

Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Fall 2006
Vol. 23, No. 1


A Taste of S.A.

ALUMNI STAY SAFELY AFLOAT
IN THE RESTAURANT BUSINESS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:
MAKING RESEARCH PROFITABLE
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
IN THE REAL WORLD







FALL 2006

Sombrilla

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Photo by Patrick Ray Dunn

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Write back!

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Your mailbox is full...

Anyone who's sent an e-mail to sombrilla@utsa.edu can tell you that I don't check messages on that account as often as I should. To make a long story short, that e-mail account is set up on a spare PC that our Web designer uses to check pages on different navigators. That computer's in her office—out of sight and out of mind, apparently; I just forget about it. There's also the problem that that account gets a ridiculous amount of spam, so whenever I do remember to check it, I'm usually unmotivated to actually do so, knowing that I'm going to be deleting hundreds of spam e-mails for every half dozen legitimate e-mails from *Sombrilla* readers.

But I do check it, at least every week or two, because you've given us a lot of our story ideas with your e-mails, whether you realize it or not. Earlier this year, I received an e-mail from alumna Lori Hakspiel inquiring about a story we did on some of the successful graduates of the university's M.F.A. program. Lori wanted



Lori Hakspiel at Fralo's

to get in touch with one of the artists we profiled to see about having him put up an exhibit in Fralo's, the Leon Springs pizzeria she runs with her husband, Frank.

I passed along to Lori the contact information she was looking for, but I hung on to her e-mail, too. Not only did Lori give me a new lunch spot near the 1604 Campus, but she also inadvertently gave me a story idea for a future issue: alumni restaurateurs. I bookmarked the Fralo's Web site to remind myself to keep an eye out for others.

Months later, I had an entire folder on my bookmarks bar labeled "Alumni eats," with links to all the San Antonio-area restaurants I'd come across that are owned and operated by UTSA alumni. When one

of the university's development officers sent me an e-mail about the three College of Business alum who started El Siete Mares, we decided it was time to do the story.

Just as when we did the M.F.A. graduates story earlier this year, we had to select just a handful of restaurants to write about; there are simply too many to include them all. But these few people tell a larger story: that UTSA alumni are having an impact on the dining scene in San Antonio.

The other two feature stories in this issue also are examples of how we tell big stories through small stories. "From Workbench to Workplace," which begins on page 18, sprang from a few conversations with Robert Gracy, who joined the university earlier this year as vice president for research. Technology transfer—the process of turning laboratory research into marketable products—is just one area the university is exploring on the road to becoming a tier-one research institution. Also, "Building for the Future," page 22, details just one community outreach project that's going on in the College of Architecture, but there are many more there, and across the university.

So, keep e-mailing us. You never know when a small idea will turn into something bigger.

—Rebecca Luther



University to buy 125 acres near 1604 Campus

The University of Texas System Board of Regents voted in November to allow the purchase by UTSA of a 125-acre parcel of land near the 1604 Campus on the city's Northwest Side. The land will allow UTSA to expand to the west as the university continues its rapid growth. The Board of Regents agreed to provide three-fourths of the estimated \$20 million to purchase the land.

"This is a historic moment for UTSA," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "We are grateful to the Board of Regents for their support as UTSA continues its efforts to serve more students and become a premier research university."

According to Romo, the new land will be used for recreation and athletics programs, intramural fields, parking and housing. The land addition will open space on the 1604 Campus for construction of academic buildings.

The land parcel is approximately one-half mile west of the 1604 Campus, northeast of the intersection of Loop 1604 and West Hausman Road. The land would add approximately 20 percent more space to the 600-acre campus. This fall, the university enrolled more than 28,000 students, an increase of more than 50 percent since 1999.

Though the purchase is not finalized, UTSA plans to contribute \$5.5 million with \$14.5 million to come from the Permanent University Fund. The fund supports schools in the UT and Texas A&M systems through oil and gas royalties.

Talks about the land purchase began several months ago when landowner Patricia Shield Ayres contacted UTSA regarding the availability of the property. Her husband, Robert Ayres, is the former vice chancellor of Sewanee: The University of the South in Tennessee.

— David Gabler

Construction update Pardon our dust ...

A number of construction projects are under way on the 1604 Campus:

An expansion of the Recreation and Wellness Center began last spring and is expected to be complete by the end of 2007. The \$45 million project will add more than 120,000 square feet to the Recreation and Wellness Center.

