project, so he contacted SAWS for permission to conduct an independent study. To fund

the project, he used \$5,000 from a UTSA faculty research award.

In October 2001, Branom began collecting water samples to study the phosphorus content of the emerald-green water, along with other key water quality parameters. High levels of phosphorus help algal blooms flourish, which can produce side effects that are toxic to some species of wildlife.

Mitchell Lake is considered to be highly eutrophic, meaning that the increase in mineral and organic nutrients has reduced the dissolved oxygen, producing an environment that favors plant over animal life. As the oxygen level decreases, it is difficult for other aquatic life to survive in the lake's ecosystem.

"A eutrophic lake tends to start with trophic state index (TSI) values at around 50, but the average TSI value of this lake is in the 90s based on total phosphorus content, double what you see at Braunig or Calaveras lakes," Branom says.

While Braunig and Calaveras lakes are considered popular fishing sites for San Antonians, future plans for Mitchell Lake steer away from recreational fishing, instead featuring nature tours, hiking trails and educational children's programs. Mitchell Lake has been closed to the general public since 1987, but exceptions are made for tour groups to observe the more than 300 species of birds that visit annually. Today, the only water replenishing the lake comes from the nearby SAWS Leon Creek Recycling Facility, which distributes water for irrigation and non-drinking purposes.

In January 2004, management of the lake was turned over from SAWS to MLAC, a reporting chapter of the National Audubon Society. "Over the next year we will be developing a management plan that will help guide all habitat and wetland restoration projects," says Illiana Pena, MLAC director. "Developing the plan will be easier thanks to the basic chemistry data of Dr. Dibyendu Sarkar and the UTSA Center for Water Research."

Doing Well by Doing Good

Located on the first floor of the Science Building, the Center for Water Research was founded in 1986 through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and has been led by Associate Professor Weldon Hammond, who holds the Amy Shelton and V.H. McNutt Distinguished Professorship in Geology. Hammond has witnessed UTSA's growth and sees the university's new doctoral degree program in environmental science and engineering, which was approved last summer, as evidence of its maturity.

"We live in an area that has limited water resources, and we have to make the best use of the water available so we can continue the economic growth for the well being of our citizens," Hammond says. "We have to make sure that we have an adequate supply of good quality water for future demands, and our students can play a tremendous role in that. Even without the Ph.D. program, we have a number of our students working in critical roles in various regional agencies in the business of supplying water for our region."

One of those students, Louis Manz, went to high school with Hammond and shares his military background. Manz enrolled at UTSA and received a master's degree in civil engineering in 2001. He is one of 14 doctoral students enrolled in the environmental science and engineering program.

As a student, Manz became involved in a humanitarian effort to help provide clean water for 200 residents of the El Paraiso district of Honduras. On Manz' first trip, he found Hondurans using wells containing high concentrations of E. coli bacteria. According to a 2003 United Nations report, contaminated water claims 6,000 lives a day, including 3,800 children under the age of 5. Understanding the severity of the problem, Manz called upon Hammond's expertise in hydrogeology to assist with the project.

"It's always great to help your fellow man, and I think it's all the more meaningful to help people with very limited resources," says Hammond. "This is not a rich research grant. It's just something we did on our own, and I think we're helping to make a difference."

The relief effort was sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, and over the last three years, the UTSA Center for Water Research and the Houston-based Living Water International have helped locate sufficient water sources to drill six new wells, with plans to drill 25 more. In addition to the drilling instruction the local men received, Honduran women received training as hygiene instructors to help their families.

"We've been very pleased with the way the people are buying into the program," says Manz. "Even though they have jobs, the men give their own time to come and work with us to help not only their village but also their neighbors."

The project has been such a success that other Hondurans are requesting assistance to drill water wells in their communities.

"With the increased demands, we're changing our organization and structure so we can approach large groups and foundations to help pay for the drilling wells and other equipment," Manz says.

Hammond says discussions are also under way with the University of Honduras to draw up a memorandum of understanding with UTSA. "It's a marvelous opportunity in the sense that faculty and students from both universities can participate in water research in San Antonio or in Honduras."

Toxins in the Soil

Another high profile project of the Center for Water Research involves a \$392,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to study arsenic exposure. The project, also under the leadership of Dibyendu Sarkar, seeks to design a plan to clean up arsenic from Superfund sites. A Superfund site is land that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and has been identi-



fied by the EPA as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health or the environment.

"From 1900 to 1980 farmers used arsenical pesticides to keep insects from destroying their crops," says Sarkar. "Now as suburbia encroaches on what had been agricultural land, people are building homes and finding their children are getting exposed to arsenic in their own back yards."

Sarkar says arsenic exposure has become an epidemic in Bangladesh and India, and for the last 10 years it has topped the CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act) Priority List of Hazardous Substances of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to his teaching role at UTSA, Sarkar also directs the Department of Earth and Environmental Science's Environmental Geochemistry Laboratory (EGL). Sarkar created the EGL when he came to UTSA in 2000 from the University of Florida, where his research helped change public policy on wastewater and sewage sludge issues.

Sarkar, research assistant professor Rupali Datta, and three doctoral and post-doctoral students have been collecting soil samples from different parts of the United States and applying arsenic to observe the reactivity in the various soils.

Datta, who specializes in plant genetics, was recruited by Sarkar to complement his environmental chemistry background and assist him in writing his proposal for EPA funding. The other staff members assisting on the project are Saurabh Sharma, a post-doctoral trainee from The University of Illinois; Chacharee Therapong, a doctoral student from Thailand; and Shahida Quazi, who received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Calcutta in India.

In addition to the doctoral students, Sarkar also has six master's students working on related projects in soil and water toxins and another post-doctoral student from Japan will arrive this summer.



“We live in an area that has limited water resources, and we have to make the best use of the water available so we can continue the economic growth for the well being of our citizens. We have to make sure that we have an adequate supply of good quality water for future demands, and our students can play a tremendous role in that. Even without the Ph.D. program, we have a number of our students working in critical roles in various regional agencies in the business of supplying water for our region.”

Bridges to the Future

Committed to studying environmental issues in the Southwestern United States, Mexico, and Central and Latin America, UTSA's Center for Water Research is just one component of the larger Institute for Research in Water and Environmental Resources. The institute houses the doctoral program in environmental science and engineering.

As an academic structure, the institute bridges the two colleges and allows faculty to collaborate and plan course offerings. The doctoral program has expanded to include a number of disciplines including civil engineering, geology, geochemistry, ecology, environmental science and geographic information systems.

One of the many faculty members benefiting from the new institute is Enos Inniss, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering specializing in wastewater engineering, water quality treatment and processing. “Having the institute in place facilitates collaboration between environmental scientists, geologists, environmental and civil engineers and other parts of the program,” Inniss explains.

Typically, engineering students are asked to take coursework that involves scientific principles and to get some perspective from science faculty on their projects.

“There has to be some understanding of science, but the engineers are going to approach the problem from the standpoint of ‘how can I create a system that is sustainable or what are the better treatment options?’” says Inniss.

