

Sombrilla



The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Spring 2005
Vol. 21, No. 2

LIFE FROM THE MET

*Gift from Tobin Foundation
for Theatre Arts dresses
up the Lyric Theatre*

Also in this issue:

State demographer
Steve Murdock
talks numbers

UTSA alumni
and life in the
Middle East





SPRING 2005

Sombrilla

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The Tobin Foundation for Theatre Arts donated hundreds of costumes to UTSA. See story, page 18.
Photo illustration by Rick Kroninger. Photo by Patrick Ray Dunn.

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The Institute of Texan Cultures' 2005 Folklife Festival is scheduled for June 9–12. See story, page 9.
Photo by Mark McClendon.

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Write back!

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Professor is a "classic workaholic"

It's fitting that Steve Murdock, a first-generation college graduate himself, spends so much of his time talking about the importance of education.

Murdock, the official state demographer and head of the Texas State Data Center, is renowned for his research and projections on population and the future of the state (see story, page 22). He's spent a lifetime in academia, earning a bachelor's degree in sociology in his home state of North Dakota before going on to complete master's and doctoral degrees in sociology at the University of Kentucky, then serving on the faculty at Texas A&M University for more than 25 years. He joined UTSA last year.

"My parents were very big on education, and that was despite the fact that my father had an eighth-grade education and my mother had a high school education," Murdock says. "My mother graduated from high school in the midst of the Great Depression, had three scholarships to go to college but couldn't afford the living expenses."

His father was "a typical small Midwestern farmer" who raised livestock and wheat, his mother a housewife who worked as a bank clerk after his father died when Murdock was 15. His parents instilled in him a strong work ethic, which Murdock credits with getting him to where he is, beginning in his first year at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

"I came from a rural setting and realized the education I had had was quite different than the kids in the bigger cities," he says. "I walked into my first French class, and I'd never had a foreign language—we didn't have foreign language in my high school. I sat down, and the guy next to me had had three years of high school French."

So, Murdock says, he had to work harder than the other students in his class to learn French.

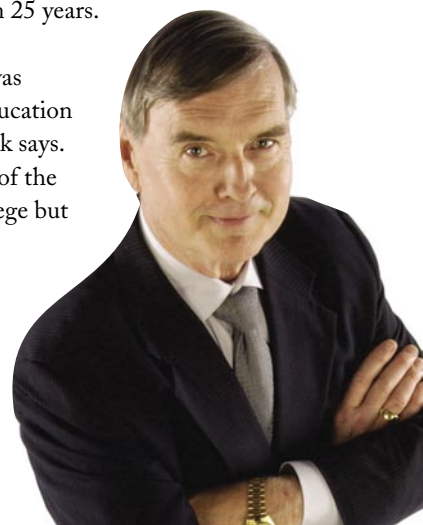
But the hard work didn't stop there. Murdock describes himself as a "classic workaholic." His curriculum vita—which includes 11 books, more than 150 research reports and monographs, and hundreds of presentations—is more than 60 pages long.

And his work includes helping students. He's chaired or served on several dozen thesis and dissertation committees, and in December he signed an agreement with the U.S. Census Bureau to provide 10 internships a year for UTSA students.

Murdock says one of his reasons for moving his offices and staff to UTSA was the university's own diverse demographics. Almost 60 percent of UTSA students come from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. UTSA's diversity goes hand in hand with Murdock's exhortations that, if the population of the state continues to diversify as it has and as he projects, increasing opportunities in higher education for non-Anglos is critical to the socioeconomic future of Texas. UTSA is a model for what institutions in Texas should look like to close the gaps in higher education, he says.

And having been a first-generation college student himself, Murdock likes being in an environment where there are so many first-generation college students who recognize that education is key to their success in life.

"It's exciting," he says, "to be at an institution where people are making that effort." Indeed it is.



Steve Murdock

— Rebecca Luther

in the LOOP

They're climbing the walls

Students wanting a good workout have a new recreational option this semester at the Campus Recreation and Wellness Center. The center recently opened the tallest climbing wall built at a university in Texas.

The new wall stands at 54 feet with routes for every level of climber. The wall also has a short portion offering lateral climbs for training, known as a bouldering area.

"The bouldering area is an awesome area for training, learning different moves and how to balance your weight," says Megan Alexander, former assistant director for outdoor pursuits.

The wall offers a full-body workout for climbers, who use their legs just as much as their arms. "It's pretty strenuous," says Alexander. "A lot of times when people start climbing, it motivates them to get in better shape overall."

The Rec Center is offering free belay (securing a person at the end of a rope) clinics to train anyone interested in rock climbing. Visit the Rec Center's Web site at www.utsa.edu/recreation for more information.



First Edition

Recent faculty publications

Good vs. evil

John Drake describes himself as a good person. But his new horror novel, *Evil Debts*, proves that even good people have a dark side.

"After the book was put together, I decided to re-read it. It scared me a couple of times," says Drake, who teaches psychology at UTSA. "People actually came up to me and couldn't believe I had written such dark thoughts. I'm a fairly gentle and shy guy."

Evil Debts (AuthorHouse, 2004) is the first in a three-book series that takes readers through a battle between good and evil. Supernatural forces recruit humans to their side by making them commit either good or evil deeds. The side with the most members will eventually rule the world. Drake describes the book as a "balancing act."

"Each side will stay right at the edge of the scale. And when the end of days comes, they just have to subtly tip the scale in their favor. Then they rule the world," he says.

Although Drake didn't start writing his novel until a few years ago, his love for horror began at an early age. An avid Stephen King fan, Drake also thrives on films such as *The Exorcist*, which he says is one of the last "great horror films."

"Somewhere after *The Exorcist* people were confusing horror with gore. Roadkill is gory, but it's not scary. I want people to feel the scare, not the gore, when they read my book," Drake says.

Drake, who writes under the pen name Terse Skirritt, has seen UTSA students reading his book in the halls.

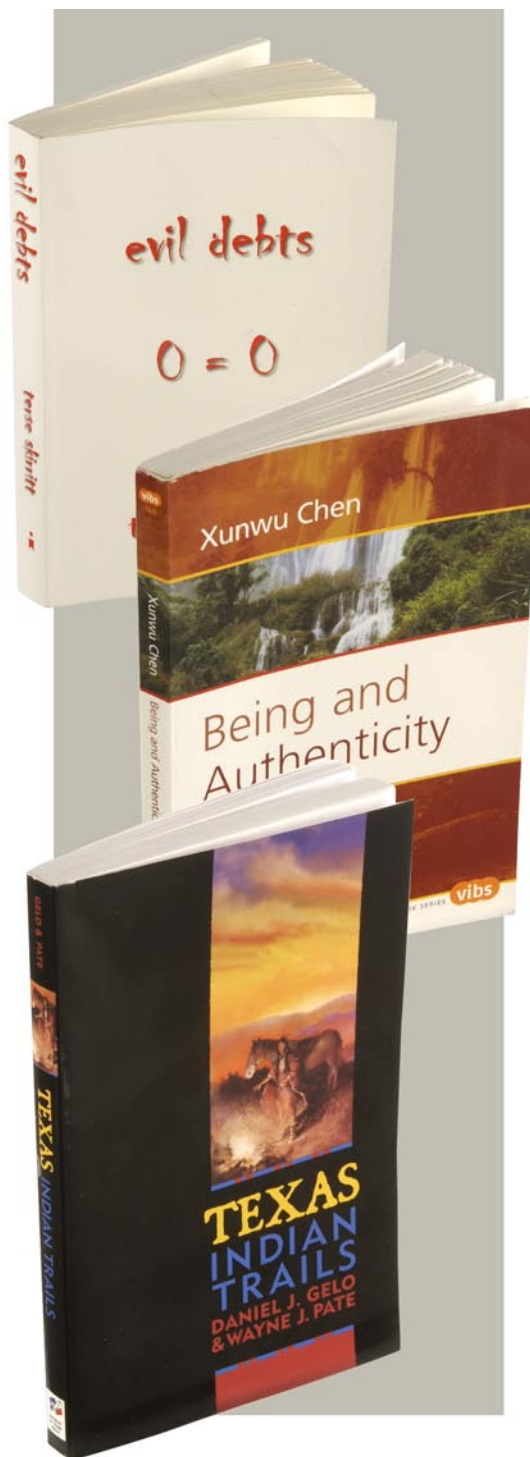
"I hope they have to look over their shoulder once or twice," he says.

Mixing philosophies

Xunwu Chen earned three degrees on three continents before settling down in San Antonio, where he has taught philosophy for nearly seven years. Chen's international education helped pave the way for his new book, *Being and Authenticity* (Editions Rodopi B.V., 2004).

"In my book I try to make philosophical discussions more literal and readable," Chen says. "It creates a dialogue between Chinese thinkers and American philosophers, incorporating classical European writers."

A native of China, Chen received his



undergraduate degree there and earned his master's degree in Switzerland. He then made his way to the United States, where he earned a doctoral degree from Fordham University in New York. Chen says that studying and visiting other countries gave him the idea to intertwine continental philosophies in his book and in his classroom. He teaches contemporary European and Asian philosophy.

Among the issues addressed in Chen's

book are morality, happiness and authenticity. Chen uses literary references, such as Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* and Jack London's *Martin Eden*, as examples throughout the book. Chen will eventually use his book as a supplement for his students, but not before he completes two more books.

"This project started several years ago. *Being and Authenticity* focuses on cultures, and the other two books will focus on society and individuality," says Chen, who has also written several books in Chinese.

Happy trails

Knowing the history of where you live is important to **Daniel Gelo**, dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

"To me, that enriches the experience of getting out of your house every morning. ... It's a much richer place when you understand what happened in the past and how other people, coming at it from a different cultural perspective, appreciated it and valued it. It adds dimension to everyday life."

Gelo hopes to educate Texans about their state's American Indian heritage through his book *Texas Indian Trails* (Republic of Texas Press, 2003). The book, co-authored by former UTSA faculty member Wayne J. Pate, takes readers on a trip through the state, identifying and detailing important religious and cultural sites of the tribal Indians who lived in Texas. The book touches on many tribes, including the Comanches, who were based in Texas until 1875. While researching, Gelo spoke with members of the tribe.

"They didn't have a lot of people visit them and spend time with them outside of their tribe," Gelo says. "That was one of the attractions for me. There was space to do some really basic, meaningful work."

Gelo says the landscape that American Indians used for religious ceremonies and everyday life is all around us. "Some are more obvious, breathtaking—and others you wouldn't even know were there."

Unless you read Gelo's book.

"Our idea with the book is that you can keep it in your glove compartment and pull it out as you're driving through Texas. You can learn more about these places from a native perspective."

—Lori Burling

Snapshot, Texas

From the photographic archives of the Institute of Texan Cultures

COMPASSIONATE COPPINI

When Italian sculptor Pompeo Coppini arrived in Texas in 1901, he set to work casting statues portraying our history in heroic dimensions—proud statesmen and generals riding fine bronze stallions on the Capitol grounds, and the soaring Spirit of Sacrifice on the face of the Alamo cenotaph. Perhaps best known are the intrepid sea horses of Austin's Littlefield Fountain, representing military prowess in World War I. But Coppini had a tender side, too.

In 1917, Menard County rancher Gus Noyes called on the artist to create a statue of his son Charles, killed when a frightened horse bucked him. Coppini studied the few snapshots of the young man, walked the pasture where the accident occurred and saw the horse that Charles had been riding, all the while observing the father's grief.

He was powerfully touched by the man's sorrow, and he wanted to do the work, but he didn't think Noyes understood art or could afford to pay for it. Coppini knew that he couldn't complete the project for under \$25,000.

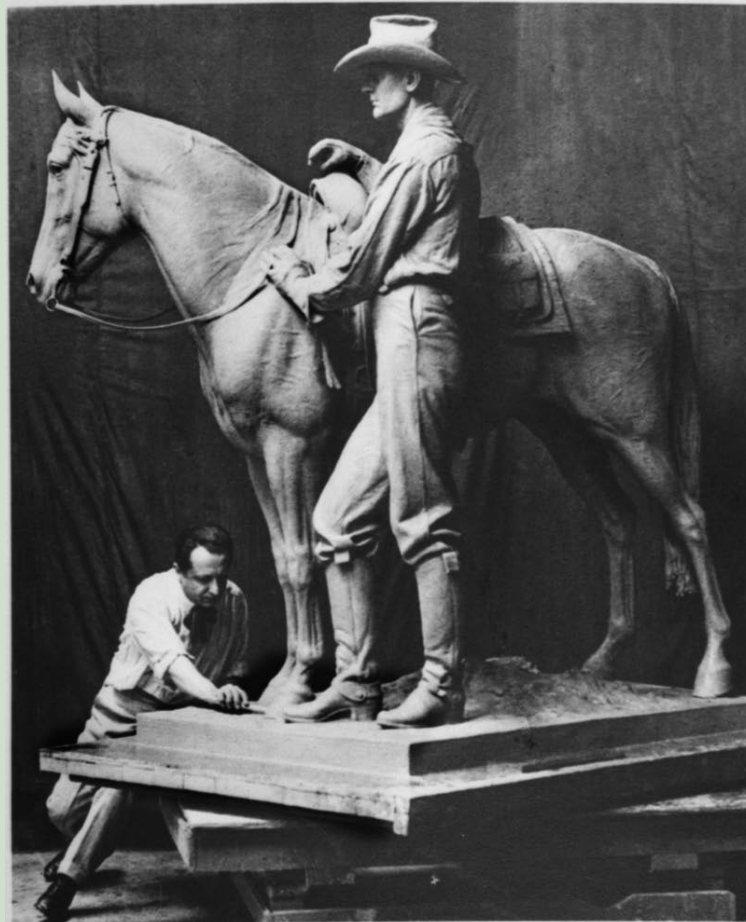
"I was scared to talk, as I hated to show what was passing in my mind," he later recalled. "[The] old man sat by the fireside, gazing as if there was a flame, and saying nothing and asking me no questions."

Coppini suggested the figure of \$18,000. Noyes accepted and, still sorrowful, remarked that he had thought the work would cost twice as much.

In 1919, the statue was completed. By then, Noyes had sold his ranch and moved away. Still grieving the loss of his son, he could not bear to attend the unveiling in Ballinger, Texas. Breathtaking and still, Coppini's rare effigy yet waits there on the courthouse lawn.

— Mary Grace Ketner

Institute of Texan Cultures at UTSA, 68-2153. Courtesy of Coppini Academy.



Board approves new graduate degrees

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has approved two new graduate programs at UTSA, one in social work and the other in communication.

Classes for the master of social work degree, offered through the College of Public Policy, began this spring semester. Courses include justice services with concentrations in missing, neglected and abused children; family services, covering child and youth services and family therapy; and health services, specifically studying mental health issues and addiction counseling. Eighteen students enrolled in the program during its first semester, and additional applications are being considered for the summer semester, according to the Graduate School.

The master of arts program in communication, which will start the fall 2005 semester in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, is based on the concept of integrated communications with a focus on developing broad perspectives in research, critical thinking and creativity. Master's candidates will pursue one of three degree options—a thesis option, a project option or a non-thesis option. Students must complete 15 semester credit hours of core courses, six hours of free electives and either nine or 15 hours of prescribed electives depending upon the degree option. Classes run the gamut from new media design to international and intercultural communication.

Visit the Graduate School's Web site at www.utsa.edu/graduate/ for more information.