Construction began this summer on a 479-space parking garage and thermal energy plant in parking lot 6, adjacent to the Science Building and Biosciences Building. The project is expected to be complete in 2008.

In December, construction will begin on Laurel Village, a 680-bed residence facility

at the north end of the campus. UTSA is working with the contractor to bring 208 beds, the city center and a neighborhood center on line for the fall 2007 semester, with the remainder of Laurel Village to be open for fall 2008.

The university will break ground in February on a third phase of the University Center, to be built in Lot 9, adjacent to the existing UC, the Multidisciplinary Studies Building and the Convocation Center. (For a full story on the UC expansion, see the Winter 2006 issue of *Sombrilla*. Go online to www.utsa.edu/sombrilla and click on Past Issues.)



UTSA scholarship, awards dinner raises \$3.1 million



More than 900 friends of UTSA attended the annual President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel Oct. 17, as the university recognized two prominent South Texans and raised a record \$3.1 million for student scholarships and other academic programs.

The black-tie affair honored Carlos Alvarez, president and CEO of the Gambrinus Co., who recently created the Carlos and Malu Alvarez Endowment for Student Success with a \$2 million gift to UTSA that will distribute \$100,000 annually for scholarships. Additionally, honors went to Bernard Rapoport, chairman emeritus and founder of American Income Life Insurance Co. and founder of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation, for his ardent support for the UTSA Downtown Campus.

Alvarez received the Tom C. Frost Award, presented annually by UTSA to a citizen who has provided exceptional leadership to important business and community endeavors. A

native of Mexico who became a U.S. citizen in 2001, Alvarez has worked to strengthen commercial, cultural and educational ties between the two countries. He is a founding board member of the San Antonio-Mexico Foundation for Education, a graduate exchange program that allows Mexican university students to study at UTSA.

In 1986, Alvarez founded Gambrinus Co., a San Antonio-based beer distributor that was the exclusive importer of Corona Extra from Mexico for the eastern United States for 20 years. Under Alvarez's leadership, Corona Extra became the best-selling imported beer in the United States. Alvarez also is the exclusive U.S. distributor for Moosehead Canadian Lager and brews Shiner beers.

"Tonight is an evening filled with hope and support for our students and admiration for the many friends of UTSA helping to make their university education a reality," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "Tonight we honor one such individual, Carlos Alvarez, who along with his wife, Malu Alvarez, has

been extraordinarily generous and recently established a \$2 million endowment to support programs designed to help deserving graduate and undergraduate students complete their degrees in a timely manner."

The Tom C. Frost award was created in 2003 to pay tribute to Frost, chair of the UTSA Development Board since 1990. Previous award winners include Richard S. Liu, an international businessman and generous supporter of the UTSA College of Business, former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe and Ed Whitacre, chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T, Inc.

UTSA also recognized Bernard Rapoport with the UTSA Gold Star Award. The award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has forged extensive partnerships with the university and has supported UTSA students and faculty in extraordinary ways. Previous winners include Mrs. John B. Connally, former first lady of Texas, and the USAA Foundation.

Rapoport served on the University of Texas System Board of Regents from 1991 to 1997, part of that time as chairman, and was instrumental in developing the UTSA Downtown Campus, which is only 12 blocks from his childhood home. In his years as a regent, Rapoport was influential in helping to secure significant funding from the Texas Legislature for UTSA and South Texas border universities.

"It is a great honor for me to recognize Bernard Rapoport, a fellow San Antonio West-Sider, who probably remembers when the thought of a public university locating in San Antonio was simply a wish and a prayer," said Romo. "However, because of Bernard, and others like him, today we not only have a public university in San Antonio, but we have *the* public university—one that is committed to financially helping our students succeed, and one that is committed to reaching top-100 research university status."

The fundraising gala was hosted by Ricardo Romo and Harriett Romo and co-chaired by John T. Montford, AT&T Inc. senior vice president for western region legislative and regulatory affairs, and Kenny Wilson, regional president of Bank of America. Also honored during the evening were the university's donor societies, the President's Associates, the Sombrilla Society and the Lone Star Society, as well as individual donors from last year.

—Marianne McBride Lewis

Worth a thousand words

The UTSA chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) held its first photography competition in October in the College of Architecture Gallery at the Downtown Campus. The competition was open to all UTSA architecture students and drew more than 90 entries in three categories: color, digitally altered, and black and white.