Before the institute was established, Inniss says, discussions were under way to work on projects with SAWS and the Guadalupe/Blanco River Authority. He expects that dialogue to continue and more research projects to come about now that the institute is able to provide expertise in addressing multifaceted environmental problems.

Inniss adds that federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency and National Institutes of Health are publicizing requests for proposals on projects that support

collaborative research, and are encouraging smaller institutions to work with larger institutions. He envisions more collaborations with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, similar to the joint doctoral degree program in biomedical engineering announced last year.

“If you want to tackle a complex environmental problem, you probably need to look at it from a number of perspectives, an economic point of view, a hydrogeology point of view and an engineering point of view,” says Joseph Stafford, vice provost for research and graduate studies. “So having the institute is like having a general contractor that can draw from all the specialists in the academic disciplines to solve a very complex problem.”

According to Stafford, most research universities have a number of institutes or centers that cross disciplines, and that benefits not only the faculty, but the students as well.

“If you’re really training an environmental scientist, you are having to train somebody who has a fair amount of depth in a number of areas. Even though they may specialize in one or two areas, they have enough familiarity with the other areas to know how to bring them together.”

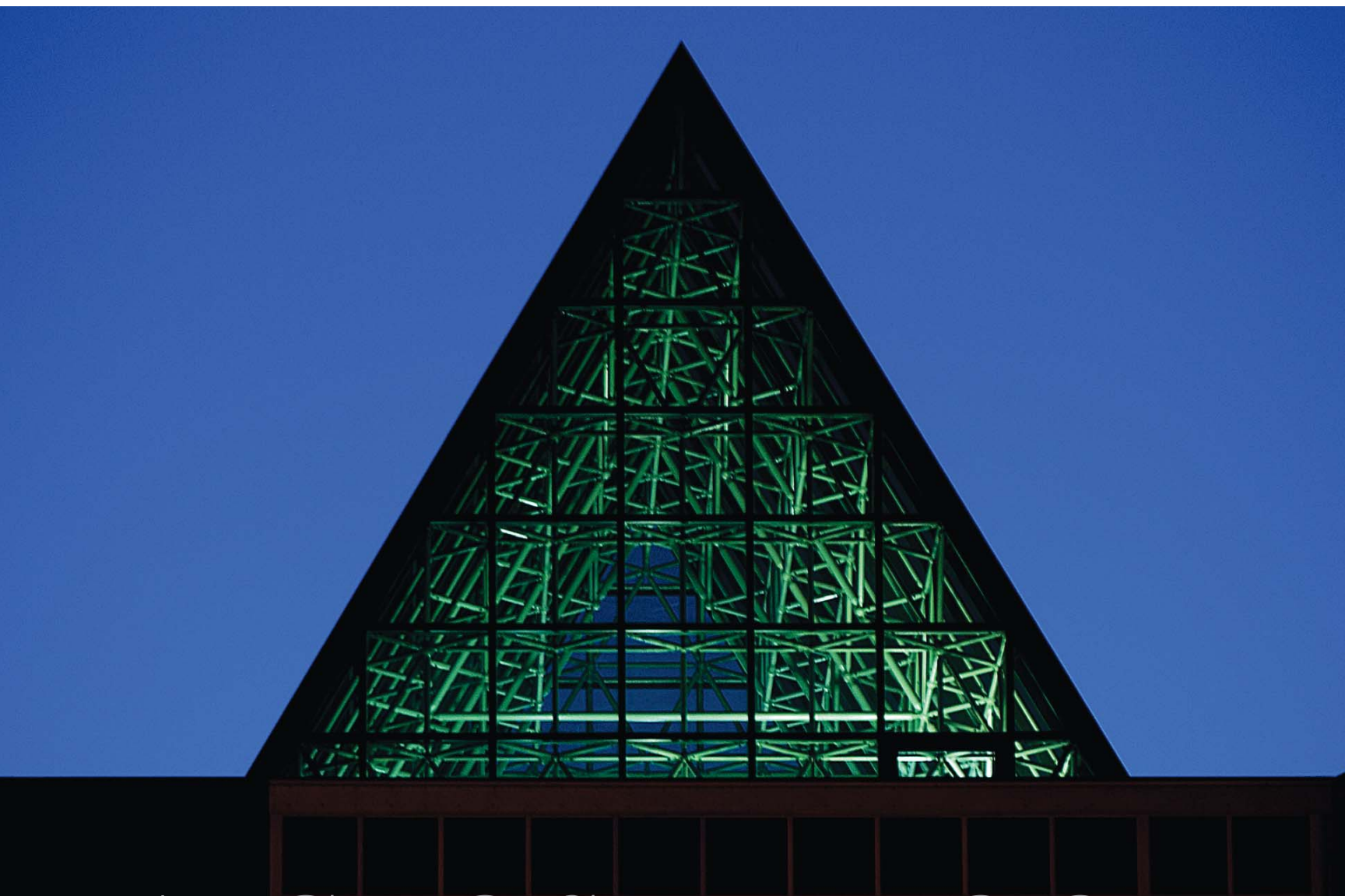
With the Institute for Research in Water and Environmental Resources, the Center for Water Research and the new doctoral degree program in environmental science and engineering, Stafford feels that UTSA is taking strides toward becoming the place to go in the Southwest for research on environmental issues, where water is one of the biggest concerns.

“The local area is just a great laboratory and environment within which

Above left: Water sprays into the air as the first of three new drinkable-water wells is completed. **Above right:** Hondurans from the El Paraiso district gather to celebrate the completion of a well that will serve the cooking, cleaning and bathing needs of 200 residents.

Preceding pages, top: American White Pelicans are among the 300 species of birds that migrate annually to the Mitchell Lake Wildlife Refuge. **Preceding pages, bottom:** UTSA graduate student John Branom collects a water sample from the lake.

In 35 years, UTSA memories have been made in classrooms, on sports fields, under shade trees and even in a hidden nook underneath a staircase. Here, UTSA photographers and alumni share their images.



A CLOSER LOOK

Photos by PATRICK RAY DUNN
and MARK MCCLENDON

Go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla to see more campus photos
and read bios of the alumni contributors.