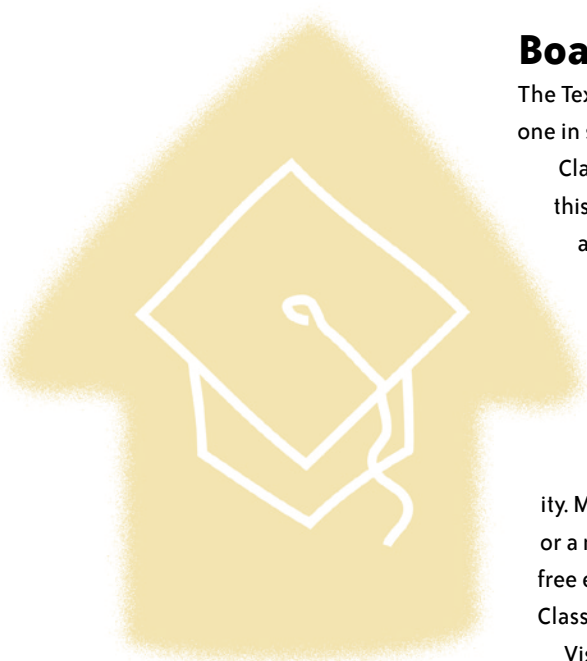


Table talking

Great Conversation! La Sobremesa raises \$124,500 for honors scholarships



SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Enjoying an evening of great conversation are (from the top), James and Jennifer Day, and Luis de la Garza.

U TSA's Honors College's fifth annual Great Conversation! La Sobremesa raised \$124,500 for new scholarships. More than 500 guests gathered Feb. 17 at the Omni Hotel to participate in the signature UTSA event.

Guests seated at more than 50 tables engaged in a wide array of conversations, each led by a distinguished expert in the field. Designed to capture the spirit of an old-fashioned dinner party, the event included a buffet supper, coffee and dessert to accompany the evening's conversations.

UTSA faculty and San Antonio business and community leaders moderated table discussions on business, art, popular culture, health, medicine, education and current events. Topics were both serious and whimsical. Ambassador Martha Lara, Consul General of Mexico, led a conversation on building a democracy, while Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff shared strategies for playing poker. Guests discussed San Antonio mayoral politics at a table moderated by Richard Gambitta, chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography, and others talked about their favorite books at the table led by former director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Maria Cossio-Ameduri.

Chairing the fund-raiser were volunteers Cristina and Eddie Aldrete, Tova Rubin and Robbie Greenblum and Debbie and John T. Montford. Harriett Romo, associate professor of sociology, welcomed guests and sponsors in her roles as chair of the Great Conversation! planning committee and honorary co-chair of the event with husband UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

"Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, I am delighted to say this year's Great Conversation! raised a record \$124,500 for Honors College scholarships—more money than was raised at the first four Great Conversation! events combined," she said.

"These funds will add 50 to 60 new scholarships for Honors College students and will help UTSA continue to attract the best and brightest students to our university."

President Romo announced the establishment of a \$10,000 Honors College endowed scholarship in honor of Debbie and John T. Montford, recognizing their support of

UTSA as volunteers. John T. Montford, SBC Communications senior vice president for state legislative and regulatory affairs, is the former chancellor to the Texas Tech University System.

"Debbie and John Montford have been outstanding friends to UTSA, especially through their support of the annual President's Dinner and Great Conversation!" said Romo. "As co-chairs and advisers, Debbie and John have given their time and talent to UTSA and helped us reach more people in this community who share our joint vision of making higher education affordable and accessible."

"John and I have a strong commitment to public education and are very honored to have an Honors College scholarship endowed in our names," said Debbie Montford. "We both think Great Conversation! is a fun event and a wonderful way to raise scholarship dollars for honors students."

"Adding more community leaders as table moderators this year also had a dramatic affect on its success," she said.

Since its inception, Great Conversation! has prompted additional endowed scholarships from Steven and Jean Lee, South Texas Money Management, Ltd., Wells Fargo Bank, San Antonio Federal Credit Union and Robert W. Flynn, and in honor of Ardow Ameduri, M.D.

The UTSA Honors College was established in fall 2002 and is open to incoming freshmen, transfer students and current UTSA students. The Honors College offers sections of core curriculum courses as well as honors seminars that encourage in-depth study.

"The program is set up to help students reach their full potential," said Christine LeBlanc, a senior in the Honors College who attended the fund-raising event. "I've enjoyed the smaller classroom atmosphere and have benefited from the faculty counseling."

This semester, 570 students in all fields of study are enrolled in the Honors College.

— Marianne McBride Lewis

For more information on Great Conversation! La Sobremesa or the UTSA Honors College, call (210) 458-4106 or visit www.utsa.edu/honors. For more information on establishing an endowed scholarship, visit www.utsa.edu/development.

Research funding increases 13 percent

Funding for research efforts at UTSA increased by \$4.2 million, or 13 percent, in fiscal year 2004.

The university received \$34.4 million in grants from agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH funding alone provided more than \$8.7 million for 26 research or instructional grant projects. Gifts and grants were also received from public and private foundations and state agencies.

"External support is crucial for UTSA to continue its mission to be a leader in research and service in San Antonio, Texas and the nation," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "As one of the next premier research universities serving Texas, UTSA is committed to academic excellence and the creation of new knowledge to improve everyone's lives."

Some funded research projects underway at UTSA include assisting communities in developing and conducting their own cybersecurity exercises and preparing teachers to address the critical shortage of middle and high school mathematics and science teachers. Recently, UTSA researchers assisted the City of San Antonio in studying how to remove lead-contaminated soils from low-income houses built before 1978.

UTSA offers nonprofit certification

UTSA is now one of only 10 universities in the nation—and the only school in Texas—to offer certification in nonprofit management for graduate students. The certification was approved recently by American Humanics, a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations that prepares college students for careers in the nonprofit sector.

"I am truly excited about this opportunity," said Sandie Palomo-Gonzalez, executive director of the American Humanics Program at UTSA. "This program will better prepare students for careers in the public and nonprofit sectors through classroom and real-world experience."



A festival of orange and blue UTSA Night debuts June 10 at the Texas Folklife Festival

Friends of UTSA are encouraged to mark their calendars for Friday, June 10, as a reminder of the inaugural UTSA Night at the Texas Folklife Festival.

The 34th annual Texas Folklife Festival is scheduled for June 9–12 at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 801 Bowie Street, in downtown San Antonio. The four-day festival continues to be true to its original mission—to promote and celebrate the ethnic strength, rich cultural heritage and dynamic pioneering spirit of Texas.

"The Texas Folklife Festival is one of the most exciting events in the state and attracts more than 70,000 visitors each year from around the world. We look forward to designating one evening as UTSA night," said Jo Ann Andera, Texas Folklife Festival director. "Every year, Fiesta's Oyster Bake becomes the reunion spot for friends of St. Mary's University. We think Texas Folklife Festival could fill the same role for UTSA."

Roadrunners will be able to meet at a UTSA gathering spot on UTSA Night, and discounted admission tickets for \$6 will be available for UTSA students, faculty, staff and alumni if purchased in advance. Ticket information can be found on the

festival's Web site. The ticket purchase code for UTSA alumni is TFF 591. The code for students, faculty and staff is TFF 581. The offer will not be valid at the gate.

Texas Folklife Festival visitors can experience more than 60 demonstrations of early Texas life, from egg decorating to woodcarving, and enjoy traditional storytelling, live music and dance on 10 stages. And more than 150 authentic foods, an assortment of beverages and traditional arts and crafts are available for purchase. Thousands of volunteers representing more than 40 ethnic groups and 45 Texas counties are expected to participate in this year's festival.

"Volunteers are the lifeblood of the festival," said Andera. "Without their dedication and talent, it would not be the success it is today. They are the ones who truly bring this place to life."

For more information about UTSA Night at the 34th annual Texas Folklife Festival or information on volunteering, call (210) 458-2390 or visit www.texasfolklifestival.org.



Romo appointed to Federal Reserve, UNESCO positions

President Ricardo Romo this year was appointed to two important posts. In January, Romo was appointed by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, San Antonio Branch. Just a month earlier, then-U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell appointed him to the United States National Commission for the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a representative of state and local government interests.

Romo has served as president of UTSA since May 1999. Previously, he was vice provost for undergraduate education at UT Austin. He has held positions at Trinity University, California State University, Northridge, and the University of California, San Diego. Romo earned a doctoral degree from UCLA, a master's degree from Loyola Marymount University and a bachelor's degree from UT Austin—all in history. An urban historian, Romo is the author of *East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio*.

The Federal Reserve Bank's primary mission is to ensure that enough money and credit are available to sustain economic growth without inflation. The San Antonio Branch board of directors, consisting of seven members, will contribute grassroots information and insight that will be used to formulate monetary policy.

"UTSA is a critical component of the economy of this region and the state, and I look forward to being a liaison between our community and the individuals who make crucial decisions related to monetary policy for the federal government," said Romo, who will serve a three-year term.

The U.S. Commission for UNESCO comprises 88 representatives from various non-governmental organizations interested in matters of education, science, culture and communications, as well as at-large individuals and state, local and federal government representatives. The national commission will function as a federal advisory committee, providing expert advice to the U.S. government.

"Our country has successfully melded diverse cultures, ideas and perspectives. It is crucial that we work with all members of the world community to make this a common commitment," Romo said.

The national commission is Romo's second appointment under the Bush administration. Two years ago, President Bush appointed Romo to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



¡Bravo!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

Professor of History **Felix D. Almaraz Jr.** was honored in March at the 109th annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association for his outstanding service on behalf of Texas history and, in particular, the Hispanic heritage of the state. *Tejano Epic*, a new book of essays by former students of Almaraz—Arnoldo De Leon, Gilberto M. Hinojosa, David Urbano and Gilbert Cruz—is dedicated to his four decades of service to Texas and UTSA; **Shirley Boteler-Mock**, researcher at the Institute of Texan Cultures, received recognition from the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association for securing a certificate of acceptance for the cemetery site in the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom; Mechanical engineering students **Jeanette De Leon** and **Alfred Vitela**, with support from faculty mentor **Randall Manteufel**, took first place in the University-Level Energy Leadership Contest conducted by the Metropolitan Partnership for Energy for their study, "LEED Certification for Existing Buildings: Engineering Building at The University of Texas at San Antonio"; **Anna Doro-On**, a chemical engineering doctoral student, won first prize in the Doctoral Technical Paper Competition at the 30th Annual International Symposium of the Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists. Her work was supported by the UTSA Center for Water Research; **Josephine Mendez-Negrete**, assistant professor of bicultural and bilingual studies, received in January the Texas Association of Chicanos in Higher Education (TACHE) Distinguished University Faculty Award at the 30th annual TACHE conference; **Bertha Perez**, professor of bicultural-bilingual studies, and **Ellen Riojas Clark**, associate professor of bicultural-bilingual studies, were honored by Image de San Antonio as Outstanding Hispanic Women Role Models and were presented the Governor's Yellow Rose Award for their commitment to education, research and service; Graduate electrical engineering student **Benjamin Rodriguez** took first place for his article in the graduate competition at the 30th Annual International Symposium of the Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists; **Sos Agaian**, professor of electrical engineering, won the Maestro Educator of the Year Award; **Francine Romero**, associate professor in the College of Public Policy, was elected by the San Antonio City Council to the San Antonio Planning Commission; **Nevil Shed**, UTSA coordinator of intramurals in the Office of Student Activities, and his former Texas Western College Miners basketball teammates were honored in February at the 19th annual Black History Makers Awards dinner in New York. The 1966 team from Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) was the first all-black team to win an NCAA championship; **Jude Valdez**, vice president for extended services, received the Small Business Administration's District Director Award in recognition of his service to small business in the San Antonio area. Valdez is founder of the South-West Texas Border Region Small Business Development Center program and chairman of the SBA national advisory board in the Small Business Development Center program. He is also a Fellow of the National Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

An Interview with Ellen Riojas Clark

Ellen Riojas Clark was born in San Antonio and, she adds, “will die in San Antonio.” An associate professor in UTSA’s Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, she is committed to promoting biculturalism and bilingualism in the city. From a modest upbringing, she grew up in one of the few Mexican American families in a predominantly Anglo neighborhood on the North Side. Beginning her higher education at San Antonio College, Clark went on to earn her bachelor’s degree from Trinity University, her master’s degree from UTSA and her Ph.D. from UT Austin. It was her experience in higher education that opened her eyes to the importance of multicultural education. Scholastic Entertainment reached out to Clark, a pioneer in her field, to serve as educational content director for the PBS children’s show *Maya & Miguel*. The animated bilingual show’s underlying message of the importance of doing good for family and community reflects Clark’s own philosophy of giving back.

How did you become involved with *Maya & Miguel*? I was asked to come in for an interview, and we instantly hit it off. What I brought to the table was a rich background in bilingual education and cultural studies, which was important.

Did you draw from personal experience when developing the characters? They already had the idea who the characters were going to be, but they had to define what the characters would be, specifically a character description. Abuela Elena [a character whose name is Spanish for Grandmother Ellen] came to the United States as an adult, and the writers asked me what the accent would sound like. Since Maya and Miguel are bilingual-bicultural kids, we had to describe them. Maya and Miguel Santos are 10-year-old twins. I was in charge of character description in terms of their identity, linguistic use and accents. In the case of the parents, their father is Puerto Rican and their mother is from Mexico, so I had to put together information on varieties of Spanish.

We also talked about different color palettes for the show. What was so much fun was giving input about bedrooms—color, settings and the like. I got to look over the drawings and give feedback as to what was appropriate and what wasn’t. ... I’m responsible for ensuring that the scripts are culturally accurate. As educational content director, I interact with the production team, story editors and advisory board.

What has been your favorite part about your involvement in the show?

The best part is seeing what I’ve been working so hard at all my life being transferred and used this way. I would love for it to be more bilingual. The fact that it reflects our values and our traditions as well as what we look like—you know, we don’t all look the same. It’s a modern middle-class family,

a positive portrayal of a Latino family and our cultural values. I think we have a lot to offer the United States, and that’s what kids are picking up on. Some wish they had a family like that, or wish they had a grandmother like [Abuela Elena].

A colleague and I do a Q&A on the PBS parents Web site. Some questions we’ve had are “How do I teach a second language to my kid?” or “How do I retain my culture?” So, it’s a show that reflects diversity, a show that reflects an unrepresented group in the media. We’ve faced challenges when institutions did not always accept people of color back in the ’60s. Now to finally have a chance to have a really closed institution such as the TV and media industry open a bit, it’s great. Yes, there’s a lot more African American representation, but not much for Latinos. We have *George Lopez*, what else? *American Family*, that’s about it. We are underrepresented in TV and film. So it’s great to see all of the actors and actresses working with this series. Candi Milo and Nika Futterman voice Maya and Miguel. There’s a list of Elizabeth Peña, Lucy Liu, Eric Estrada, Carlos

Ponce, Lupe Ontiveros, Jerod Mixon—we’re talking about a totally diverse lineup.

Who is the show’s target audience?

It’s aimed at a group of kids who traditionally have had nothing on television, 6- to 11-year-olds. Little kids have *Dora the Explorer*, but once they grow out of *Dora*, then what? At a recent conference, a lady told me that it’s not just for 11-year-olds. Her 14-year-old loves it, and it’s creating a bond between her and her 8-year-old sister because they sit and watch it together. More and more I hear that entire families sit together and watch it. It’s great that they can see their culture reflected. I had a colleague from Connecticut tell me that her son says, “Es como mi familia, es como cuando vamos a la casa de abuelita” (“It’s like my family, it’s like when we go to my grandmother’s house”). His grandmother lives in Peru, so to him his home is not only in the United States, it’s also in Peru. The stories are all amazing. Another story: during a recent conference, a woman told me her daughter never wanted to speak Spanish, which is common for second- or third-generations living in the United States, the whole idea that English is the prestige language. And since the show has come out, she wants her parents to speak to her in Spanish on Saturdays and Sundays.

What do you hope children get out of the show? Number one is the sense of

who am I? I am my language, I am my family, and I am my community. That’s who you are, your culture, your ethnicity. My own grandchildren are bicultural, so it’s wonderful to see that represented for them. And it’s a positive portrayal of self-image, with bilingualism being valued. All of that provokes their motivation, their interest and their learning. You can’t learn if you don’t feel good about who you are, if you don’t see yourself reflected in art, in books, in TV, or in society.

—Stephanie Mota



Talking security

Biological and cyber experts join UTSA institute to protect neighborhoods

Gripping live television images of the deadly day of Sept. 11, 2001, sparked feverish discussion about how the attack could have been prevented. Yet decades before, security experts quietly had been brainstorming multiple scenarios to protect Americans.