The exhibit was curated by Devin Oatman, AIAS president, and Laura Rodriguez, vice president. Artwork was judged by a panel that included Arturo Almeida, UTSA art collection curator; Jim Dawes, architect, College of Architecture instructor and photographer; Daniel Guerrero, municipal court judge and artist; and Martin Rodriguez, artist and College of Architecture information technology associate.

Winners of the color photo category were Jesus Baray (first), Rene Salas (second) and Diana Alarcon (third). In the black and white category, winners were Brandon Melland (first), Steve Williams (second) and Matthew Carrelle (third). In the category of digitally altered photos, winners were Evan Cox (first), Raul Medina (second) and Lina Linque (third).

Jesus Baray's photograph won first place for color photography in the first AIAS photography competition this fall.



University introduces 19th Ph.D. program

The number of UTSA doctoral degree programs increased to 19 with the approval of a Ph.D. in anthropology by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program will be implemented in spring 2007 and housed in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

The addition of a Ph.D. in anthropology is consistent with the university's goal to become a top-100 research university and will address the shortage of educated and qualified candidates for leadership positions in such areas as cultural resource management, museums and state agencies. Nearly half of the students who have graduated in the last decade from the UTSA master's program in anthropology have gone on to pursue their doctorates at other universities.

"UTSA is dedicated to addressing the educational needs of South Texas by developing programs that support the economic growth of the region, while continuing to listen to the requests of our students," said President Ricardo Romo.

The anthropology Ph.D. program will have an ecological focus, which distinguishes it from programs at other universities, and is expected to draw students from across the nation. The program is designed to prepare leading professionals in the field of ecological anthropology, which directs anthropological knowledge toward the resolution of real-world problems.

UTSA has added more than a dozen doctoral programs in half as many years and now offers doctorates in anthropology; applied demography; applied statistics; biomedical engineering; business administration (concentrations in accounting, finance, information technology, and organization and management studies); cell and molecular biology; chemistry; computer science; counselor education and supervision; culture, literacy and language; educational leadership; electrical engineering; English; environmental science and engineering; neurobiology; and physics. The doctorates in applied demography

and applied statistics were approved earlier in the year and implemented this fall. More than 420 students were enrolled in doctoral programs for the fall 2006 semester.

And more programs are on the way. In May 2006, the UT System Board of Regents approved a doctoral degree in marketing within the Ph.D. in business administration degree; in August 2006, the Board of Regents approved a Ph.D. in psychology. Both programs will go to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for final approval.

The regents also approved preliminary planning authority for four additional UTSA doctoral programs: doctor of musical arts degrees (D.M.A.) in performance and pedagogy, and choral conducting; a Ph.D. in child development; and a Ph.D. in public administration and social service professions. Also, planning will begin on a master's degree in city/urban, community and regional planning and a master's degree in health and kinesiology.



M.B.A. program among top 10

The College of Business was ranked as one of the top 10 minority programs for M.B.A. students nationally, according to the 2007 edition of the *Princeton Review*.

As the only UT System school ranked, the UTSA College of Business shared the spotlight with schools such as Howard University, Thunderbird and the University of San Francisco.

"Nationwide, M.B.A. programs average only 10 percent minorities. UTSA is leading the nation with more than 30 percent of our graduate students being minorities," said Diane Walz, associate dean for graduate studies and research in the College of Business. "This is crucial as the demographic shift in the United States will soon reflect a larger minority population. Our students are valuable assets to national companies looking to boost their minority representation in response to this need."

The *Princeton Review* conducted a survey of 18,000 students attending business schools and received institutional data from universities to round out its rankings. Business schools were judged by those offering the greatest opportunity for minority students based on the percentage of minority students, percentage of minority faculty and resources for minority students.

Climbing the ranks

Outlook is bright for Hispanic students at UTSA

UTSA ranks third in the nation in the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanic students and 11th nationally in the number of master's degrees awarded to Hispanics, according to the May 2006 edition of the *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine.

The magazine surveyed the 2004–2005 academic year graduation rates of the top 100 predominantly Hispanic-serving colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico. Of the total 3,258 students earning bachelor's degrees at UTSA, 1,514 were Hispanic, representing 46 percent of the graduating class. Out of the 855 master's degrees awarded by the university, 304 went to Hispanic students, representing 36 percent of the class.