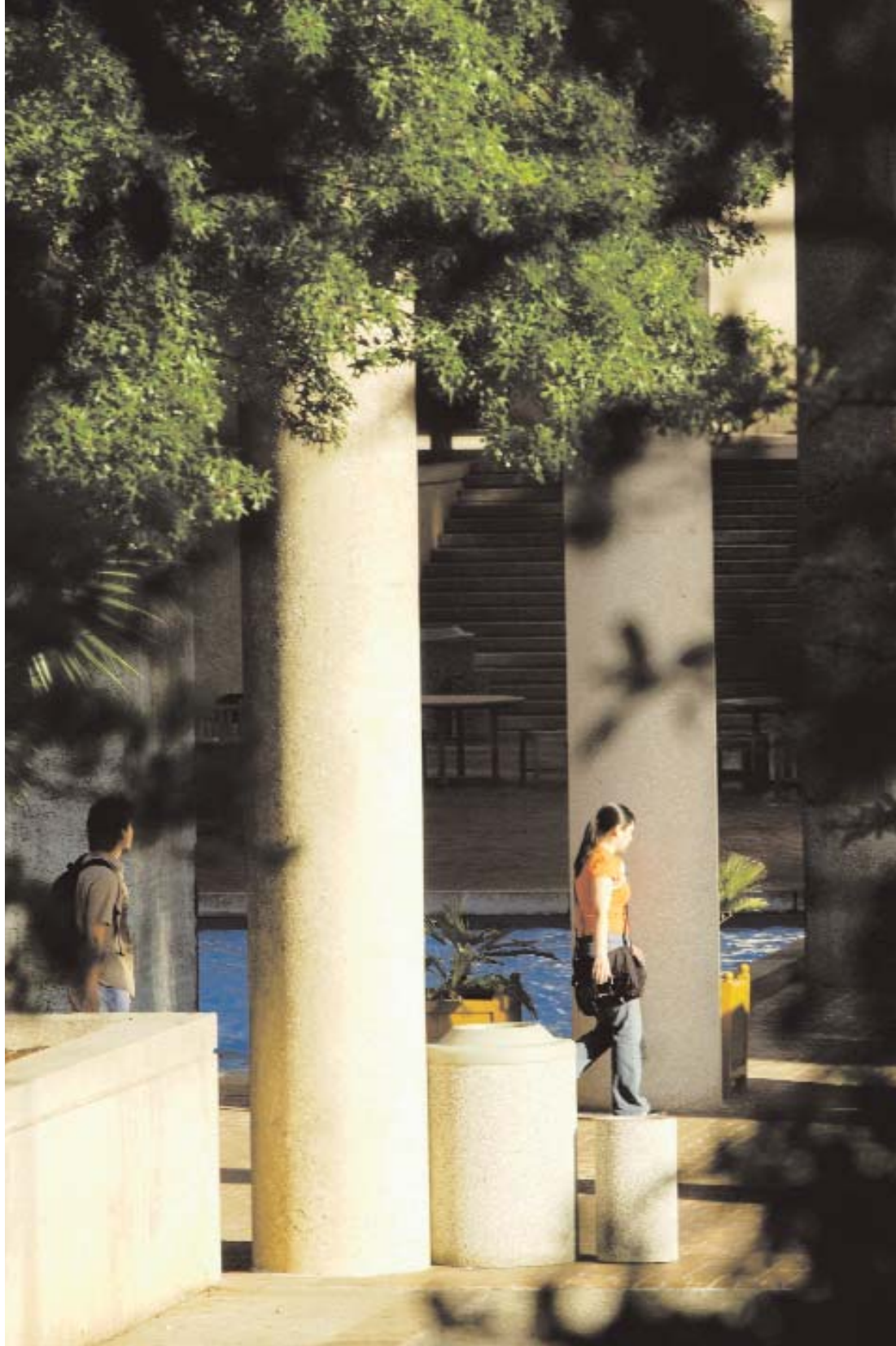
FINDING FRIENDSHIPS

An older woman once told me I'd make some of the best friends of my life during college. She was right; I did. Some of those friendships sprouted in often-overlooked spaces of the UTSA 1604 Campus.

One friend and I planned my 21st birthday trip to Las Vegas sitting in a nook of the outdoor circular staircase that leads to the second floor of the University Center. Now we're planning a different event—her wedding, and I'll be her bridesmaid. Another friend and I met at a table outside the HSS. Now we frequently meet at restaurant tables to catch up with each other. I made friends while talking with classmates in garden-like outdoor settings scattered across campus. We picnicked at Stonehenge, napped on colorful sofas, played pool in the game room and chatted while sitting under trees on warm, sunny days.

For me, these were the places friendships were made. They were the quiet, peaceful spaces to take breaks on hectic days. These were the spots where we determined our futures and helped each other through troubled times. UTSA may not be the picture of a college some would think of, but looking back on my college life, it's a picture I'll always remember fondly.

— Meena Thiruvengadam







A RAMP FOR ONE AND ALL

Two months before my big day I received a call from the professor organizing graduation ceremonies for students with disabilities.

“You won’t be allowed to be lifted onto the stage like last time,” said the professor. I was crestfallen. When I participated in graduation ceremonies in 1989, the same professor had told me that President Richard Wagener would step down from the Convocation Center stage and hand me my diploma because there was no ramp for wheelchairs.

I refused the offer. Instead I had two friends lift my wheelchair onto the stage. As I pushed myself across the stage, I could hear the roar of approval from the audience. I shook Wagener’s hand and greedily accepted my diploma, and then the same two friends lowered me to the floor.

Now it was 1991, and I was set to graduate with my master’s degree in public administration. And I still wanted to “walk” across the stage with my fellow students. The professors in the M.P.A. program, who told me not to worry, informed the graduation organizers that they had been right about one thing: disabled students would no longer be lifted up to the stage, nor would they be restricted to the floor. The American with Disabilities Act had ushered in a new era, at UTSA and throughout the country. Within two weeks UTSA carpenters had built two ramps on both sides of the graduation stage. Now students using wheelchairs could roll up and off the stage as easily as able-bodied students could walk up and down.

As I waited for my name to be called, I heard several women say how nice the ramps were—no more worries about tripping in their high heels. The new ramps may have been built to give people with disabilities equal access, but it was nice to know the improvements made graduation a better experience for the entire student body—or at least the half that wear high heels.

—William C. Hoover ’89, ’91



RECOLLECTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

The UTSA campus was much smaller when I attended the university in the 1970s. There were only a few buildings, and often the rooms inside them weren't completely finished.

One of those buildings was the library, which soon became my second home. I always enjoyed stopping at the display cases in the entrance to see what was currently on view. It never failed to be something interesting and informative.

Past the display cases, down the hall and to the left was a room that had several typewriters. I spent a great deal of time there typing notes and papers. I can imagine that this room now contains computers rather than typewriters.

A right turn past the display cases took me to the room that contained, among other things, research material. If I had to choose an absolute favorite spot, this would be it. Past the shelves and desks was an area that overlooked the campus. It was furnished with a couch and a few comfortable chairs. I spent many hours sitting there studying, reading, or just looking out the window watching the passing parade. It was a place tailor-made for daydreaming.

I feel very fortunate to have attended UTSA. I remember the years I spent there with nostalgia and a touch of melancholy.

— Billie Houston '76

DO YOU KNOW WHERE ROOM 4.03.26 IS?

The dream goes like this (and I'm told that lots of people have this dream): It's the end of the semester and I suddenly realize that there is a class I have not been to all semester. It's the day of the final exam and I have not read a thing, have not taken a test, have not turned in a paper. Panic, panic, panic.

My particular dream has its own twist: I haven't been to class because I can't find the classroom. I've wandered the halls all semester looking for room 4.03.26. I've been up and down the hallways, through one glass door after another, peeked into lecture halls and lab rooms. The people stop and stare.