Airplanes-as-missiles did not dominate talks as much as biological and computer warfare, even now the most probable weapons of enemies of the United States. The difference in discourse today is that increased anti-American sentiment has raised the stakes, jarring everyday people—not just government personnel—to consider the safety of the world. It has moved the subject of security from Washington, D.C. cubicles and select ivory towers into the relative peace of places like Bexar County, Texas.



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A group leading that charge here in San Antonio is IPAC, UTSA's Institute for the Protection of American Communities. Formed in late 2004 after more than a year of planning, IPAC links two respected UTSA centers of emerging technology: the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) and the Center of Excellence in Biotechnology, Bioprocessing, Education and Research (CEBBER). CEBBER, a UTSA partnership with the U.S. Air Force at Brooks City-Base, trains military and civilian personnel to handle vaccines and other biological products, and CIAS works closely with the Air Intelligence Agency to address San Antonio's cybersecurity needs.

"San Antonio is a great test bed and we can become a real model here at UTSA for cooperation," said IPAC's executive director, Lawson W. Magruder III, an Army lieutenant general who retired Sept. 1, 2001,

ten days before the terrorist attacks. He actually tried to rejoin the force before becoming vice president for national security programs for Battelle Memorial Institute, a nonprofit research organization. After 32 years in the military, Magruder professes nothing less than a "passion" for security.

"Heretofore, security has been focused on response, but IPAC is also focused on prevention, how to better prepare to prevent these kinds of events and then respond more effectively if they are not prevented," said Magruder, a Texas native. "We're not just sounding alarms. We're talking about where we are and where we need to go as a community."

In much the way that the Department of Homeland Security is strengthening communication between the FBI, CIA and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, IPAC is joining local academic, governmental and corporate organizations in a long-term dialogue about protecting their neighborhoods. Magruder has met with the city's mayor, business leaders, officials from area military bases and professors from UTSA's Securities Studies Group, the Alamo Community College District and St. Mary's University Law School's Center for Terrorism Law. Jeffrey F. Addicott, an assistant professor of law and director of the center at St. Mary's, supports IPAC "in order to ensure that all aspects of confronting the threat of terrorism are viewed through the rule of law."

"The state of the law in this area is in constant flux and requires constant scholarship to find the correct balance between increased security and civil liberties," Addicott said.

Magruder and his team, headquartered in the Multidisciplinary Studies Building at the 1604 Campus, have long-standing relationships with people in Washington, D.C., but Sept. 11 made it clear that what is designed to happen at the federal level must be carried out at the local level. Just like firefighters practice shimmying down the pole and speeding to the scene of the blaze, the best security minds must sit at a conference table to discuss how they should react the next time "what if" turns into "what is." Part of IPAC's plan includes training exercises that will test community interaction in a widescale crisis. In their own parlance, the team is looking at "best practices" for a rational approach to irrational enemies.

"War is a consequence of human behavior," said James Chambers, director of CEBBER and a professor of biochemistry whose UTSA laboratory has been recognized by the Department of Defense for its work.

Cybersecurity expert Greg White, interim director and technical director of CIAS, sees IPAC as a way to further the cause—and conversations—beyond the UTSA classroom and San Antonio community.

"This effort will be grass-roots, multidisciplinary, innovative and long-term," White said.

Along the way, IPAC is positioned to secure UTSA's leadership in security research.

"This center of excellence will gain the confidence of our home city and the greater community in providing technical expertise to challenges in cybersecurity and protection from biological threats—for a greater good," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

—Lesli Hicks

Revving up for research

The Career Opportunities in Research (COR) Honors Undergraduate Research Training Program is giving UTSA students a leg up on the competition among graduate school applicants. The program, sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health, prepares talented undergraduate minority students for graduate programs in mental health.

Career Opportunities in Research “helps enhance the research mission of the university ... and puts together a whole set of experiences that helps [students] get into more competitive graduate programs,” said Ann Eisenberg, associate dean of the Honors College and associate professor of psychology.

Now in its fifth year, COR has provided 20 students with opportunities to gain experience as research assistants in psychology, biology and chemistry. Students work for two years under the direction of one of 10 participating UTSA and UTHSC faculty members; they also are required to work at an outside university the summer after their junior year. Additionally, participants receive assistance in completing graduate school applications and preparing for the GRE.

The two-year program not only covers a portion of tuition and fees, but also provides

a monthly stipend—an advantage, Eisenberg says, particularly for lower-income and first-generation college students.

“COR gave me the experience that I needed to be successful in graduate school,” said Elaine Tamez, a psychology major. After working at UTSA with assistant professor of psychology Brenda Hannon on memory research, Tamez went to Pennsylvania State University to work under Keith Whitfield, an associate professor of biobehavioral health. She and Whitfield have submitted a manuscript about memory performance in African American adults to an academic journal for review.

Tamez’s success story is only one of many. Recent graduates of the COR program are enrolled in research-oriented graduate programs at Northwestern, Georgetown, Ohio State and Texas Tech universities. According to Eisenberg’s follow-ups with 15 graduates of the program, more than 90 percent want to pursue careers in the field of research and two-thirds plan to earn a Ph.D. Eisenberg now is seeking a five-year renewal so that other students may embark on their own journeys of discovery.

—Tina Luther



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From topsy-turvy to smooth sailing

Remember the last time you went on a boat or plane and felt sick to your stomach? Electrical engineering professors Wei-Ming Lin and Parimal Patel have teamed up with AdviTech, Inc., to help people who suffer from motion sickness feel not so topsy-turvy.

AdviTech created a prototype for a wearable labyrinth (inner ear) system—a device that can alleviate the symptoms of vertigo and motion sickness.

The battery-powered system fits over the head like a headband with eyeglasses or a see-through eyepiece that can be attached to eyeglasses. Through a sensor and tiny computer, the system detects and measures movement. It then can project images through and onto the pair of the glasses to give the person wearing them the illusion that he or she is not really moving.

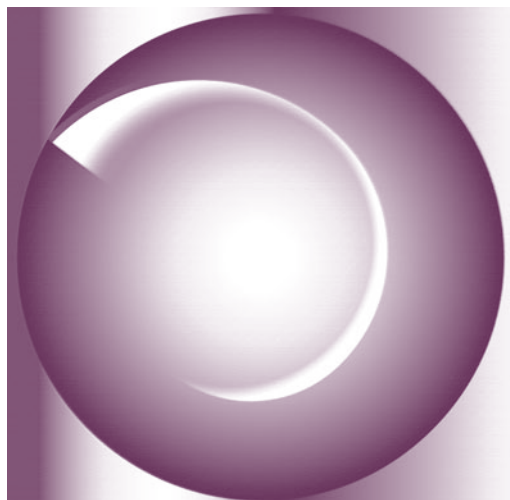
“The visual perception will take over the difference caused by the pressure in the ear

drum [which can cause vertigo or motion sickness],” said Patel. “When the head is moving or the body is tilting, it will sense that movement and display that in some form in front of the eyes.”

AdviTech initially tested the system on fifty patients with pre-existing conditions, including patients who cannot cook or drive due to vertigo problems. Although the device helped alleviate symptoms, some patients complained that it was too heavy and bulky, especially after wearing it for a few hours.

The UTSA team, led by Lin, recently embarked on a two-year process to refine the product—evaluating, calibrating, testing and integrating the prototype to turn it into, according to Patel, “a lightweight, longer-lasting wearable device.”

—Tina Luther



The Super Fans

By Leigh Anne Gullett

How a few students and 1,000 tubes of paint are building excitement for UTSA athletics

In one hour the UTSA women's basketball game against Nicholls State will tip off and Tim Stivers isn't ready. His glance shifts from his watch to the parking lot for the 10th time in a minute. As he sees Mark Johnson drive into the lot, even the spiky blonde hair on his head seems to relax.

Everyone accounted for, Stivers herds his group of four guys and one girl to a men's restroom in the University Center, a bag of blue and orange costume paint in hand. "We call it our locker room," he says. "No one [else] ever goes in here."

Disappointed in his fellow students' lack of enthusiasm, Stivers last season began a one-man crusade to raise school spirit. On game days, he handed out fliers and slathered on paint. Other students gave the blue guy a wide berth, unsure what to make of him. They also gave him a nickname: Super Fan. This season, students were more used to seeing him at games and on campus; he even had converts. He's had as many as 12 students join his crew in the stands, and there aren't many empty seats surrounding the Super Fans.

Stivers' small crew is a start, but his goal is to see 200 students in blue. He has a greater vision of blue-painted fans filling the Convocation Center, of home games selling out, and of UTSA one day becoming "what a school should be like," he says.

Stivers covets the school spirit he sees at Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference schools, where the student fans, such as Duke University's Cameron Crazies, are nearly as famous as the teams. But he recognizes that getting even 200 UTSA students to paint themselves blue is a lofty goal. During the 2004 season, attendance at UTSA games totaled 23,155 for the whole season—an average of 1,544 fans for each home game.

In the Super Fan locker room before

a game, banter and blue paint flow freely. Johnson supplies most of the chatter. "We need shirts that say 'Smurf It,'" he decides, smearing paint across his chest. Stivers stands back, observing, painting, instructing and brainstorming all at once.

"This is what we need to do," Stivers says. "Me and [Mark] need to have a big poster board and then run around with our face paint on at school for a couple of hours and ..."

Johnson stops painting and jumps into the conversation. "Wooo-oooo! Wooo-oooo! You wanna join? Wooo-oooo!" he says before pausing to decide if he should paint his arm-pits as well.

The students are in their seats by tip-off and—with the exception of the lone female who paints only her face—are blue from the waist up. For the next four hours, they heckle opponents and lead chants. They even sign autographs for a group of middle schoolers. The 11- and 12-year-olds chime in on every "De-fense!" and "U-T-S-A!" the Super Fans initiate. "This is what I want our students to do," says Stivers.

For Stivers, the call for more school spirit goes beyond painting himself blue. He spends his free time looking for new recruits. "Tim would stand in between Chaparral Village and

the Rec Center for, like, four hours," says Johnson. "I'd go to three different classes. I'd come back and he'd still be standing there going, 'Hey, you want to join?'"

Stivers estimates he has collected 200 names and phone numbers. Every Tuesday and Thursday during the season, he hands out fliers and goes to Party City for supplies. On game days he calls the students on his list. The ones who show up pay \$5 each to cover the cost of paint—about three tubes per person.

Stivers takes his show on the road as well. Last season after a game at Sam Houston State the coaches were so concerned for his safety they brought him into the locker room and walked him to his car. "I think all the students from Sam sat around him, and he was sitting there by himself, yelling," says UTSA guard David President. "He never gave up. He kept cheering us on."

President isn't alone in recognizing Stivers' efforts. The 2004 Southland Conference Player of the Year LeRoy Hurd publicly thanked Stivers when the team made it to the NCAA Tournament. Athletics Director Lynn Hickey receives e-mails asking about "the guys who faithfully show up for all home games decked in blue body paint and orange wigs."

"I love what he's doing," says men's bas-



Sports Briefs

UTSA NAMES FIRST

WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH

Steve Ballard, who led the Eastern Illinois University Panthers to four consecutive appearances in the NCAA Division I College Cup, has been named the first head coach of the new women's soccer program at UTSA.

Ballard started the Panther program in 1995 and also launched programs at Averett University and Elon University. He is in the top 40 among active Division I coaches in career victories and is nearing the NCAA top-50 list for all-time coaching victories.

"We interviewed five outstanding candidates, but Steve separated himself from the group with his dynamic personality and the unparalleled success he has enjoyed at the Division I level," said UTSA Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Elizabeth Dalton.

UTSA also announced that the soccer program will begin recruiting immediately, but will not begin team competition until the 2006–2007 season.

"Because the soccer recruiting calendar is already well underway, we feel our program will be best served in waiting an additional year to compete," said Lynn Hickey, UTSA's director of intercollegiate athletics. "We will begin signing student-athletes immediately, and those student-athletes will have the chance to begin school, train and learn coach Ballard's style of play."

TOTHE NAMED WOMEN'S GOLF COACH

Holly Tothe has been named UTSA's first women's golf coach.

Tothe, who was residing in Singapore as a golf instructor for Transview PTE Ltd., is making a return to San Antonio. Playing under her maiden name of Holly Carriker, she was the 1994 5-A state champion while at Churchill High School. A two-time San Antonio city champion and All-American in high school, Tothe played at the University of Southern California and finished her collegiate career at the University of Texas.

"I'm very excited, especially because it's a new program," Tothe said. "I think the potential at UTSA is huge. The support from the school, athletic department and the golf community is outstanding."

"We decided on Holly from an excellent list of candidates because she has ties to

the San Antonio golf community, had a distinguished collegiate playing career at both USC and Texas, has a tremendous reputation as an LPGA golf teacher, and she brings a level of enthusiasm that our new program will be needing," said Lynn Hickey, director of athletics.

The addition of women's golf for the 2005–2006 season will allow UTSA to compete immediately in the Southland Conference.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR

VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

UTSA will serve as the host institution for the 2005 NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Championship on Dec. 15 and 17 at the Alamodome. Tickets are available by purchasing an all-session tournament pass for \$45 through TicketMaster, or by purchasing a Local Contributor Package through the San Antonio Local Organizing Committee. Call (210) 820-2104.

MCDONALD NAMED

STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

UTSA junior Ashley McDonald has been named 2004 Southland Conference Women's Cross Country Student-Athlete of the Year. McDonald has compiled a 4.0 grade point average in accounting and made the National Dean's List in 2003 and 2004. She also was named to Who's Who Among American College Students.

McDonald placed eighth at this year's Southland Conference Cross Country Championship meet, running the 6,000-meter course in a time of 22 minutes, 5 seconds. During the regular season, McDonald was twice named SLC Athlete of the Week.

HOLMES NAMED

OUTSTANDING TRACK PERFORMER

Senior Rosalind Holmes was named Southland Conference Women's Indoor Outstanding Track Performer following her triple-gold performance in February at the Southland Conference Indoor Championships in Houston.

Holmes won her first individual and relay conference titles at Bill Yeoman Field House. She won the 60-meter dash with a school record time of 7.45 seconds, and she took top honors in the 200-meter. Holmes also anchored the winning 4x400-meter relay team.

WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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



ketball coach Tim Carter. "We need a home court advantage. We need hecklers just like when we go to other places. When we go to K[ansas] State and Wichita State and Murray State and Texas, those people are getting after us. That's a part of student life. I love it."

Associate Athletics Director Brad Parrott says he's not sure there's enough blue and orange paint in the city to paint 200 students, but he hopes Stivers succeeds. "He's relentless and he's dedicated and we need about 4,000 more just like him," says Parrott.

Stivers, who graduates in May with a degree in finance, worries about what will happen once he leaves. He's concerned his current crew doesn't realize how much work goes on behind the scenes. And they've got a long way to go to realize his goal of sold-out home games and 200 Super Fans. But Tim Stivers' own fans say his impact on UTSA games can't be measured in numbers.

"He makes the game fun," says Carter. "That's the difference. He makes it fun for the other people."

Designs for the real world

By Rebecca Luther

Making ideas work

What's a VFD?

Whenever Ramon Rodriguez told anyone about his senior design project, he invariably got the same reaction: What exactly is a variable frequency drive? Truth be told, a year ago he didn't know either. Simply put, a variable frequency drive, or VFD, adjusts the speed and torque of an electric motor based on energy demand.

But Rodriguez came up with an explanation that was even easier for his family and friends to understand.

"Think of it as a dimmer switch. You are able to control how much power you want," he says. "When you have a dimmer switch and you want more light, you want more illumination, you turn it all the way up or you leave it on its full setting. If you want a little less light, you turn it back and you're not using as much electricity."

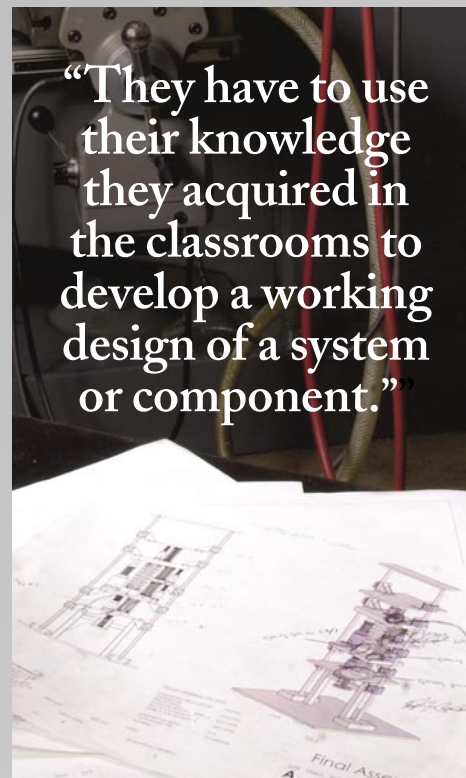
Using the breadth of knowledge from their college classes to design a working project—and being able to explain in laymen's terms what their project is about—is the purpose of UTSA's mechanical engineering design project classes. Broken out over two semesters, ME 4811 Mechanical Engineering Design Project Planning and ME 4813 Mechanical Engineering Design Project represent a sort of senior thesis for mechanical engineering students—one year dedicated to a single project to demonstrate what they've learned. During the first semester, students select projects, form groups and analyze different ways the projects could be built; in the second semester, they design, analyze, model, and test their projects.

"This is the capstone course for the mechanical engineering students. They have to use their knowledge they acquired in the classrooms to develop a working design of a system or component," says Associate Professor Jahan Eftekhar, who teaches both classes.

Last spring in ME 4811, Ramon Rodriguez and his team partners Kerry O'Connor and Jason Torres (who all graduated in December) picked their project: Laboratory Demonstration of Pump Energy Savings Using a Variable Frequency Drive, which was funded by a grant from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. Then they

evaluated the best way to hook up a VFD to a pump to model energy savings. They analyzed a number of candidate designs before selecting their final design and completing the structural steel assembly of pipes, pressure sensors and pumps.

"In 4811, the ultimate goal is to come up with a proposal that consists of three or four alternative designs to solve the specific problem, whatever the problem is. All of the projects emerge from a need or an opportunity," Eftekhar says.



evaluated the best way to hook up a VFD to a pump to model energy savings. They analyzed a number of candidate designs before selecting their final design and completing the structural steel assembly of pipes, pressure sensors and pumps. The most important requirement for the course is using mechanical engineering training and education to develop a working design of a system or component—with considerations of safety, reliability, environmental, economic, ethical and social impacts."

But the course isn't just about design, Eftekhar says; it's also about preparing students to work in the real world. He's added to his course syllabus discussion of contemporary issues such as genetic engineering, energy and environmental policies. He requires his students to sign up with UTSA's Career Services offices, where they can learn about job search skills and job

opportunities. He talks to his students about patents as well as professionalism, ergonomics, safety, and environmental issues. As part of the coursework for their specific projects, students learn about submitting proposals, budgeting, market analysis, ordering and purchasing parts, planning, scheduling and, finally, testing and modifying their projects to make sure they work. Communication skills are emphasized throughout the year. Students are required to present progress reports and write proposals and final reports.

Eftekhar also brings in outside companies to sponsor the student projects and give students a taste of working in the real world. He works with sponsors to ensure that the projects they present to the students are tailored to the requirements of the course. Throughout the semester, students stay in contact with their sponsors on their progress; sponsors also grade students on their final presentations at the end of each semester.

Standard Aero San Antonio, Inc., which provides jet engine maintenance and repair for the aerospace and defense industries, is a regular sponsor of the class. David Crowley, director of product engineering for Standard Aero, says the company offers students projects that its own engineers are either working on or are trying to decide whether to pursue more aggressively. This academic year, Standard Aero is sponsoring three projects in ME 4811 and 4813 to the tune of several thousand dollars: student groups sponsored by the company are looking at alternate methods of removing blades from turbine engines; ways to recover wasted energy from engine testing; and better options for retaining compressor pins in T56 turboprop engines.

"We want to support the local engineering group because to a certain extent, that's our talent pool. We want a close link with the UTSA guys," says Crowley, who studied under Jahan Eftekhar as a student at Texas Tech. "It's a lot of work, too, but it's a good thing in the long run."

Standard Aero, Southwest Research Institute, Gas Turbine Materials Associates and UTSA Facilities Services all are sponsoring student projects this year.

Eftekhar sometimes serves as a project sponsor himself. His own research interests include automotive safety. This spring semester,

ter he's sponsoring a group that's designing a cervical spine to represent women in rear-impact collision testing. Last semester in 4813, he sponsored a group building a model of a human spine for use in vertical displacement crash testing, such as fighter pilot ejections. Eftekhar is also mentoring a group of students that are designing a fuel cell water fountain.

Many of the design projects are built at the engineering machine shop on UTSA's West Campus, started by Eftekhar in the mid-1980s. Frequently ME 4813 students bring their designs to machinist Paul Krueger for assistance. In the eight years he's worked in the machine shop, Krueger has helped students build everything from geothermal heater/air conditioners to robots that could climb stairs. "I deal with them more on the detail level than the concept level," Krueger says. "Can this part be made? If so, how should it be configured in order to be made reasonably, efficiently or cost-effectively?"

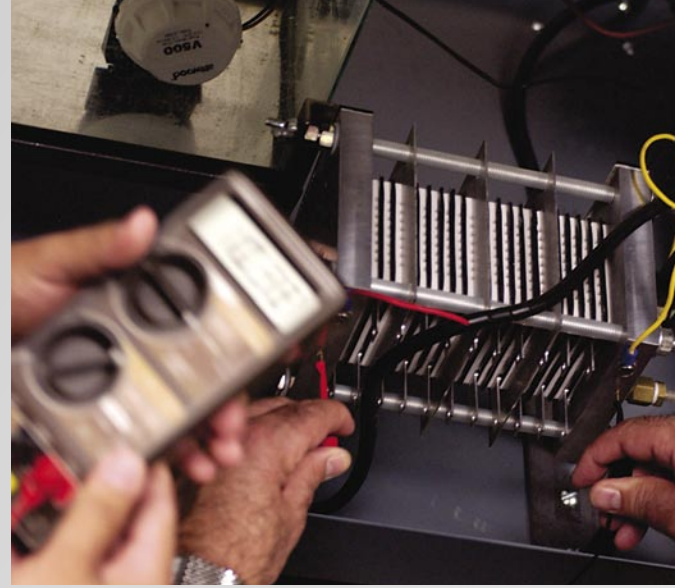
But in addition to learning how to work and communicate with outside sponsors and machinists, Eftekhar also wants his students

to work well with each other. He even gives team quizzes so students can evaluate a problem together. Teamwork, Eftekhar emphasizes, is one of the requirements of the class. "They cannot have a project by themselves," he says. "They have to learn how to work with each other."

Rodriguez estimates that he and his team spent more than 300 hours working together to design and build their project. Their finished VFD pump now sits in a basement lab in the Engineering Building, where future students will use it for experiments in Thermal and Fluid Lab class. "The idea is to have them repeat the method of approach that we used to demonstrate pump energy savings," Rodriguez says. Their own testing

showed a small savings using the VFD, perhaps a couple of cents an hour, but, that adds up when you're talking about businesses that have to run heating and air-conditioning systems 24 hours a day, he says. Rodriguez adds that one of the reasons his group chose that particular project was because they could see its practical uses.


"In these classes, you're not trying to learn the concepts anymore; you're taking what you've learned and actually applying it," he says. "This is actual real-world experience."



THINK OF IT AS A DIMMER SWITCH

Kerry O'Connor, Jason Torres and Ramon Rodriguez with their design of the variable frequency drive pump.





*A rental truck full
of velvet, tweed, lace,
ribbon and satin
has brought new life
to a fledgling
opera program
in San Antonio.*



Dressing the Part

By Lori Burling

About six years ago, the late philanthropist Robert Tobin was visiting the Metropolitan Opera in New York City when he spotted employees loading a truck with hundreds of old costumes and stage sets. An avid fan of costume and set design, Tobin approached the employees and learned that the artifacts—dating from the 1950s to the 1980s—were headed for the city dump. Without hesitation, Tobin asked if he could purchase them. But the Met wouldn't take his money. Instead, employees gave the items to Tobin, who only had to pay to transport the items to his home in San Antonio.

Recently, the costumes and sets came out of hiding. At the end of the fall 2004 semester, Tobin's legacy—the Tobin Foundation for Theatre Arts—donated the truckload of goods to the UTSA Department of Music's Lyric Theatre.

"Everything had been stored in a warehouse all this time," says Linda Hardberger, curator for the Tobin Foundation and a member of its board of directors. "We were delighted to finally find a home for them."

The foundation's gift included hundreds of costumes—mostly depicting the Renaissance period—as well as stage sets and music scores used in productions at the Met, including *Rigoletto*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*, says William McCrary, director of UTSA's Lyric Theatre. McCrary was meeting with members of the foundation to ask for funding for a future UTSA production when the topic of the costumes came up.

"I had contacted the Tobin Foundation about the possibility of getting a grant from them," says McCrary, who adds that until this academic year, the lyric theater program was completely funded by grants and ticket sales. "It was during that conversation that the foundation offered the gifts."

Along with the costumes, the foundation provided a \$9,000 grant for costume and set design for UTSA's world-premiere opera, *Gods of Mischief*, by renowned composer Seymour Barab. Barab is best known for composing *Little Red Riding Hood*, the most internationally performed children's opera, according to *Opera News*. With Barab's help, *Gods of Mischief* premiered in March at UTSA.

"We obviously [did] not use the costumes for *Gods of Mischief* because it is based on Greek mythology, but the costumes are something to work with," says McCrary. "We're a program that started with nothing. At least now the costumes and sets will be used. They had been boxed up and



GETTING INTO CHARACTER
(left to right) Students Carrie Gadbois, April Hufty and Francisco Espinoza draw a little inspiration from costumes donated to the Lyric Theatre by the Tobin Foundation for Theatre Arts.

*M*would probably have ruined if they weren't given to us."

McCrary was hired at UTSA in 2001 as the first director of an opera program that lacked funding, a workshop to build sets, and a costume designer. And its downtown theater was closed for renovations. In roughly four years, McCrary has secured a "small amount of money" for the program, progressed from one to two productions a year and started a traveling show that visits schools in the San Antonio area.

"We've expanded quite a bit. I still build sets from my garage, but we're getting there ... with the help of relationships with the Tobin Foundation and the Opera Guild [in San Antonio]. It wasn't a hard decision to come to such a small program after I heard the talent here," he says of the more than 90 voice majors at UTSA. "An opera director is only as good as the students he's working with. There is incredible talent here."

And the talent is reflected in the accomplishments of the department's graduates. Former students include a national winner of the Metropolitan Opera auditions, a Grammy-nominated children's music composer, a Young Artist Apprentice with the Austin Lyric Opera and a Houston Grand Opera Studio member. The department also has hosted several guest artists, including Met sopranos Martina Arroyo and Carol Neblett.

"We're always behind the curve in funding because we are a smaller [program], but we're accomplishing things that bigger [programs] haven't done," says Gene Dowdy, chair of the Department of Music. "Our opera program has emerged as a wonderful program in our department, and a gift like these costumes and music scores is a major shot in the arm. It's really priceless."

The donated costumes made their stage debut at the annual Madrigal Dinner in December, which features students from UTSA's Concert Choir. The show is usually set during the Renaissance period.

"When they opened the curtain it was very dramatic. They looked wonderful," says Hardberger of the costumes, designed by Russian painter and designer Eugene Berman.

Berman, who died in 1972, was like the Andrew Lloyd Webber of theater design, says Dowdy. He worked and trained in Western Europe, but moved to the United States in the late 1930s to design sets and costumes for operas, ballets and other musical productions.



Eugene Berman, Costume design for Don Giovanni, 1957
Gouache, ink and watercolor on paper.
Collection of the McNay, Gift of the Tobin Endowment

Velvet jackets trimmed in brocade, tassels and pompoms hang next to satin corset dresses lined with ribbon, jewels and lace. Shimmering thread was even woven into a black jacket that resembles the traditional garb for a Pilgrim.



A “Berman is famous all over the world for his designs for opera productions,” says Dowdy.

All of the Berman-designed costumes given to UTSA were made by Barbara Karinska and her team of seamstresses. Known as Madame Karinska, she worked on costumes in New York and Hollywood from the 1930s until her death in 1983—dressing operas, films, Broadway musicals and even ice shows. She designed for 10 films and won a 1948 Academy Award for costume design for *Joan of Arc* starring Ingrid Bergman. Bringing her talent closer to home, Karinska is credited with constructing the short ballet tutu.

“We probably received between 300 and 500 costumes,” says McCrary. “All of them are very detailed in craftsmanship—details that I don’t even know you could find today.”

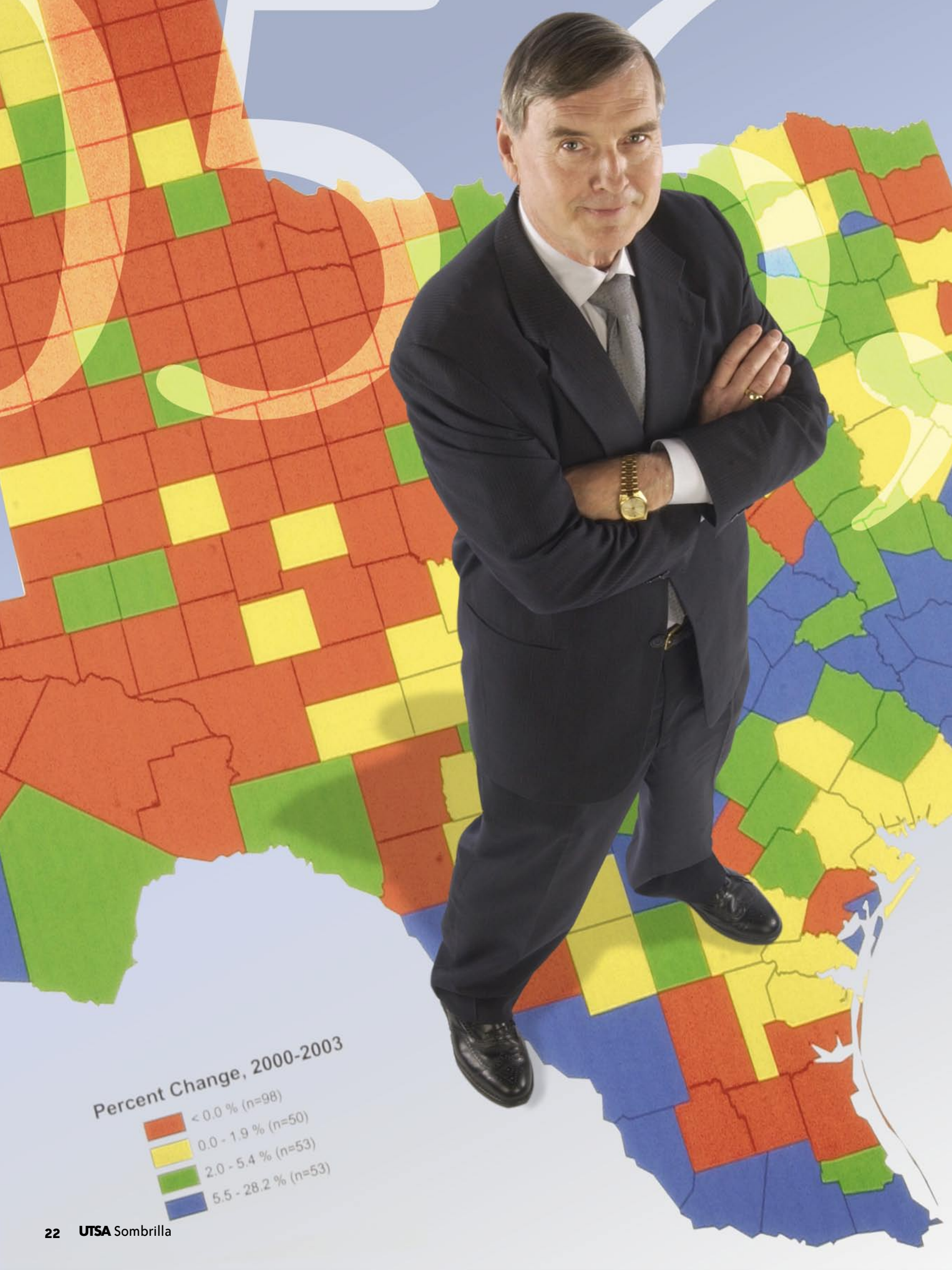
In the props room of the Buena Vista Street Theater at the Downtown Campus, there are now racks upon racks of brilliantly colored costumes. Before the donation, the room was nearly empty.