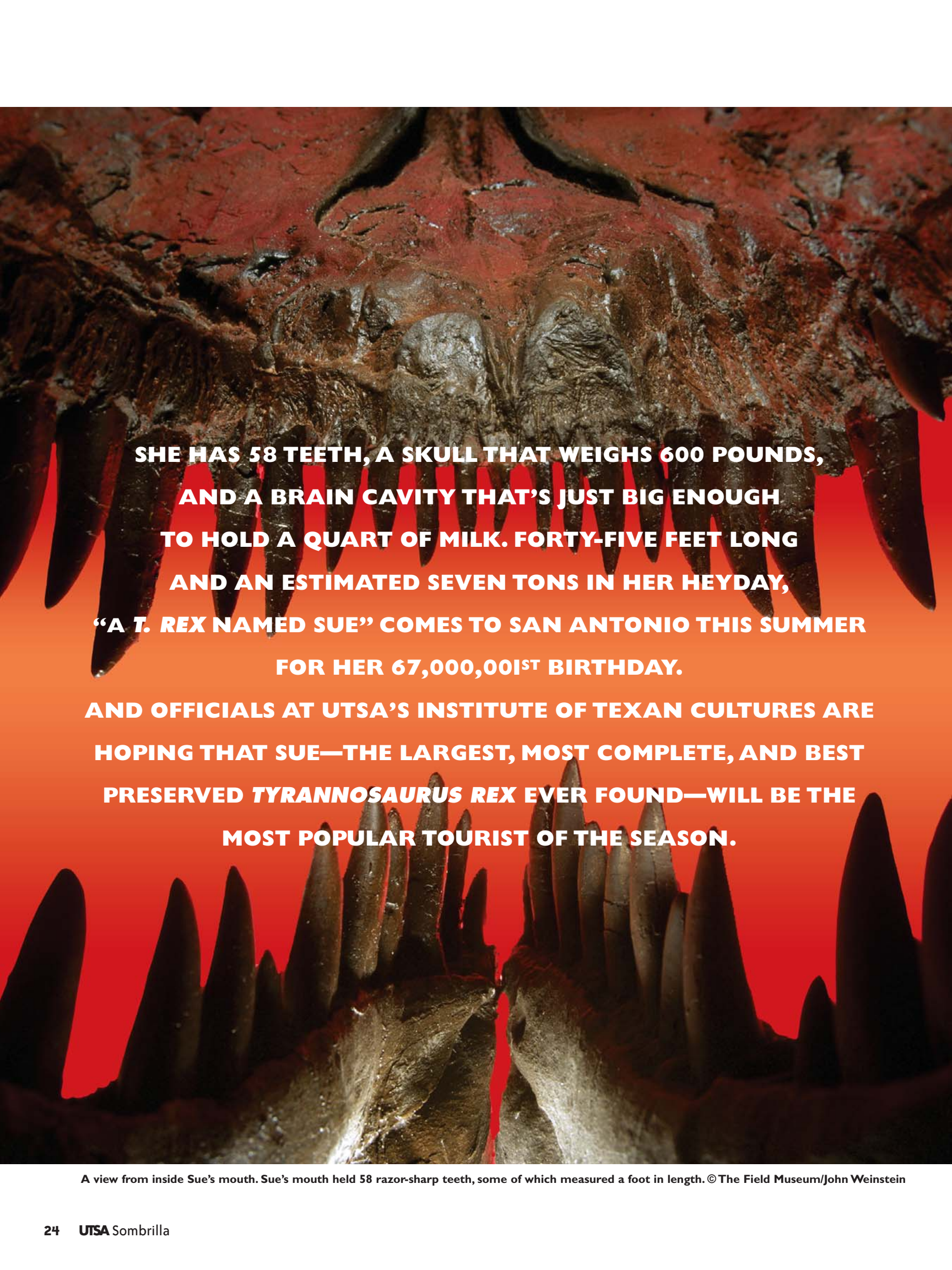
Once I found room 4.02.26 and joyously raced to the next hallway—surely 4.03 is next to 4.02. Wrong. Doom and despair. And I have found room 4.03.25 and 4.03.27. Why, why, why, I cry, isn't 4.03.26 here, where it should be, in between them?

When I was a student at UTSA, we heard stories that the room numbering system was designed by engineers. In other versions it was the architects who were to blame. Personally, I believe it was created by the same person who alphabetized the San Antonio phone book. (You try finding H-E-B in the business pages. Hint: It's not between Heavyweight Gym and Heck, Heidi, M.D.)

I eventually did graduate from UTSA, so the dream comes less frequently these days. But sometimes, just sometimes, I'm afraid to close my eyes at night.

— Marjorie George '84





**SHE HAS 58 TEETH, A SKULL THAT WEIGHS 600 POUNDS,
AND A BRAIN CAVITY THAT'S JUST BIG ENOUGH
TO HOLD A QUART OF MILK. FORTY-FIVE FEET LONG
AND AN ESTIMATED SEVEN TONS IN HER HEYDAY,
“A *T. REX* NAMED SUE” COMES TO SAN ANTONIO THIS SUMMER
FOR HER 67,000,001ST BIRTHDAY.
AND OFFICIALS AT UTSA'S INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES ARE
HOPING THAT SUE—THE LARGEST, MOST COMPLETE, AND BEST
PRESERVED *TYRANNOSAURUS REX* EVER FOUND—WILL BE THE
MOST POPULAR TOURIST OF THE SEASON.**

A view from inside Sue's mouth. Sue's mouth held 58 razor-sharp teeth, some of which measured a foot in length. ©The Field Museum/John Weinstein

THE BIGGEST TOURIST

When Sue arrives at ITC, she'll roll in on three 18-wheeler trucks, with her (approximately) 200 cast bones packed in massive crates. She'll be accompanied by an instruction manual and a crew to reassemble her. Sue is an excellent traveler. Now in her fourth year of touring, she is one of two identical state-of-the-art traveling exhibitions on loan from the Field Museum in Chicago and made possible through the generosity of McDonald's® Corporation.

"A T. Rex Named Sue," which runs Aug. 15–Nov. 7, was developed to tell the story of her discovery in South Dakota in 1990 by fossil hunter Sue Hendrickson, as well as to share insights into paleontological research. Although no one knows for sure whether the T. rex on view is male or female, the name Sue has stuck. She's significant because the fossil is about 90 percent complete and unusually well preserved. The excellent condition of her skeleton made it possible to create two skeletal replicas, a process accomplished by coating Sue's bones with silicone rubber, then filling the resulting mold with a liquid plastic containing fiberglass.

Sue is the star attraction, but the ITC exhibit also includes auxiliary displays. "The exhibit features a number of exciting educational and interactive tools for children," says Bonny Johnston, ITC's interim director for programs. But it's not all for kids. Johnston says that adults also will be fascinated by Sue, and by the other visual and educational components.

The exhibit begins with Dino-Maze, a walk-through maze in which visitors can test their dinosaur knowledge and emerge as "Geniusauruses."