Velvet jackets trimmed in brocade, tassels and pompoms hang next to satin corset dresses lined with ribbon, jewels and lace. Shimmering thread was even woven into a black jacket that resembles the traditional garb for a Pilgrim.

Many of the costumes still have name tags sewn into the collars along with penned-in numbers showing the scenes in which the costume would appear. One gold-embroidered cape is adorned with the name of famed American tenor Richard Tucker. Before his death in 1975, Tucker had performed 724 times at the Met and on tour, according to the Web site for the Richard Tucker Music Foundation.

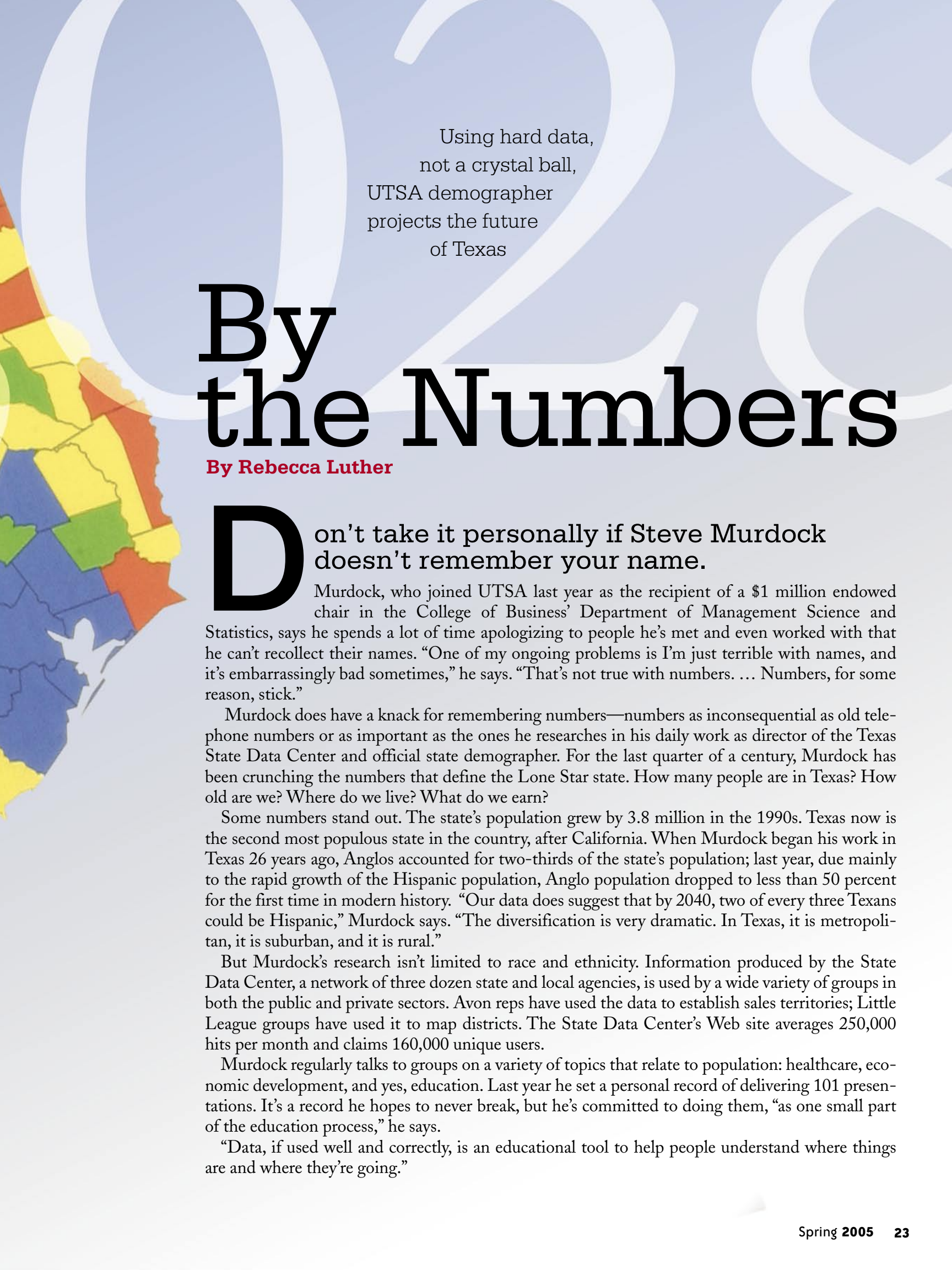
★

“What could inspire a student more,” Dowdy asks, “than wearing a costume that was worn by vocalists at the Met like Richard Tucker?”



Percent Change, 2000-2003

- < 0.0 % (n=98)
- 0.0 - 1.9 % (n=50)
- 2.0 - 5.4 % (n=53)
- 5.5 - 28.2 % (n=53)



Using hard data,
not a crystal ball,
UTSA demographer
projects the future
of Texas

By the Numbers

By Rebecca Luther

Don't take it personally if Steve Murdock doesn't remember your name.

Murdock, who joined UTSA last year as the recipient of a \$1 million endowed chair in the College of Business' Department of Management Science and Statistics, says he spends a lot of time apologizing to people he's met and even worked with that he can't recollect their names. "One of my ongoing problems is I'm just terrible with names, and it's embarrassingly bad sometimes," he says. "That's not true with numbers. ... Numbers, for some reason, stick."

Murdock does have a knack for remembering numbers—numbers as inconsequential as old telephone numbers or as important as the ones he researches in his daily work as director of the Texas State Data Center and official state demographer. For the last quarter of a century, Murdock has been crunching the numbers that define the Lone Star state. How many people are in Texas? How old are we? Where do we live? What do we earn?

Some numbers stand out. The state's population grew by 3.8 million in the 1990s. Texas now is the second most populous state in the country, after California. When Murdock began his work in Texas 26 years ago, Anglos accounted for two-thirds of the state's population; last year, due mainly to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population, Anglo population dropped to less than 50 percent for the first time in modern history. "Our data does suggest that by 2040, two of every three Texans could be Hispanic," Murdock says. "The diversification is very dramatic. In Texas, it is metropolitan, it is suburban, and it is rural."

But Murdock's research isn't limited to race and ethnicity. Information produced by the State Data Center, a network of three dozen state and local agencies, is used by a wide variety of groups in both the public and private sectors. Avon reps have used the data to establish sales territories; Little League groups have used it to map districts. The State Data Center's Web site averages 250,000 hits per month and claims 160,000 unique users.

Murdock regularly talks to groups on a variety of topics that relate to population: healthcare, economic development, and yes, education. Last year he set a personal record of delivering 101 presentations. It's a record he hopes to never break, but he's committed to doing them, "as one small part of the education process," he says.

"Data, if used well and correctly, is an educational tool to help people understand where things are and where they're going."

Charting new territory

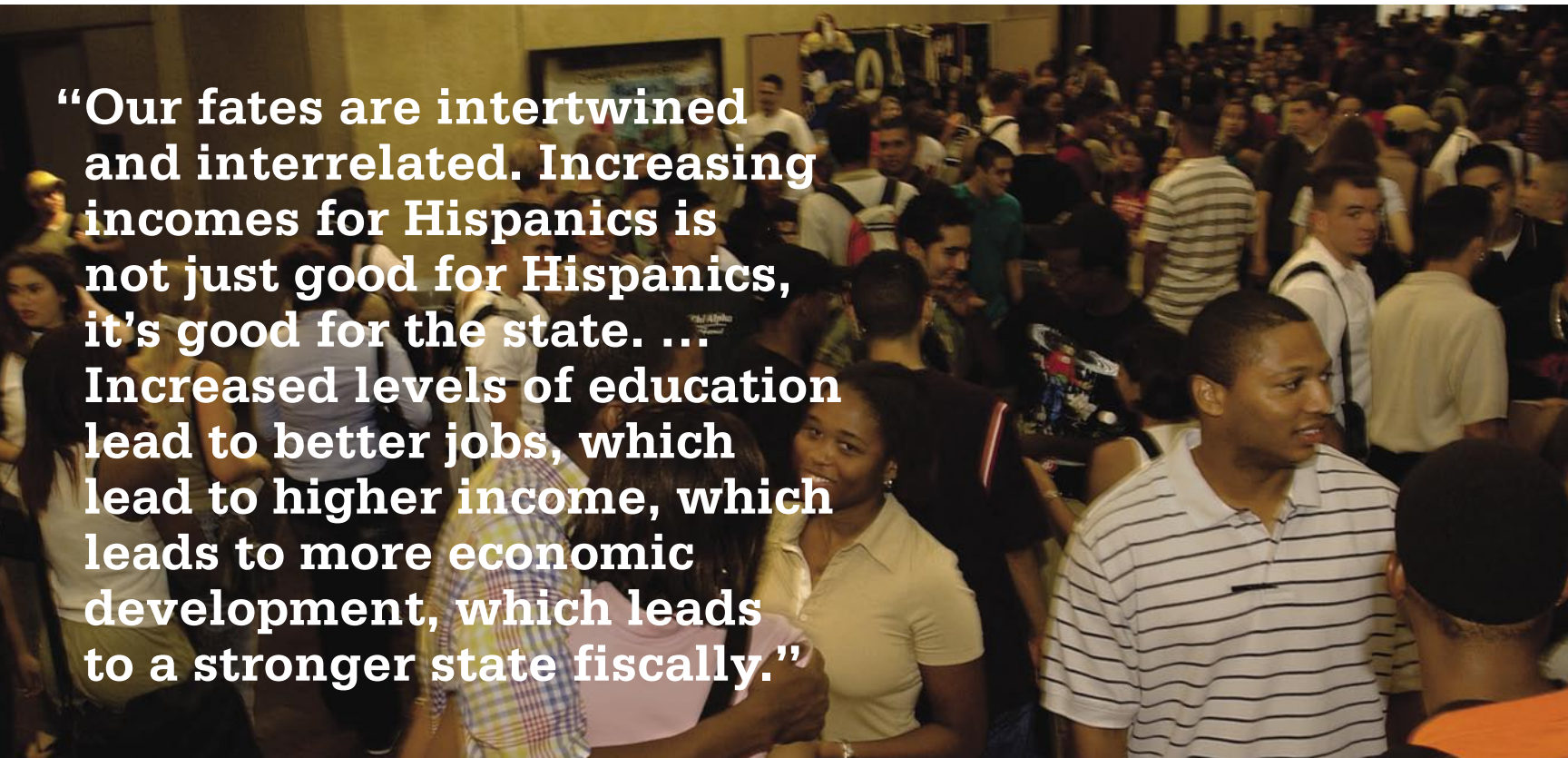
Murdock, who had worked at Texas A&M University since moving to Texas from his home state of North Dakota in 1977, moved his work and office to UTSA last year as holder of the Lutch Brown Distinguished Chair and as head of the university's new Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, which combines Murdock's roles as state demographer, State Data Center director and applied policy researcher. The UTSA job was appealing for several reasons. It offered a chance to relocate to a major metropolitan area, one on the forefront of the demographic changes occurring in Texas. Murdock was also able to bring most of his key staff members with him; some of them, including administrative services officer Patricia Bramwell and State Data Center researcher Beverly Pecotte, have worked with him for 20 or more years, and three others (Nazrul Hoque, Jeff Jordan and Steve White) have worked with him for more than 10 years. That made the move an easy one, Murdock says. "We basically just turned off the power at A&M and turned it on here."

The challenge

In the 1997 book *The Texas Challenge: Population Change and the Future of Texas*, updated in 2003, Murdock and his co-authors made the case for the state to manage its population growth by addressing the socioeconomic factors that most affect the populace: income and education.

For years, Murdock has been waving a warning flag about the state's growing population—that as the population rises, so does the poverty level, while the education level drops. Here's one clear indication of that downward trend: In 1990, Texas ranked 39th among states in percentage of adults with a high school diploma. By 2000, one decade later, Texas had dropped to 45th, and according to data released last summer, Texas now ranks 50th. Dead last.

Non-Anglos accounted for nearly 80 percent of Texas's growth in the 1990s; Hispanics accounted for 60 percent of that growth. By 2040, Murdock projects, three out of every four Texans will be non-Anglo. But Texas is not unique in its changing demographics. In the 1990s, non-Anglo population growth was faster than Anglo population growth in all 50 states.



"Our fates are intertwined and interrelated. Increasing incomes for Hispanics is not just good for Hispanics, it's good for the state. ... Increased levels of education lead to better jobs, which lead to higher income, which leads to more economic development, which leads to a stronger state fiscally."

Not that the job hasn't changed significantly in a quarter of a century. Murdock used to lug photocopies of his presentations every time he gave a speech; now he posts the SDC's Web address at the end of his PowerPoint presentations. In the early days of the data center, which was established by the Census Bureau prior to the 1980 census, aggregate data was distributed first in bound copies, then on computer tape. "Part of the setup for the data center program reflects our origins before we had everything on computers," Pecotte says. The SDC's state affiliates "were all at universities because at that time in order to do computer runs, you needed a main-frame computer system. We didn't have PCs sitting on our desks."

Computers have made the logistics a lot easier, but the staff's responsibilities have increased, too.

"It's a difficult task, pulling together everything you need to study something statewide in Texas, with 254 counties, and they're so varied," Pecotte says. "Our urban areas are so large and so urban, and our rural areas are so rural. There's such a wide range of characteristics you need to be able to address in order to serve everyone well."

"Diversification is very much a national phenomenon; it's not just a few states," he says. "The Texas of today is the United States of tomorrow. ... We're at the frontline of what is happening nationally."

The problem lies in the socioeconomic disparities between the groups. African Americans and Hispanics earn two-thirds of what Anglos earn, and their poverty rates are three times as high. The college completion rate for Anglos is 30 percent, but less than nine percent for Hispanics.

Whenever he's asked about the bleak outlook he projects, Murdock always tells people that he hopes he's wrong. But, if something isn't done to change the socioeconomic standing of Hispanics and African Americans—and if the population grows as Murdock and other demographers expect it to—then he won't be wrong.

"If you don't change those differentials—and education is one of the key factors for that—then Texas is in for a very sobering future and a very challenged future," he says.

Murdock says that his research is driven by the data, not by ideology. But people's attitudes do come into play when he's talking about the state's diversifying population. Ten years ago, when he was making similar projections,

Murdock was more likely to hear from skeptics who didn't believe Texas was going to change the way Murdock said. Once, a man walked out of one of Murdock's presentations after announcing that he'd heard enough. These days, Murdock doesn't hear as many naysayers, and he believes it's because Texas' diversification is a lot more obvious.

But the fact that people can't deny the change doesn't mean they're ready to address it. Murdock often relays an anecdote he heard from one school superintendent. The superintendent's district bond election failed, and failed in larger percentages in Anglo areas. As the story goes, one older Anglo man told the superintendent, "Look, I'm not ready to raise my taxes to educate those people's kids," Murdock says.

"That's really dangerous for Texas because we don't understand that our fates are intertwined and interrelated," he says. "Increasing incomes for Hispanics is not just good for Hispanics, it's good for the state. ... Increased levels of education lead to better jobs, which lead to higher income, which leads to more economic development, which leads to a stronger state fiscally. In a real sense, how well our non-Anglo populations do in Texas is how well Texas will do."

Numbers talk

When Steve Murdock talks, people listen. His research on population is cited by editorial page writers, school superintendents and legislators. In a landmark school finance lawsuit last year, State Judge John Dietz cited Murdock's research in his ruling that current public school funding system is inadequate and in violation of the state constitution.

Appointed the official state demographer by Gov. Rick Perry in 2001, Murdock also is responsible for providing information as requested by different government entities. It's work he and his staff were doing anyway, but the legislation formalized that role. During legislative sessions, he remains on call to provide data for legislators on any number of issues. His office has maintained credibility over the years, he says, by not overstepping their role as policy researchers.

"No elected official has come to me and said, 'Oh by the way, Steve, we want you to redesign the school system,'" he says. "That's not the role of policy researchers. The role of policy researchers is not to determine what policy should be; it is to do research related to problems and issues, and provide that information in an objective way."

State Representative Michael Villarreal (District 123 in San Antonio), who knew Murdock when he was a student at A&M, says he calls on the State Data Center and Murdock whenever he wants to determine how proposed legislation would affect his constituents and all of Texas.

"His work helps me understand future implications, whether it's education or transportation issues or economic development policy," Villarreal says. "Dr. Murdock's research and his insights have been valuable tools for making better public policy."

This legislative session, Villarreal is vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which is working on restructuring the state's tax system. "I look at every possible tax strategy that may or may not be included in our tax bill," he says, "and I compare it up against Dr. Murdock's estimates of population growth, because I want to make sure that, at the end of the day, the new tax structure grows better with our growing population and its growing needs."

Villarreal says his colleagues on both sides on the aisle share his respect for Murdock's research. "Data can be a bridge builder; it can help us understand what our common ground is. And I believe that is what The Texas Challenge has done for us. ... When it comes to issues like the one we're grappling with right now, school finance, it becomes less a partisan issue, and we recognize what the common ground is between urban Democrats and rural Republicans. ... We're both concerned with how our children's education is paid for today and into the future. And the data that both of us refer to again goes back to Steve Murdock."

Better business

The Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research's location in the College of Business also allows the group to pursue their goal of expanding their work within the business communities. They had previously done applied demographics for businesses on an informal basis, working with large retailers and healthcare systems. (In addition to being the lead agency for the State Data Center, they also are the lead agency for the Business and Industry Data Center, a network of state and regional offices.) "The location within the business college provides us an opportunity to work with business in a way that we have not before," Murdock says.

The institute can provide the data that can help any business understand its market.

"If you want to know whether you should locate on Street Corner A, B or C, we can help an organization determine which of those three is closest to the largest number of people, or importantly, to the largest number of people of a certain income or demographic," Murdock says.

Grocery chain H-E-B has been using the State Data Center for 10 years, says H-E-B Director of Real Estate Eric Moede, who handles site selection for central and south Texas. "We subscribe to a number of different sources of demographic data, but we use the Data Center information

to really help look at our store networking and site location analysis on a state-wide basis," he says.

Moede says he's found the SDC's population information to be the most accurate, as well as particularly useful because it reveals trends that have been observed over a long period of time. "It basically provides context to the numbers ... so [Murdock] can very easily point out significant changes that we ought to be paying attention to."

"Data can be a bridge builder; it can help us understand what our common ground is."

Understanding numbers

Steve Murdock may be good at numbers, but he understands that a lot of people aren't. "Nothing is more deadly to a public audience than having an academic get up and spout six- and eight-digit numbers repeatedly without any kind of comparison base," he says.

A former colleague once advised him to put big numbers into context that people could understand. "Don't tell your audience that the population of Texas increased by three million, eight hundred and sixty-five thousand people." That may or may not stick," Murdock says. Most people hearing that kind of number, he says, will wonder, "Is that a lot?"

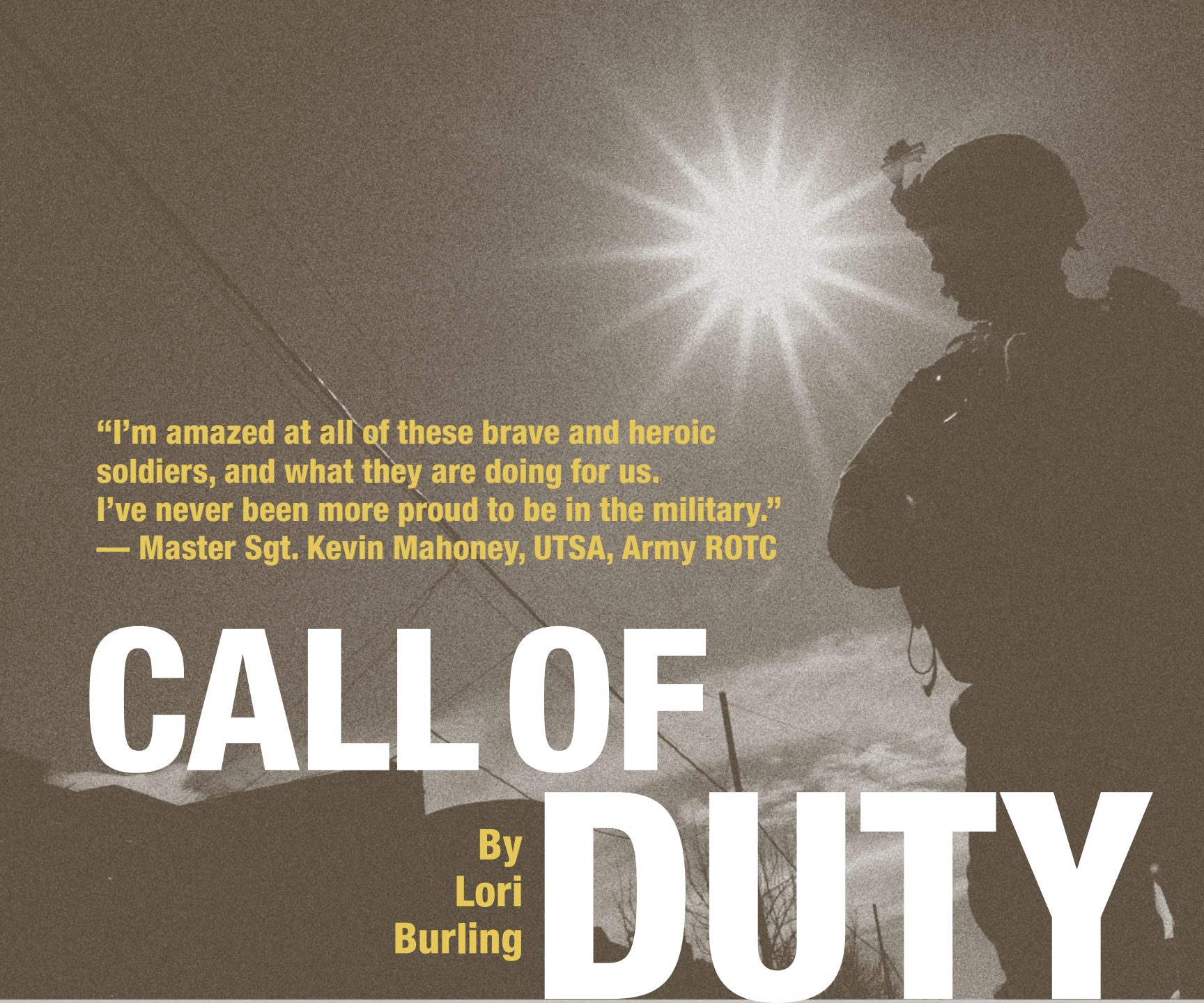
So instead, when Murdock tells people how much the population of Texas grew from 1990 to 2000, he tells them that it's "roughly the equivalent of adding another city of Houston and another city of Dallas, plus another city of San Antonio, plus another Corpus Christi."

Murdock himself, however, does remember the state grew by 3.8 million in the '90s. And that Texas' population is increasing by 200,000 people every year by natural increase alone; domestic and international migration doubles that number. And that the state ranks 33rd in per capita income, at \$19,617. And so on.

Even his own staff is impressed with Murdock's ability to recall the figures that they all work with.

"He gives so many talks, he has them all memorized," Beverly Pecotte says. "I can't pull up all the population and income and poverty data for different areas of the state like he can. I can find them very quickly, but I don't have them all memorized like he does."

"No, none of us has his capacity for numbers," she concludes. "But it's not just numbers—it's people."



**"I'm amazed at all of these brave and heroic soldiers, and what they are doing for us. I've never been more proud to be in the military."
— Master Sgt. Kevin Mahoney, UTSA, Army ROTC**

CALL OF DUTY

**By
Lori
Burling**

Just over two years ago, President Bush announced that the United States was attacking Iraq—beginning Operation Iraqi Freedom and furthering Operation Enduring Freedom. With UTSA being in a military town and having one of the strongest ROTC programs in the country, many members of the UTSA family are contributing to these efforts in some way—whether it be in the mountains of Afghanistan, the deserts of Iraq or here in the United States.

Throughout the country, ROTC graduates make up about 75 percent of the officers in the U.S. Army. At UTSA, freshmen and sophomores are allowed to take ROTC courses as electives, while upper-level students are expected to commit to future service in the military following graduation. At that point, they take advanced courses in leadership and field and infantry training.

"Infantry training is not a part of all careers in the military," says Master Sgt. Kevin Mahoney of UTSA's Army ROTC program. "But if an officer can lead 10 men up a hill with machine guns, then they can lead 10 men and women in an office."

For Capt. Leif Purcell, Lt. Angela Lape, Lt. Jon Flores and Capt. Orlando Rummans, that training is what guided them and kept them safe during their tours in the Middle East.

Leif Purcell '99

Army Capt. Leif Purcell didn't greet trick-or-treaters on Halloween, and he didn't watch scary movies. Instead, he watched a different kind of horror.

"I can remember walking into our tent, and our commander was watching a Predator [an unmanned aircraft that takes video] feed by satellite on a plasma screen television. He was eating candy corn and watching a firefight with Afghani insurgents," says Purcell. "And sitting on his desk was a plastic pumpkin my nieces and nephews had sent me. I just can't forget that image."

Purcell's tent sat in a valley near Kabul, Afghanistan, and the television was one of many that helped his team stay in contact with battling soldiers. Purcell, 34, is a communications officer for the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force of the 3rd Special Forces Group. His job was to provide tactical satellite communication support. For instance, soldiers under fire would radio the task force when they need foot or air support.

"We call them TICs—troops in contact—when we get contact from them. We usually hear gunshots or explosions before we see anything," Purcell explains. "When we're winning, it's OK to watch, but when you're losing ... you have to put your head down, grit your teeth and help those soldiers—first by getting them help and then by trying to calm them. I remember in one incident we lost two men before we could get them help. They were on foot and being chased by [insurgents in] an old Soviet tank."

Purcell, who graduated from UTSA in 1999 with a degree in anthropology, was deployed to Afghanistan for six months in 2004. His orders did not come as a surprise—as part of an airborne division, he attaches to Special Forces teams during wartime. During his tour, Purcell was working either from the command post or in the field setting up communication systems with a 12-man team. He slept on cots or in Humvees, and sometimes in a bunker listening to rockets fly over his camp or someone stepping on a land mine. His more trying times occurred as the October elections for a new Afghan government neared.

"There were some hairy moments. Right before the elections the Taliban and insurgents tried last-ditch efforts to stop us. We found caches of weapons, ammunition and bombs that they were planning to use. But we stomped them out before they could," the San Antonio native says. "After the elections took place in Afghanistan we saw an immediate change. People are starting to have faith and allegiance for their country. You used to see the black Taliban flag waving all over the place, but now you see the [Afghan] flag. We legitimized their government. ... As time goes on, there are more newly trained [Afghan] soldiers fighting what's

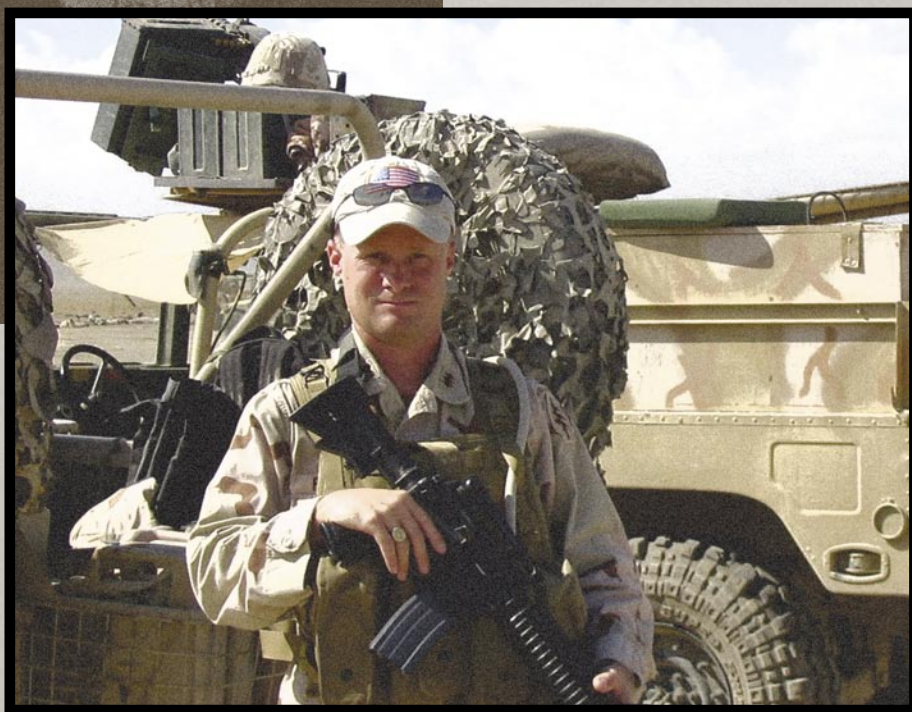
left of the Taliban instead of American soldiers."

Purcell will continue training at Fort Bragg, N.C., until May, when he deploys again—this time to Iraq.

"We took the fight to them. We've choked their money and their weapons. We've run them into the mountains of Afghanistan. ... We're doing our job," he says. "As long as we're fighting over there—we're safe over here."

Angela Lape '02

In the last two years, Army Lt. Angela Lape went from



©2005Mauricio Lima/AFP/Getty Images

shooting down Scud missiles and convoying in a Humvee to planning a wedding and preparing for motherhood.

A native of San Antonio, Lape graduated from UTSA in 2002 with a degree in criminal justice after completing the Army ROTC program. One month later, she was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. Six months later, she received orders to deploy.

"It was kind of shocking. I guess I didn't think I would actually have to go, but it comes with the job," she says. "I immediately started focusing on my job. You leave for a deployment with so many soldiers and your number one goal is to come back with all of them. That's all I was thinking about."

In late February 2003, as platoon leader for Air Defense Artillery, Battalion 552, Lape flew to Kuwait and worked at both Camp Virginia and Camp New Jersey. At both camps, her mission was to protect soldiers in the 101st Airborne Division, who were among the first to enter Iraq. Her battalion shot down some of the first Scud missiles that Iraqi militia fired.

"It wasn't too bad. During the Gulf War, we had hundreds of Scuds shot at us, but there were only a little more than a dozen this time around."

But trouble began on March 21 when Lape and a convoy of Humvees crossed the border into Iraq. It took two weeks for Lape to arrive at Baghdad International Airport, where her mission was to secure air space.

"We came under fire several times during the convoy," says Lape. "When we crossed into Iraq everyone was like, 'Go, go, go!' and you weren't sup-

"You leave for a deployment with so many soldiers and your number one goal is to come back with all of them. That's all I was thinking about."

posed to stop. But our equipment is so heavy and the sand is so thin that our Humvees were getting stuck. That's why everyone was getting separated. My group was separated for about a week. ... It was that bad."

Part of her convoy included Jessica Lynch and fallen soldier Lori Piestewa, who were among a group of soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company who were ambushed and taken hostage. Lynch was rescued on April 1 and has since told her story through an autobiography and a television movie.

"Communication was scarce. When we were traveling we only got bits and pieces of the war," Lape says. "Part of Lynch's maintenance company was divided, and about five or six of them were with me. We heard that a Humvee was ambushed but nothing more. It wasn't until we arrived at the airport that we found out about the hostages and wounded. That was really hard. These soldiers actually knew Jessica and Lori. I was just thankful that my platoon was safe."