Visitors will come face to face with animatronic "Dinosaurs in Motion," an exhibit that includes a roaring and growling T. rex adult, an Ankylosaurus, a Parasaurolophus, a Dilophosaurus and two interactive baby dinosaurs. A third exhibit, "Bone Zone," is a discovery and learning center designed for kids. There's also a rubbing station, an audio center and a reading center where kids can lounge on beanbag "dino eggs." "The many components of this exhibit are so rich they will offer families a little slice of fun for everyone and hopefully a return visit," Johnston says.

Bigger and Better: A New Mission at the ITC

"A T. Rex Named Sue" didn't roar into San Antonio by accident. She is evidence of the revised objective of the institute, which, since its inception as the 'Texas Pavilion' during the 1968 HemisFair, has remained true to its mission of exhibiting and celebrating the diversity of the people of Texas. Each year 200,000 visitors, including 70,000 school age children, visit the institute, which became a part of UTSA in 1986.

"Bringing Sue to the ITC has been at least a two-year process," says Johnston. "As the ITC has broadened the scope of our mission to include science and technology, it opened new doors of exploration."

According to John Adams, ITC's associate executive director of planning, ITC's greatest strength is the creativity and dedication of its staff. Its greatest challenge, he says, is its outdated economic model. Without any appreciable growth since its inception 36 years ago, the ITC operates on a previously successful model that now begs for change.

"Financially, ITC cannot exist as it did in the past nor as it does today—we either have to grow our market or shrink our operation," says Adams.

With the guidance of an advisory board of community leaders, he continues, "we have recently rewritten ITC's mission statement, developed a business plan, and implemented four strategic objectives that address service, growth, financial self-sufficiency, and personal/professional self-development."

Jerry Barloco, UTSA vice president for administration, explains that as public demand grows for science, technology and state-of-the-art venues that include such features as multiple exhibit halls, food service operations, theaters and planetariums (like those in Houston and Dallas), the ITC is expanding "its offerings of cultural, scientific and technological achievements." These changes, he says, will support the university's priorities by reducing the museum's financial dependence.

"As [UTSA's] plans evolve, critical priorities require a focus on those elements that have long-term, profound and lasting impact on the people of



By
Jenny
Moore

Texas,” Barloco says. “The Institute of Texan Cultures is an indispensable museum and research center for the same reason—and to the same degree—that knowledge of the humanities is necessary to the well-developed individual life and for society in general.

“Clearly, UTSA’s academic strengths are an important ingredient in [ITC’s] future. To illustrate, the ITC plan calls for the development of a pavilion capable of accommodating 1,000 to 1,200 guests as an arts exhibit hall or as a venue for the university’s performing arts.”



©1999 The Field Museum

More Than Just Folklife

If ever there was an exhibit to remind folks that the ITC does more than the Folklife Festival, which celebrated its 33rd year in June, it’s “A T. Rex Named Sue.” “The ITC is proud of the Texas Folklife Festival,” says Adams, “but ITC is a lot more.”

“The ITC isn’t new to major exhibits,” he continues. In the last three years the institute has hosted “Requiem: By the Photographers Who Died in Vietnam” from the George Eastman House; “The Mystical Arts of Tibet” from the Drepung Loseling Monastery, which was made possible through the support of the Ewing Halsell Foundation; and the Smithsonian’s “Americanos.”

And Sue isn’t going to be the only attraction at ITC this summer. “Children Just Like Me,” a traveling exhibit organized by the Cincinnati Museum Center which runs through Sept. 5, provides youngsters with a multisensory and multicultural experience. ITC also has a number of ongoing programs such as “Magda’s Tortillas/Las tortillas de Magda,” a puppet show based on the book by Becky Chavarría-Cháirez.

As the Institute of Texan Cultures pursues its new mission with a new sense of purpose, both the university and the institute’s visitors stand to benefit. After all, how often can you go from Tyrannosaurus to tortillas within the walls of a single museum? ★

“A T. Rex Named Sue” is made possible through the generosity of the Ellwood Foundation; H-E-B; the Nathalie & Gladys Dalkowitz Foundation; the USAA Foundation, a Charitable Trust; and the Zachary Foundation; with special thanks to George Blasing, “Dino George” of Dinosaur World, and an anonymous donor. For more information, visit

TELLING TEXAS TALES: DOCENTS BRING THE INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES TO LIFE

Helpful, courteous and always willing to share a story or two, the Institute of Texan Cultures’ docents—all 360 of them—are the product of a smooth-running operation headquartered in the basement of the ITC. Leading the operation is Director of Volunteer Programs Gerarda (Gerry) Voisine, who speaks of her staff with pride. “The ITC could not carry out the programs it has without the volunteers,” she says.

Working as gallery hosts, greeters, educators and gift shop volunteers, Voisine’s docents (a term the institute uses interchangeably with volunteers) are a part of just about every aspect of the museum’s operations. In addition to fulfilling an administrative role, docents are also trained to enhance the institute’s exhibits. They do this by telling stories or by dressing in period attire. Many use their own personalities to transform what might otherwise be a flat, historical exhibit into something interactive and dynamic. “Docents bring the exhibits to life,” says Voisine.

Earlier this spring, docent Gail Marsch led a group of fourth-grade bilingual students from Rodriguez Elementary in Austin through the exhibit floor. Marsch, an ITC volunteer for 22 years, added an entire new dimension to the exhibit with her storytelling techniques. The students, riveted, followed her from an authentic sharecropper’s house to an exhibit showing traditional clothing of Chinese immigrants in the early 1930s. “Audiences are captivated through interaction,” Voisine says.

According to Voisine, the docent program began in 1976 with 17 people and continues to expand and diversify. Current, active docents range in age from 12 to 90, although the majority are retired. Retention is high, and the docents are often considered to be among UTSA’s most treasured volunteers. Recognizing those with long legacies of service, ITC recently cited 55 docents for more than 20 years of service.



“You have to be energetic, enthusiastic, sociable and able to interact in a variety of social situations” to be a docent, Voisine says. Those who are interested fill out an application, are interviewed, undergo a background check, and are matched with a role to suit their skills and interests. There are three training sessions per year, but Voisine expects to augment that. Anticipating high traffic during the “A T. Rex Named Sue” exhibit, ITC will add 50 more volunteers. “We never have enough docents. For ‘A T. Rex Named Sue’ there are many opportunities to volunteer,” says Voisine.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Institute of Texan Cultures should contact Gerry Voisine at 458-2283.

Association celebrates fifth Alumni Gala



Rick Cavender

Everything in Texas is big, and the fifth annual UTSA Alumni Gala on Aug. 28 at Oak Hills Country Club promises to be the biggest alumni event yet. Alumni and friends will come together to celebrate this year's theme: UTSA ... The Rising Star of Texas: Instilling Pride ... Achieving Excellence.

The event highlights UTSA's progress toward becoming a premier research university. "We will continue to be a rising star in the state with the support of the university's alumni," said event chair Renée Crittenden-Garcia. "Through the support of our alumni and friends, we are instilling pride in our city's only public university and achieving excellence in higher education."

Guests will enjoy an evening of camaraderie and celebration as the Alumnus of the Year, Alicia C. Treviño, and Distinguished Service Award recipient, the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board, are recognized. The event includes a seated dinner, live and silent auctions, and music featuring the Rick Cavender Band.