Lape, who commanded about two dozen soldiers, remained at the airport—living in a tent and using a generator for electricity—for over a month. A shower consisted of a five-gallon jug of water and a meal consisted of an MRE (Meal Ready to Eat). "Baghdad was a little intimidating," she says. "There was shooting at night, but the streets were empty during the day because we were still bombing the city. By then, most of the Iraqis had left."

Lape safely returned to Fort Bliss in June 2003. Though she's hesitant about receiving orders to return to the Middle East, she can say that her experience did have a happy ending. While in Iraq, she met her husband, fellow soldier Neal Lape. They married in July 2003 and became parents to Connor Jeffrey on Jan. 19, 2005.

Jon Flores '01 In the nine months that Army Lt. Jon Flores



Angela Lape '02



Jon Flores '01



Orlando Rumman '95

“I tell new soldiers, ‘If you have a problem with deploying, this is the wrong job for you. Get out of the Army,’ because in today’s military and the worldwide support we are providing—be it combat or relief operations—it is not a matter of *if* you will deploy, it is a matter of *when* you deploy.”

lived in the Iraqi desert he found a camaraderie with his fellow soldiers and Iraqi citizens.

Flores, who deployed in July 2003 and returned to Fort Hood, Texas, in March 2004, was in contact with Iraqi civilians on a daily basis. His base—the remains of an old Iraqi military camp—was positioned between two small towns in northeastern Iraq near the Iranian border.

“It would be like living between Helotes and Boerne. They were farming towns, and they didn’t get along,” says Flores, a ROTC participant who graduated with a degree in fine arts from UTSA in 2001. “We were in both towns all the time trying to stop the fighting. They were bombing each other every day. It seemed like they were fighting each other more than us.”

As a Bradley platoon leader, Flores led about 40 infantry soldiers and four Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Bradley Fighting Vehicles are fully armored, fully tracked vehicles designed to carry infantry into close contact with the enemy. The vehicles resemble tanks, but their sole purpose is to protect the foot soldiers they carry. Therefore, the platoon’s mission was to provide security to the area, including the two feuding villages. The platoon set up security checkpoints, raided homes, ran 24-hour patrols and took part in the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, a program designed to train Iraqi citizens to defend themselves.

“A majority of our job was to train the Iraqis to form their own defense, kind of like an army, but not like the force they had been a part of under Saddam Hussein,” says Flores, 36. “We recruited civilians, and after a while civilians were coming to us to be a part of it. These people had their own weapons. We did the raids to confiscate those weapons. They were allowed to keep one weapon, but were not permitted to bring it out of their homes or their workplaces.”

Most of the contact Flores had with the Iraqi people was positive. However, he says, there were civilians who joined the program simply “to make trouble.”

“Iraqis would bomb our base, it was just part of it. But we also had people living in these two towns that were working with us. They would tip us off on groups that were planning something against us. I felt welcomed there. Their villages were also being bombed. They needed our help.”

Flores built relationships with many Iraqis and even circumvented the language barrier by using hand signals.

“This guy kept pointing to his chest and using his hands like he was pulling on something. I finally figured out that he had parachuted during the war [between Iraq and Iran],” says Flores, whose uniform identifies him as airborne. “He was trying to tell me that we had something in common. It felt good. No matter the bad stuff, he is who I remember from the Iraqis.”

Flores also built relationships at his own camp.

“We [his platoon] did everything together. We worked. We trained. We played cards. We played basketball. We did everything together, and we shared everything. My girlfriend would send cookies and candy, and I would always share with the guys,” he says. “At least if I get deployed again I’ll probably be with a lot of the same guys.”

After returning to Fort Hood, Flores married his girlfriend, Jennifer, and now is working in personnel.

Orlando Rummans ’95 Overseeing medical support for soldiers in Iraq, Army Capt. Orlando Rummans witnessed the depths of poverty and the ultimate in wealth.

Rummans, who graduated from UTSA and the ROTC program in 1995 with a degree in education, was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., when he volunteered to deploy to Iraq. He left for Kuwait in February 2003 and later moved to Al Mosul Air Field in Iraq, where he was a deputy supply officer for the 62nd Medical Brigade, which supplied medical support for the 101st Airborne Division. In Iraq, Rummans lived in a 16-person tent and could only shower once every three days. However, he says the showers were worth the wait—the water was always a perfect 75 degrees because the sun was so hot. But however barren his living conditions were, they did not compare to some of the homes of the Iraqi people.

“There was nothing when we got there. As soon as we crossed the border from Kuwait into Iraq, there were all kinds of Iraqi citizens begging for food and water. They were even reaching into our vehicles trying to get sunglasses or food, whatever they could get. People were just begging for stuff because they had nothing,” the Missouri native says.

But Rummans soon saw a different side of the country—a different way of life, at least, for the man who had ruled as a dictator for several decades. During part of his tour, Rummans frequently attended meetings at the headquarters of the 101st Airborne in one of Saddam Hussein’s lavish palaces. Rummans says that more than 300 American soldiers and allied forces were working from the palace.

“It was very evident that Saddam didn’t care about his people. He was living in these palaces with gold sinks and faucets, marble floors, and mirrors surrounded in marble and gold. It was immaculate,” Rummans says. “Then you walk outside the palace doors, and his people are living in shacks. He even hid his tanks and weapons in neighborhoods—putting his people in danger, just to protect himself.”

Rummans enlisted in the Army in 1987 and was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. He enrolled at UTSA upon completing four years of military service, and was commissioned as an officer after graduation. He is now stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., and soon will move to a base in Germany. He says the possibility of future deployments does not affect his plan to retire from the military in 2010.

“I tell new soldiers, ‘If you have a problem with deploying, this is the wrong job for you. Get out of the Army,’ because in today’s military and the worldwide support we are providing—be it combat or relief operations—it is not a matter of *if* you will deploy, it is a matter of *when* you deploy.” Rummans says if anything, being a soldier has humbled him. “It’s taught me to be thankful for what I have. When I’m in Iraq or Bosnia, wherever, I just thank God that I’m an American, and that I have something to go back to.”

To read about other alumni serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, visit Sombriilla Online at www.utsa.edu/pub/sombriilla.

The background photo used on both pages of this story was taken by Orlando Rummans during an afternoon sandstorm.

A forgotten tradition

Alumni trips make way back to UTSA



OH, THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN

Top to bottom: A quaint church in an Austrian town below the Alps (photo by Julius Gribou); A toast at the Hofgut Sternen in Titisee, Germany, in the 200-year-old Ravenna Cellar. (left to right: Jane Findling, alumni director, Kathy Gribou, Julius Gribou, dean of the School of Architecture, Susan McAfee '89, Billy McAfee, Marilyn Jones, widow of UTSA geology professor James Jones); Saxman Native Village, home of the Tlingit Indians in Alaska (photo by Gabrielle Gelo).



Totem poles in the Saxman Native Village, Mayan ruins, Radio City Music Hall and the home of Ernest Hemingway are just a few of the sites UTSA alumni have visited together in the last three years.

"Until we went on the Caribbean cruise I didn't realize how many trips the school was putting on. So now we know to be on the lookout and try to plan our schedules around them," says Sandy Trimble, '81. Trimble and her husband, Tom '84, went on a cruise in the Western Caribbean with the alumni association last year. "It was a blast. They were a fun group of people."

In the 1990s, UTSA alumni and students were taking trips together to places such as New Mexico and Mexico. However, travel time was limited because of academic schedules, and the number of participants started to dwindle. So when Jane Findling was hired as director of alumni programs in 2000, she made it her goal to bring back the popular trips.

"When I came here I wanted to revitalize the program. Nearly every university has a travel program for their alumni," Findling says. "But I wanted to do something different. Not only did I want to provide something for the alumni, but I wanted to showcase our excellent faculty."

And that she did. The first trip planned by Findling was a cruise to the Western Caribbean along the Mayan Riviera in 2002 that included stops in Conzumel, Yucatan, Tulum and San Gervasio. The 40-plus travelers—including alumni, staff, students and faculty—were able to see breathtaking sites, while also learning something about the region.

"It was a win-win situation," says James McDonald, an anthropology professor who took part. "It was a tremendous opportunity to engage our alumni and also promote learning and knowledge. I gave lectures and tours focusing on Mayan archeology."

Since then, alumni have taken several more Caribbean cruises and traveled to Alaska and New York—and most recently, Europe. Each trip included a faculty member who was knowledgeable about their destination. Julius Gribou, dean of the School of Architecture, was the faculty guest on the European excursion.

“We invited Dean Gribou because he is very familiar with European architecture,” says Findling of the December trip. “We even met up with a fellow alum that was living in Heidelberg [Germany].”

Findling works with a travel agency to keep costs low, and tries to vary trip schedules to ensure that anyone can attend. “It’s a different group every time,” she adds.

Hope Alcorta ’81 and her husband, David Glasscock ’89, went on the cruise with McDonald to reconnect with college pals.

“We moved out of the area and lost contact with a lot of our friends. The cruise presented an opportunity to see some people again,” Alcorta says.

Dan Gelo, dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, shared his expertise in Native American cultures on the 2003 trip to Alaska.

“I gave a lecture on the area prior to our departure to get everyone excited about the rich Native American culture that we would be seeing. It really worked out well,” he says. “We all learned a lot and also had time to do things like dog sledding and fly fishing. My wife and two sons also went, and we still have lunch with some of the alum that went with us. It’s just a great program for UTSA.”

Trips to Canada and Costa Rica are planned this year, and Findling says that alumni are interested in planning future trips to Ireland and Italy.

For information on upcoming alumni trips, go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/travel.



Diana Barrera Montemayor '88, '00

Guiding principal

As a school administrator charged with handling discipline, Diana Barrera Montemayor did not believe in just doling out punishment to students who crossed the line. She worked to build their self-esteem and helped satiate their hunger for attention.

“I knew the problem kids ... and I knew some got into trouble because they wanted to see me,” she says, referring to the years she served as a vice principal in the Southside Independent School District. “I believe students are not a product of their environment but of their experiences.”

This is a motto Montemayor continues to embrace in her new role as the principal of Southside’s Freedom Elementary, which opened in August 2003. Hired a year before Freedom opened its doors, Montemayor saw the school emerge literally from the ground up. “I came to the weekly construction meetings and heard all the building

issues. I ordered the furniture,” she says. “I felt more ownership with the school.”

Montemayor grew up in Hebbronville, a small town in South Texas, in a middle-class family headed by supportive parents. Yet she says she feels a connection to disadvantaged populations. Since earning her bachelor’s degree from UTSA in 1988, Montemayor, 38, has taught in the Harlandale Independent School District and in the bilingual program in Houston’s Pearland ISD. She also served as liaison/facilitator in Southwest ISD and worked with a federally funded migrant program for preschoolers as well as in the dyslexia program at six schools.

“People don’t want to go to inner-city schools,” she says. “I have always felt a need to stay with these kids. I like the challenge ... and you can see the impact you are having.”

In the year she was preparing for Freedom’s opening, Montemayor also served as interim principal of Southside Middle School. This promotion followed three years as a vice principal at Losoya Intermediate School, a fourth- and fifth-grade campus.

“I didn’t think I would ever enjoy middle school, but found I loved it,” she says. “I enjoyed the maturity and fast pace. Kids at that age still need extra love and care.”

In her new role, Montemayor wants to continue to nurture students’ self-esteem. “Only parents and teachers have the power to do that,” she says, “and it’s an awesome responsibility.”

She says UTSA prepared her well; it was an easy choice when she decided to pursue a master’s degree in educational leadership, which she completed in 2000. She recently returned to the university to complete coursework for a superintendent’s certificate and hopes to begin work on her doctorate next year.

— Laurie Aucoin Kaiser

76 William K. Borellis, B.B.A. in management, is president of Predictable EE Solutions in San Antonio. The company does business in Los Angeles and San Antonio.

77 Richard Williamson, M.B.A. in business, is senior vice president for financial services at City Public Service in San Antonio.

79 Richard Tichich, M.F.A. in art, has been appointed director of the

School of Art at East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. He previously was employed at Georgia Southern University.

80 Yolanda R. Sanchez, B.A. in early childhood education, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual education '00, retired from teaching in the San Antonio Independent School District.

81 Andrés Rodriquez Velasco, M.A. in education, has completed a manuscript titled *10 Short Stories*.

85 Elizabeth Rembert, B.A. in early childhood education, coached the St. Mary Magdalen School girls’ track team to second place in the Orlando Division Middle School Championship.

87 Deana H. Young, B.A. in sociology, earned a Ph.D. in psychology in 2003 from Capella University. Her research on school connectedness and bullying will be published in the upcoming volume of *The Journal of At-Risk Issues* published by the National

A.J. Rodriguez '98, '00

Taking care of businesses

As a high school graduate trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life, A.J. Rodriguez says he held some “crazy” jobs—selling shoes, working on a friend’s ranch and playing with kids through the city’s Parks and Recreation Department. This was before the desire for a college education grabbed him and before he devoted his weekends to earning a master’s in business administration at UTSA.

During that oats-sowing time, he never pictured himself sitting in an elegant office in the historic Casa De Mexico International Building—as the president of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Today, it’s hard to imagine the 32-year-old in any other setting. Since taking the helm of the chamber in June of 2004, Rodriguez has demonstrated his commitment and vision for the job. “I think San Antonio could lead the nation as a center for Hispanic entrepreneurship,” he says.

Soon after joining the chamber, Rodriguez scheduled a board retreat to map out a strategic plan and redefine the organization’s mission, which aims to advocate for Hispanics in business.

“I think it has been focusing on too many markets—women, small-business and minority,” he explains. “There are 14 chambers in San Antonio. Instead of competing, we should be working with other markets to help Hispanic businesses.”

Just as he hadn’t reached his potential as a younger man, he says Hispanic businesses have not reached a level of parity with their counterparts. “Our population is growing by leaps and bounds,” he says, “but I don’t see Hispanic businesses growing by leaps and bounds.”

Some of his goals include collecting data on how many Mexican-American, South American, Cuban and other Latino-owned businesses exist in San Antonio. He says he plans to develop the chamber into a model for the other 600 Hispanic chambers scattered across the country.

As an undergraduate at UTSA, Rodriguez focused on international business and economics. During his junior year, his adviser told him of two internships. One was unpaid; the other, with the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, paid.

“I told him I wanted one that paid—I’m mar-



ried,” he explains with a smile. He notes that his wife, Estelle, with whom he recently celebrated an 11-year anniversary, was a big supporter of his education. They have two children, Alexandra, 7, and John, 3.

Rodriguez’s college internship laid the groundwork for his chamber career. It quickly turned into a full-time position, and he ended up managing public affairs for the Greater Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Council. He also held vice-presidential roles in the chamber’s Small Business, Communications and Governmental Affairs departments. When the Hispanic Chamber conducted a national search for its president, it sought an individual who could develop a unique vision and plan for the organization. Rodriguez says his strong San Antonio roots—a native, he graduated from Central Catholic High School—and his chamber experience helped his candidacy.

Presiding over a million-dollar organization presents new challenges and opportunities. “I’d been such a worker bee, hustling to push out the actual work,” he says. “Now, I’m managing more than ever, coordinating projects and delegating.”

— Laurie Aucoin Kaiser

Prevention Center. Deana was a presenter at the National Dropout Prevention Conference in November and is contracting with Scarecrow Education Press for publication of a book on this subject.

88 Lawrence Mimun, B.F.A. in art, master of professional accounting '91, is business project manager at USAA Federal Savings Bank.

90 Lynnea D. Frazee Castillo, B.B.A. in accounting, is controller at Care Inn Properties in San Antonio. **Barbara A. Goldsmith Rodela**, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in education '97, is assistant director in the Office of Sponsored Projects at the University of Texas in Austin.

91 Brian Korte, B.F.A. in art, is an architect with Lake/Flato Architects in San Antonio. Lake/Flato received the 2004 American Institute of Architects Firm Award. Brian has been with the firm since 1997.

92 Richard E. Krampe Jr., B.B.A. in accounting, is a shareholder with Armstrong, Vaughn and Associates, a CPA firm in Universal City, Texas. Richard and his wife, Regina, were married in April 2004.

93 Gabriel Alcoser, B.B.A. in management, is personnel manager for Schlumberger in Oklahoma City, Okla. **Linda Lee Gould**, M.A. in bilingual-bicultural education, is employed with the San Antonio Independent School District.

Dan J. Schlappkohl, master of professional accounting, is controller at Hellas Construction Inc. in Austin, Texas.

94 George Presses, B.S. in biology, M.S. in environmental science '00, is employed with H-E-B as a business development manager with their petroleum group. His wife, **Carolyn Lerma Presses**, B.S. in biology '96, is a forensic toxicologist with the Bexar County Medical Examiner's Office. George and Carolyn announce the birth of their twin boys, Corbin William and Nikolas George, born June 2, 2004.

95 Paul Lee Watkins, B.A. in criminal justice, is a border patrol agent with the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection in Yuma, Ariz.

96 Bradley Moore, B.B.A. in personnel/human resource management, and his wife, Veronica, announce the birth of daughter, Miranda Marie, born Oct. 25, 2004.

97 **Vincent Bosquez**, B.A. in criminal justice, is director of public relations at Palo Alto College. Vincent retired to San Antonio after serving 23 years with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Rob Killen, B.A. in political science, has joined the firm of Castro and Killen, P.C., in San Antonio. The firm specializes in zoning, annexation, vested rights and tax incentives for property development.

David Livingston, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is a process engineering manager for Exactech Inc. in Gainesville, Fla. David received his M.B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004.

98 **Stephen P. Bourassa**, B.S. in chemical engineering, is a senior engineer with Alpha Consulting Engineers in San Antonio. Stephen is a licensed professional engineer registered in the state of Texas.

Judy Juárez Crockett, B.B.A. in management, completed her M.B.A. at Southern Methodist University in Dallas with a double concentration in entrepreneurship and strategic leadership. E-mail Judy at judyjuarez@hotmail.com.

Suzan Forestello, B.A. in sociology, completed her master's degree in secondary education from the University of Phoenix, online campus. She is certified to teach in Arizona and will be certified to teach in Texas.

Pamela Elizabeth McCoy-Gould, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, M.A. in education '02, is assistant principal at Stevenson Middle School in the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio.

Corrine Erin Roland, B.S. in kinesiology, is a teacher and coach at Sulphur Springs High School in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

99 **Marsha L. Carrasco Cooper**, B.A. in psychology, married William G. Cooper on March 20, 2004. William is a graduate of Texas A&M with a master's degree in sport management. Marsha has been accepted into the University of Kansas Ph.D. program in higher education. She currently works as a leadership consultant for RISE Partnerships, Inc.

Diana Brooke Potvin Jamison, B.B.A. in accounting, M.B.A. in business '01, earned her CPA in 2004. Diana and fellow alumnus **Clifford Russel Jamison II**, B.S. in mechanical engineering '95, M.B.A. in business '02, were married on Nov. 11, 2004.



Photo by Rod Searey

Mary Anne Morgan '77

The science of success

Throughout her career, Mary Anne Morgan has been a catalyst of change in the information revolution. Shortly after earning dual bachelor of science degrees in math and computer science at UTSA in 1977, she joined IBM and was the first female in a software support group. That was nothing new for her, however, as she had been one of only two female students in one of her science classes.

As technology progressed, Morgan worked her way up the corporate ladder, and today, she is a worldwide technical support manager for information management systems (IMS) and leads a staff of 34 in IBM's Silicon Valley labs. The role of IMS is to manage information and transactions—from trading stocks to running assembly lines—for a variety of industries. It's a field she says most people take for granted.

Imagine going on vacation without IMS, Morgan suggests. "Airline reservations might get lost. Renting a car would take much longer. You might not be able to get cash at an ATM. The pharmacy could have trouble filling your prescription. The souvenirs you ship home might not exactly get there overnight."

The work can be stressful, but she loves every second of it. "I get energized by it—it's exhilarating," she says. "No two days are exactly alike. I get to come to work and solve a puzzle every day."

While Morgan patches up problems in the technology world, she also provides solutions for UTSA students. In 2004, she was browsing the UTSA Web site and thought about creating a scholarship for undergraduate women, preferably for those majoring in the sciences, in honor of her parents—Maj. Russell J. Morgan, USAF Ret., and Eleanor Morgan. Soon after she established the scholarship, her gesture inspired her father to create a second UTSA scholarship.

"She epitomizes the ethic of 'pass it on,'" says Jane Findling, director of alumni programs. "She's quite a role model."

Last fall Morgan had the opportunity to meet her scholarship recipient at the UTSA Alumni Association's Scholarship Salute. The experience affirmed her decision to create the scholarship. "Could I [have done] this the first year I got out of college? No, because I didn't have the financial means nor the success that I've enjoyed at IBM. Twenty-eight years later, I'm now in a position where I can give back," she says. "It was humbling to meet someone who wasn't as fortunate as I was to have the means to go to school, and gratifying to know that I could play a part in making a difference in their life."

— Tina Luther

00 Loretta J. Davies-Thomas, M.A. in counseling, is a registered nurse/licensed professional counselor and a certified anger resolution therapist. Loretta married Jerry L. Thomas on Aug. 21, 2004. They reside in San Antonio.

Mark Alan Hester, B.S. in electrical engineering, is chief electrical engineer with Alderson and Associates in San Antonio.

Christopher J. Rosas, B.B.A. in accounting, M.B.A. in business '02, is engaged to marry Bianca Trevino, an M.B.A. student at UTSA, on Oct. 1, 2005.

Philip P. Visokey, B.A. in criminal justice, is a management support officer at Defense Contract Management Agency in Sealy, Texas.

01 Joy Beato, B.S. in biology, is engaged to marry Andrew French on May 7, 2005.

Courtney M. Beene, B.S. in health, is a sales representative for Altana Pharmaceuticals.

Dante Delgado, B.S. in biology, is an account executive for Eli Lilly and Company.

Jennifer Barnett Holmquist, B.A. in political science, is a project specialist for the City of San Antonio. Jennifer is in graduate school at Texas State University and will graduate in spring 2005.

Tanya Beth Lutz Moore, B.S. in kinesiology, is a physical therapist at Sid Peterson Memorial Hospital in Kerrville, Texas. She received her

B.S. in health care sciences and master's of physical therapy from UT Health Science Center at San Antonio in May 2004.

Leslie Rocha, B.A. in psychology, is a senior litigation representative for Allstate Insurance Company in Dallas.

Shane Foley, B.A. in political science, was promoted to manager of field operations with Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. In this capacity he oversees the Lambda Chi Alpha insurance program and chapter discipline; he also manages eight traveling consultants who visit over 200 chapters and colonies. Since working with Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, Shane has traveled to 27 states and territories and visited 70 college and university campuses.

02 Diana Treviño Gonzales, B.B.A. in accounting, is an accountant III with the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

Candace Michelle Navarrette, B.S. in biology, is a cytogenetic technologist with the University of Texas Southwestern at Dallas.

03 Deyanira Campos, B.B.A. in marketing, is credit manager at Wells Fargo Financial in San Antonio.

Claudio Castillo, B.A. in criminal justice, has been appointed judge for Precinct Three, Kerrville, Texas.

Nicole Coselli, B.A. in geography, is engaged to marry **Brady Busby**, B.B.A. in accounting '03, on June 4, 2005.

Pamela Eyrick, B.A. in anthropology, has two new grandchildren, Ashley, born Feb. 14, 2004, and Aiden, born July 27, 2004.

Nathan Flory, B.A. in humanities, and **Gerri Lynn Hamper Flory**, B.A. in criminal justice '03, were married Nov. 6, 2004.

Dana Hartnett, B.S. in electrical engineering, is an engineer with Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

Leslie Ann Hernandez, B.A. in communication, is resident coordinator for the Alamo Area Mutual Housing Association in San Antonio.

Brian Neil Hill, B.B.A. in information systems, is an account executive with First Preference Mortgage Corporation in Houston.

Michelle Anne Lee, B.B.A. in marketing, is an event coordinator with Fox and Hound English Pub and Grille in Houston.

David Lister, B.B.A. in information systems, is a Web application developer for Rack Space in San Antonio.

Stacy Michelle Porfilio, B.B.A. in information systems, is a computer specialist for the Department of Defense at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Sonia M. Quirino, B.A. in communications, is an assistant account executive at Bromley Communications in San Antonio.

Carlos Jon Reyes, B.S. in kinesiology, is a teacher/coach with the Victoria Independent School District in Victoria, Texas. Carlos and his wife,

Amy, have one son, Cameron, age 5. **Monica Edith Rodriguez**, B.S. in interior design, is a designer with Durand Hollis Rupe Architects Inc. in San Antonio. Monica also serves as assistant director of programs for the International Interior Design Association.

Roger Romo, B.S. in electrical engineering, works at Maxim Engineers Inc. in San Antonio.

Elena Stout, B.B.A. in marketing, is assistant executive director, marketing and promotions, for the San Antonio Sports Foundation.

Gilberta H. Turner, B.A. in Spanish, is pursuing her master's in Hispanic literature at UTSA. She is a teaching assistant at UTSA and teaches crochet and advanced conversational Spanish for the North East Independent School District Continuing Education Program. She also teaches Spanish to a kindergarten class as a volunteer at her church.

Daniel Steve Villarreal, M.A. in education, had his article on homeland defense, titled "Points-Only Reservists as a Force Multiplier: A Cost-Effective Personnel Asset for Homeland Defense and Mobilization in the Current Anti-Terrorist War," published online at www.meploadet.com/Documents/points.doc.

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.

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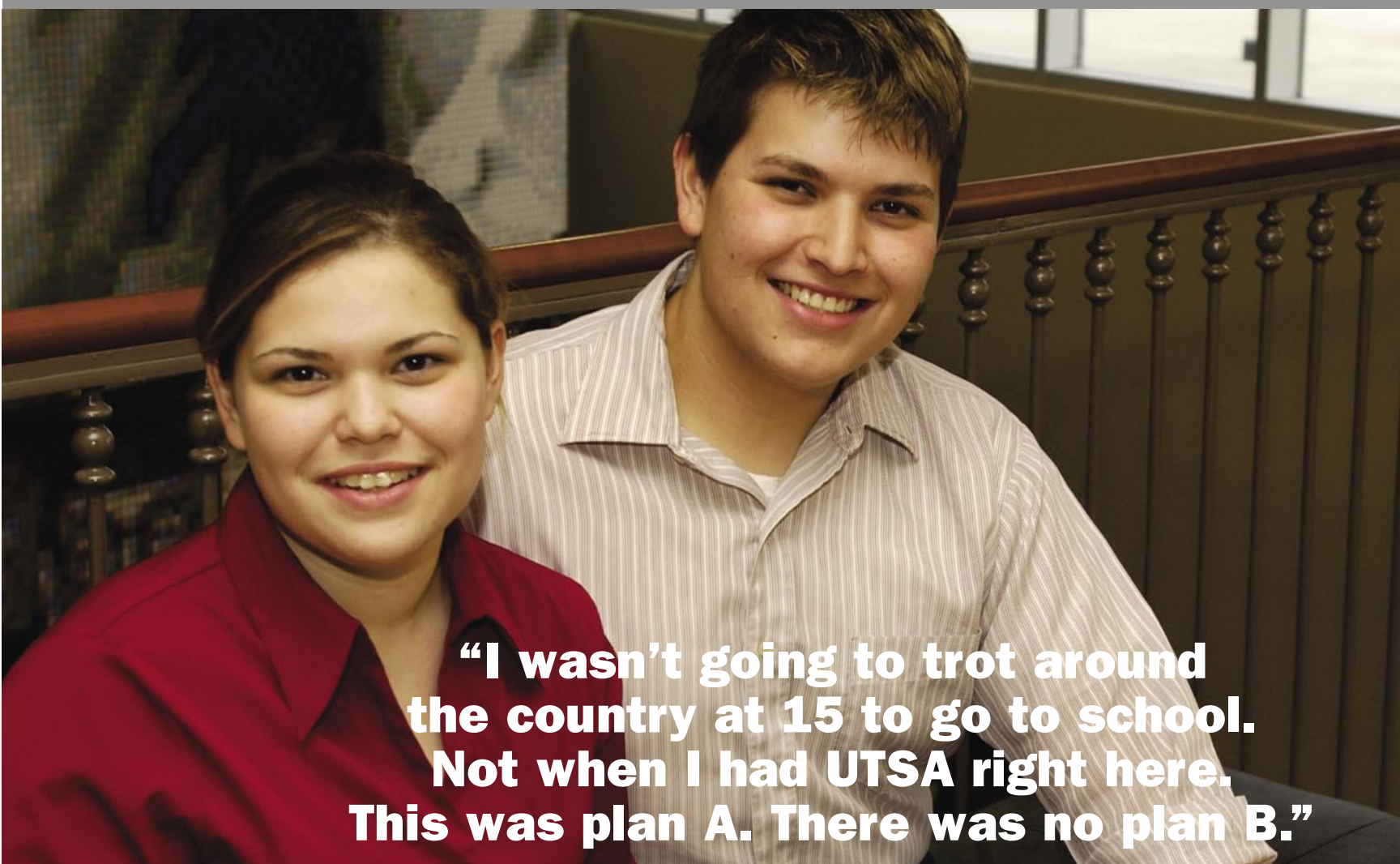
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“I wasn’t going to trot around the country at 15 to go to school. Not when I had UTSA right here. This was plan A. There was no plan B.”

Olivia Nelson and her brother, Robin A. Nelson, are not your typical college students. The brother and sister duo graduated from Jefferson High School in San Antonio in three years—both at the age of 15. Now, Olivia is a 17-year-old sophomore at UTSA, and Robin is a 16-year-old freshman.

EARLY ACHIEVERS

The Nelsons have excelled not only in academics, but in community service and leadership activities as well. Both students lettered in cheerleading during high school, and Robin also lettered in swimming—an achievement that nearly pulled him away from UTSA. He was recruited by his parents’ alma mater, Brigham Young University in Utah.

“BYU’s package just didn’t compare to UTSA’s offer. I was able to get multiple scholarships and financial aid from UTSA,” says Robin, who was a recipient of the Valero Energy Corporation Endowed Scholarship. “It’s worked out beautifully. I’m getting a superb education and was just given a great internship with NASA.”

Robin, a mechanical engineering major and a member of the Honors College, will intern this summer at NASA’s Goddard Flight Center in Maryland. He was recruited during a career fair at UTSA.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

Olivia, who also is a scholarship recipient, knew early on that she would study education after high school and was thankful for the affordable and accessible opportunity UTSA gave her.

“We’re a middle class family, so yes, money was a concern. But more importantly, I wanted something close to home. At our age, it’s a lot easier living at home, being with our friends and family, and still be able to get a good education.”

The Nelsons both plan to pursue graduate school after receiving their undergraduate degrees.

As UTSA grows, generous gifts such as the endowed scholarship established by Valero Energy Corporation become even more important to the university and its students. To learn more about giving, contact UTSA’s Development Office at (210) 458-4130.

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Looking back

Three-wheelin' for dollars

Tricycle races may once have been a highlight of UTSA's annual Greek Week, as evidenced by this 1979 publicity photo, but tricycles aren't even on the agenda anymore. Gone, too (thankfully), is the burping contest. Instead, the university's 13 fraternities and nine sororities now compete in such events as bowling, billiards, flag football, an academic bowl, a Greek Graffiti poster design contest and—what has become the premier Greek Week event on campus—the lip-synch and dance competition. And, of course, three-legged and potato-sack races remain part of the springtime event.

But going Greek isn't just fun and games. Designed to reflect the four pillars of Greek life—scholarship, service, leadership and social life—Greek Week always includes a community service aspect such as collection drives and volunteer projects, says Misty Kelley, assistant director for student organizations. And philanthropy isn't limited to Greek Week. During the summer and fall 2004 semesters, Kelley says, UTSA's fraternities and sororities contributed more than \$13,000 and 6,700 service hours to San Antonio charities.