Sponsor tables for eight are available at the Rising Star level for \$3,000; the Shooting Star level for \$2,000; and the Lone Star level for \$1,000. Individual tickets are \$100. A portion of gala proceeds benefit the UTSA Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Rising Star and Shooting Star sponsors will have a student scholarship named in their honor for the 2005–2006 school year.

Reservations can be made online at www.utsa.edu/alumni/gala

Alumnus of the Year
Alicia C. Treviño, AIA
B.F.A. in architecture '86

Alicia Treviño is this year's Alumnus of the Year honoree. She is a life member and past president of the UTSA Alumni Association and a partner in one of San Antonio's major architectural firms, DHR Architects. A past president of the San Antonio chapter of the American Institute of Architects, as well as the Cuban Cultural Council and the Hispanic Republican Women's Club, Treviño has been an ambassador for the UTSA architecture program since graduating from the university.

She was chosen from more than 5,000 architects to receive the 2003 Texas Society of Architects Caudill Award for Young Professional Achievement. She was recently named co-chair of the San Antonio host committee for the 2007 AIA National Convention and has chaired numerous committees for international events.

Treviño continues to work with UTSA in addressing the growth and needs of the School of Architecture. Her endeavors were critical to the school's initial accreditation of its master of architecture program. She also raised funds for expanding library holdings, established the Design Lecture Series and initiated the AIA San Antonio Endowed Scholarship. She serves on the advisory councils of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts and the School of Architecture, and is a member of the development board of the Institute of Texan Cultures. In 2001, Treviño established the Rinaldo Gonzalez and Alicia Treviño Endowed Scholarship at UTSA.

Distinguished Service Award
North San Antonio Chamber Board
Duane Wilson, President and CEO

The 2004 recipient of the UTSA Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award is the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. This award goes to alumni or others who have made significant contributions to UTSA.

In late 2003, delegates from the North Chamber board met with UTSA President Ricardo Romo to learn more about the university's strategic goals and to pinpoint areas where the North Chamber could provide public support for UTSA.

The board learned that the Downtown Campus was quickly outgrowing its current space and that it needed both land and facilities. The North Chamber delegation developed a task force to broker a deal between the City of San Antonio and UTSA, and in April, the city and university agreed to a land swap. In exchange for a parcel of UTSA property near the Institute of Texan Cultures in HemisFair Park, UTSA received two city-owned parcels adjacent to the Downtown Campus, including a building in which the university had been leasing space for the School of Architecture (see story, page 8).

Acquisition of the land empowers UTSA in the upcoming 2005 state legislative session to compete for bonds for building projects. In a letter of support, Albert Carrisalez, assistant to the president/director for external affairs, wrote that the work of the North Chamber was "bold, passionate and creative," and resulted in a successful outcome with far-reaching effects.



Photo by David Phillips

Terry Martin '96

What it's really like to be a CSI

CSI: Las Vegas? Not quite.

At least that's what Terry Martin answers when he's asked if his job is like the television show. Martin, 29, is a crime scene investigator for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

"It's not like TV where every perpetrator leaves behind the perfect fingerprint, or we'll find one strand of hair that will solve the entire case. We don't interview or interrogate suspects. We don't go serving search warrants, and we don't have the crime solved in one hour. It's almost comical," says Martin, who earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from UTSA.

In reality, Martin's job consists of identifying, documenting and collecting physical evidence from a crime scene. This includes diagramming the scene, photographing crime scenes and evidence, collecting biological fluids or fibers left at the scene, and testifying in court if the case goes to trial.

"In a typical day I will respond to two to five crime scenes," he says. "Depending on the day, they could range anywhere from burglaries to sexual assault to stabbings and shootings."

Martin, a civilian employee authorized to carry a weapon, says that when he enters a crime scene he's "looking for things a perpetrator may have left behind." The smallest items can and have helped detectives solve cases—a cigarette butt (DNA sample), a tool used to enter the home or business (fingerprints), a baseball cap (DNA samples taken from the rim of the cap).

Martin and his wife, April, moved from San

Antonio to Las Vegas in 1997 for a change of scenery. Martin immediately began applying for jobs with the police department. He says he didn't specifically pursue crime scene investigating—it was simply the first offer he got.

And now he hopes to stick with his Las Vegas gig until it's time to retire.

"I love it. I really enjoy it. It's nice because when I go into work each day I don't know what I'm going to get. And I enjoy working in front of a jury, describing the case and our roles in it," says Martin, who has testified as an expert witness in 29 cases. "Court for me is the end result of all the work we put into a case."

Some of Martin's most notable testimonies came during a trial for a group of individuals who were accused of several casino robberies—one resulting in a double homicide.

"I ended up testifying several times and did quite a bit of work in that case. It was pretty rewarding to see those individuals prosecuted. Most of them received life sentences," he says.

But not every case results in prosecutions. And when that happens, Martin is grateful for his supportive wife and his baby boy, Justin.

"For this job you need a very understanding wife. Sometimes I can't talk about the kinds of scenes I've seen. She understands, she waits," he says. "You have to have a strong stomach. I've had to search through five tons of garbage from a casino after crab leg buffet night looking for body parts. It's not for everybody."

—Lori Burling

74 Sylvia Ann Cantu Marcus, M.A. in education, an educational consultant for special education, was appointed to the National Advisory Board for Special Education.

86 Gloria Abrego Sanchez, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, retired from 28 years of teaching, 25 of which were with the San Antonio Independent School District.

87 ReBeca Tamez Drury, B.S. in physical education, M.A. in education '97, has a rock band called Peace Riot that has been featured at local events such as Race for the Cure and Texas Folklife Festival. ReBeca has three Web sites: www.rebecanow.com, www.cdbaby.com/rebeca, and www.sonicbids.com/peaceriot.

89 Henry J. Legere Jr., B.A. in sociology, M.P.A. in public administration '90, and wife Pamela M. Heemer announce the birth of son Robert Legere Heemer, born Oct. 23, 2003, in Lansing, Mich. Henry was admitted to the bar of the United States Supreme Court and had his biography included in *Who's Who in American Law*. He was re-elected treasurer of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School Alumni Association, was re-appointed to a four-year term on the Michigan non-profit Capital Area Passenger Rail Council and presented a seminar on "Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions" to a group of more than 150 criminal defense attorneys in Palm Springs, Calif. Henry is of counsel to Sheikh Legal Services, L.L.P.C. in Mount Clemens, Mich. Henry and Pamela live in Holt, Mich. E-mail Henry at legerelaw@aol.com. **Vicki Schulte, B.S.** in physical education, is head volleyball coach at Dilley High School in Dilley, Texas.

90 George Wilhite, B.A. in English, M.A. in English '94, former editor of Rodeo News magazine, editor of the Pleasanton Express, and publisher of the Kerrville Mountain Sun, was recently in town for a book fair at San Antonio College to sign copies of his new novel, *The Texas Rodeo Murder*. You can learn more about the novel by visiting his Web site at <http://texas-rodeo.go.to>.

91 Patrick J. Filyk, B.A. in political science, and **Susan K. Filyk, M.B.A.** in business '95, announce the birth of son Leo Alexander, born March 3, 2004.

Ruben Michael Flores, B.A. in political science, was selected to participate in Leadership San Antonio's 2003–2004 class.

Lew Schnitz, M.B.A. in business, was

approved for licensing as a professional geoscientist by the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists after many years as a licensed professional engineer.

Ann-Marie Velasquez Trevino, B.B.A. in accounting, is manager/accounts payable for La Quinta Corporation in San Antonio.

92 William F. "Bill" Wood, B.A. in political science, M.A. in public administration '94, and wife **Claudia**, B.A. in political science '94, announce the birth of daughter Celina Isabel, born March 8, 2004. Bill is defensive coordinator for the Floresville Independent School District.

93 J. Michael Cruz, B.A. in sociology, had his first book, *Sociological Analysis of Aging: The Gay Male Perspective*, published by Haworth Press.

Victor Felan, M.B.A. in business, has been hired as executive vice president of the San Antonio Stone Oak branch of Falcon International Bank, where he will supervise and direct the overall lending function for the bank in the San Antonio market. Victor has held upper-management positions with National Bancshares Corporation of Texas, First Commercial Bank, International Bank of Commerce and University National Bank. He was senior vice president of Plaza Bank in San Antonio before accepting the position at Falcon Bank.

Christopher Gundrum, B.S. in biology, M.S. in biology '95, is the plant manager for H-E-B milk plant in San Antonio. Chris is married to alumna **Leticia Medina-Gundrum**, M.S. in biology '94, who is sales and marketing director for CTRC Institute for Drug Development in San Antonio. Chris and Lety announce the birth of son Cameron Christopher, born June 25, 2003.

Randy Wilson, M.A. in education, has been promoted to professor of sociology at Houston Baptist University, where he has been a faculty member since 1996. Randy was awarded the University's Opal Goolsby Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2002.

94 Joe Belk, M.A. in history, has been selected as the 2004 Texas Adult Education Full-Time Teacher of the Year by the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education. He also received the Adult Education Teacher of the Year Award of San Antonio's North East Independent School District and an Outstanding Teacher award from the Alamo Heights Rotary Club. Joe is in charge of an adult education center for the North East Independent School District and is president of the district's Adult Education Advisory Council. He also serves as adjunct professor of history at San Antonio College.

95 Melissa Pacheco Aguillon, B.A.

in criminal justice, M.P.A. in public administration '00, is public affairs/marketing manager at Lockwood, Andrews and Newman Inc., an engineering firm in San Antonio. Melissa and husband Thomas announce the birth of their son Benjamin Diego Aguillon, born Feb. 3, 2004.

Janette Ramos, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in counseling '03, is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in San Antonio.

96 Mariela Alasi, B.A. in communications, is the 5 p.m. anchor/reporter for KGNS-TV in Laredo, Texas. **Christina Stangle Balderrama**, B.S.

in biology, and husband John announce the birth of their daughter Jocelyn Renee, born Jan. 1, 2004.

Desiree Kornrum-Byrne, M.P.A. in public administration, has completed the requirements for the Ph.D. in higher education leadership administration at UT Austin and will defend her dissertation this fall. Desiree and her husband, Michael Byrne, are expecting their second child in December. E-mail Desiree at kornrumbde@yahoo.com.

Nancy L. (Jackson) Tribby, B.B.A. in accounting, announces her marriage to Dwight Tribby, on June 22, 2003.

Danielle M. Washatka, B.B.A. in finance, earned an M.B.A. from Texas

A&M University in August 2003. Danielle is vice president of operations at Shamrock Asset Management in Dallas.

97 Juan C. Durand, M.B.A. in business, is key principal and owner of a new marketing consulting firm in San Antonio, Global Noise International Inc. The firm opened its doors in January 2004. Global Noise International specializes in business development, marketing and advertising to Hispanics and other ethnic groups.

Cynthia Ann Geerdes, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is engaged to marry Jason Ward Goss on Nov. 20, 2004.

Niphaporn "Ann" Yamthongkam '99

Bridging two cultures

Before Niphaporn Yamthongkam arrived in the United States at the age of 16, she expected that every place in the country would look like New York City with its skyscrapers. And that it would be snowing all the time.

Now, in her work at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok—a job she describes as "50 percent Thai cultural knowledge, 50 percent American understanding"—she's in a position to help dispel the misconceptions others may have and to help them have a "greater understanding of what America is."

Yamthongkam (known as Ann to her friends in the United States) works as the Regional English Language Officer (RELO) assistant and is responsible for planning and implementing the embassy's English-language programming throughout Thailand; she works closely with Thai teachers who teach English as a Foreign Language. The job, she says, is a perfect fit with her studies at UTSA, where she earned a master's degree in bicultural-bilingual education with a specialization in teaching English as a Second Language.

"It is beautiful how I can really directly apply my master's degree at the U.S. Embassy," she says.

Since returning to her native Thailand after completing her master's in 1999, Yamthongkam has made a career of combining her knowledge of Thai and English languages and cultures. She first worked in several Bangkok schools, teaching English to elementary schoolchildren as well as business college students. She began working at the embassy in 2002 as a cultural affairs assistant before becoming the RELO



assistant last summer.

"I believe my mission in life is to share that culture and mutual understanding between the two countries," she says.

Yamthongkam first came to the United States through an American military family and studied her junior and senior year at San Antonio's MacArthur High School. After winning a Spanish honor society scholarship, she decided to stay in San Antonio with the help of a church sponsorship, and she used her scholarship to complete an associate degree in hospitality management at St. Philip's College. She then

went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of the Incarnate Word, where she studied philosophy as a way of exploring her beliefs as a Christian, before coming to UTSA for graduate school.

Working for the U.S. Embassy, Yamthongkam says, is a way to start paying back the country that provided her with educational opportunities and the friends who supported her along the way. And that's what she tells her friends and family—Thai and American—who inevitably ask her if she's afraid to work in a U.S. embassy overseas after 9-11. Yes, the embassy is a potential target, she acknowledges, but the security is tight and she feels safe. More important, she shares the State Department's resolve to expand its outreach to inform and engage foreign audiences about the United States.

"That's why I love America so much ... I owe so much to the people," she says. "Ultimately, I do owe a lot to America."

—Rebecca Luther

Janie B. Noriega, B.B.A. in personnel/human resource management, announces the birth of son Vincent Raul Rodriguez, born July 17, 2003.
Arthur R. Ortiz, B.S. in kinesiology, is a specialist with the UTSA Department of Health and Kinesiology. Arthur and wife Maura Lynn announce the birth of son Alexander Rainier, born Jan. 24, 2003.

98 Charles Claville Jr., B.B.A. in accounting, and wife Kelly announce the birth of their daughter Allie Benét, born July 6, 2003.

Susan Joy Leigh, B.S. in geology, is a senior scientific application and data analyst for Pioneer Natural Resources in Irving, Texas.

99 Henry Esparza Jr., B.A. in political science, M.A. in political science '00, is a government professor at St. Philip's College in San Antonio.

Audree Hernandez, B.A. in communications, was elected president-elect of the board of directors for YWCA San Antonio, where she has been a board member since 2002 and serves as chair of the board nominating committee.
Sandy Jimenez-Huizar, B.F.A. in art, and her husband, Ronald Huizar, announce the birth of daughter Emily, born Feb. 17, 2004.

Leif Purcell, B.A. in anthropology, is a captain, 3rd Special Forces Group, Signal Detachment Commander in the U.S. Army. The command was deployed to Afghanistan in May.

00 Rosa Marie Cordova, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, was named Loma Park Elementary, Edgewood Independent School District Teacher of the Year for 2004.

Natalia Camarena Holmes, B.A. in Spanish, is an ESL and GED instructor for San Antonio College and the San Antonio Independent School District.

Roberto Ignacio Ramos, M.S. in environmental science, recently joined Booz Allen Hamilton, supporting the training support division of the U.S. Army Environmental Center located at the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. Roberto was previously the National Environmental Policy Act Specialist for III Corps and Fort Hood for two years.

Alexander R. Segura, M.A. in English, was selected to Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2004.

Allison Stoddard Singleton, M.B.A. in business, is a business architect at USAA in San Antonio. Allison and husband Scott announce the birth of daughter Jenna Campbell, born Feb. 9, 2004. E-mail Allison at asingleton@grandecom.net.

01 Robert D. Barrientos, B.B.A. in finance, is a first lieutenant, Medical Service Corp, U.S. Air Force. Robert received his M.B.A. from Webster University in December 2003.

Carolyn Castillo, B.M. in music, is engaged to marry Jeremy Eastburn in October 2004.

Sharon Ann Kaltenbacher, B.B.A. in accounting, is retail general ledger reporting supervisor at Valero Energy Corporation in San Antonio.

Laura Christine Lopez, B.B.A. in finance, announces the birth of daughter Athena, born May 30, 2003.

Servado V. Loya, B.B.A. in finance, B.B.A. in accounting '02, is a tax

accountant with Sol Schwartz and Associates, P.C. in San Antonio.

Jennifer A. Lozano-Lowe, B.A. in English, is a financial aid officer in UTSA's Office of Student Financial Aid.
Janette Anne Nevels, B.S. in biology, is engaged to marry Timothy J. McAllister on Oct. 16, 2004.

Joe Polvado, B.B.A. in information systems, is a Web developer with Valero Energy in San Antonio.

Daniel Sazera, B.A. in English, and wife Leticia announce the birth of their daughter Isabel, born Oct. 16, 2003.

Danny Zimmermann, B.S. in mechanical engineering, has been promoted to associate level at the architectural firm of Marmon Mok in San Antonio. Danny has been with the firm since 2001, serving as a mechanical designer and mechanical, electrical and plumbing project manager for the architectural profession. His expertise includes design of heating, ventilation and air conditioning; plumbing and fire protection systems. He serves on the board of directors of the UTSA Alumni Association, and is also a member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers.

02 Julio Benitez, B.A. in history, is manager of Ocean Seafood and Grill on NE Loop 410 in San Antonio.
Jennifer Dzubinski, B.S. in civil engineering, married James Moore on Feb. 28, 2004.

Brandie Sherri Echols, B.A. in psychology, is a community corrections officer for Fort Bend County Community Supervision and Corrections

Department in Rosenberg, Texas. Brandie has one child, Nadia Elyse Jones.

Susan E. Francis-Maldonado, B.A. in English, is a member service specialist at USAA in San Antonio. Susan and her husband, Alberto, were married Jan. 1, 2003. She is pursuing an M.A. in English at UTSA.

Shelly H. Harris, B.A. in communications, is employed at World Savings in San Antonio.

Christopher R. Kading, B.B.A. in information systems, is a supply officer for the U.S. Navy on the USS San Juan.

Laurie Lammons-Curry, B.M. in music, is assistant band director for the Northside Independent School District. Laurie and her husband, Jeffrey, were married May 15, 2002.

Jennifer Samper, B.B.A. in management, is employed at American Funds in San Antonio.

Ismael H. Rodriguez Jr., B.B.A. in management, is an admissions counselor at UTSA.

Christopher Juan Tarango, B.B.A. in marketing, is employed at USA America in San Antonio. Christopher is engaged to marry Michelle Martinez in June 2005.

03 Melissa Marie Pipkin, B.A. in communications, is in her first year of law school at UT Austin. She is interning with Texas Rural Legal Aide this summer.

Daniel Steve Villarreal, M.A. in education, has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in foreign language education at UT Austin. In March, Daniel placed third in the Senior

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.



“Right off the bat, I met other students who were just like me—the first person in the family to go to college.”

Senior Sara Gonzalez, a San Antonio native and Harlandale High School graduate, was able to attend UTSA thanks to several scholarships. That money has helped her pay for college, but she credits another program for helping her *succeed* in college.

ACE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sara, who majors in management at the Downtown Campus, was the recipient of an ACE Scholarship. The ACE (Access College and Excel) Scholars Program, a collaborative effort initially begun between the university and San Antonio-based USAA, targets incoming freshmen from nine San Antonio high schools. The students each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, which is funded by The USAA Foundation, A Charitable Trust, and other supporters, and is renewable for the student's sophomore year. But ACE students also form their own learning community, enrolling together in core classes and UTSA's College Success Seminar.

“As partners in the ACE Program, we are impressed with the enthusiasm of the students, the commitment of the program administrators, and the excellent retention rate,” says Barbara B. Gentry, president of The USAA Foundation, A Charitable Trust. “These young people will succeed.”

GIVING BACK

A recipient of multiple scholarships, Sara understands the importance of giving back to her university. That's why, in the summer of 2001, she organized a car wash to fund the Sara M. Gonzalez Sophomore Scholarship to benefit a fellow UTSA student. But after completing the ACE program, she now has bigger plans.

“I would love to help raise money and give it to a program like ACE Scholars, where I can mentor and guide a student.”

As UTSA grows, the need for scholarship programs to help more students like Sara becomes even greater. To learn more, contact UTSA's Development Office at 210-458-4130 or e-mail development@utsa.edu.

ON THE WEB:

www.utsa.edu/development

Looking back

Grab a sack

Martin Hinojosa '79 took an early lead in the potato sack race.

As a new graduate, Hinojosa was participating in the 1979 UTSA Alumni Association Roundup. The event was a hit and became an annual function for the Alumni Association, which received its charter in 1978, according to Jane Findling, director of alumni programs.

Findling, an onlooker in the photo, says alumni and students were invited to participate in games and take a tour of the campus. The association wanted alumni to be aware of the new additions to the campus, such as the Multidisciplinary Studies Building, shown under construction in the background.

Linda Foster '77 sat on the sidelines during the race recovering from an earlier feat. Foster had come in first in a jalapeno-eating contest.

Other race participants and supporters include Elaine Wagener, wife of then-UTSA president James Wagener; Sarah Garrahan '77; Gerald Flores '78; and Jesus "Corky" Rubio '76.