"As UTSA continues its drive toward becoming a premier research university, we remain focused on our mission to provide access to excellence," said President Ricardo Romo. "These findings, once

again, demonstrate UTSA's commitment to better serving our students traditionally underrepresented in higher education."

Each year, *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* reports on Hispanic student participation across all major fields of study. For the ninth time in 10 years, UTSA ranked first in the biological sciences with 144 undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics.

Overall, the University of Texas System dominated the first tier of the Top 100 institutions with UT Pan American, UT El Paso and UT Austin placing with UTSA among the top 10.

The following UTSA undergraduate programs ranked in the top 10 in their disciplines: biological sciences, first (144 degrees awarded); architecture, second (33); business and marketing, second (434); multi/interdisciplinary studies, third (166); protective services, fourth (110); psychology, fifth (124); mathematics, seventh (15); Hispanic studies, seventh (10); and English literature, eighth (55).

— Kris Rodriguez

Members join development board

Several new members were appointed to the UTSA Development Board in 2006: Kathy Bolner, Cathy Obriotti Green, Milton B. Lee, David Spencer and Kenny Wilson.

Kathy Bolner is community banking president for Wells Fargo in San Antonio and the Hill Country. She serves on several boards, including the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, the Diversity Council and the American Red Cross.

Cathy Obriotti Green is vice president for community relations and special projects for the Zachry Group. She is a former member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Milton B. Lee is general manager and CEO of CPS Energy. He serves on several boards, including those of the Texas Research Park Foundation, the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation, the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Texas Public Power Association and the American Public Power Association.

David Spencer is president of Mandelbrot Ventures and founder of OnBoard Software. He chairs the Texas Emerging Technology Fund Advisory Committee.

Kenny Wilson is president of Bank of America in San Antonio. Wilson co-chaired the



UTSA President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner in 2005 and 2006. He is chairman of Free Trade Alliance San Antonio.

The UTSA Development Board serves the university by assisting in its development plans and programs with an emphasis on cultivating and securing private support for UTSA. Tom C. Frost has chaired the board since 1990.

First UTSA president dies at age 90

Arleigh B. Templeton, UTSA's first president, died Oct. 28 at age 90.

Templeton began his UTSA tenure in July 1970 when the university was little more than an idea. By the time he left in late 1972, construction had begun on the first seven buildings. At the time, the UTSA campus was the largest new university under construction in the United States. While president, Templeton secured continuing operating revenues, hired the first faculty and staff, and won approval for 38 degree programs.

Templeton earned his undergraduate degree from Sam Houston State Teachers College, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in education from the University of Houston. He dedicated his career to Texas education, first as a high school principal and later as superintendent of schools for several school systems before serving as president of three Texas universities: Sam Houston State University, UTSA and UT El Paso.

Templeton's career as an educational leader spanned more than three decades. He changed Sam Houston from a teachers college to a state college and then to a university in six years. As president of UTSA, he directed the planning and helped raise the money to build the university, all without student fees or state permanent university funds. At UT El Paso, he reworked the university, building \$50 million worth of new buildings and establishing graduate programs, including that institution's first doctoral degree.

Templeton served for many years with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Elected president of the organization in 1967, he was the second Texan to serve as its leader. He was executive director of Governor John B. Connally's Committee on Education Beyond the High School (1963–1964) and served for 30 years on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.



UTSA hosts alumni networking events with Valero, H-E-B

UTSA this year joined with San Antonio corporations Valero Energy and H-E-B to host networking events for their alumni.

The partnerships grew from an initial idea of alumni Clay Killinger and Tracy Jackson, who both work for Valero. They knew that many UTSA alumni worked at Valero, and last spring they organized a breakfast at Valero's northwest San Antonio campus as a way to connect with them. Provost Rosalie Ambrosino spoke about the university's growth at the event, which was hosted by the UTSA Alumni Association. Rick Keeler, then vice president of the association, also spoke about opportunities for the alumni to participate in alumni and university activities, including mentoring current students. Keeler's presentation spurred the group to host a second event, and on April 18, Valero hosted a reception for UTSA students to network with alumni at the company.

"The reception was well-attended, and students went away feeling like they had a better understanding of the day-to-day routine of

jobs they were exploring," said Jane F. Burton, director of UTSA's Office of Alumni Programs.

Jackson added, "It was great to see so many fellow alumni at Valero, and we hope to do more of this in the future."

Hearing about the Valero mixer, alumnus Wayne Terry wanted to have a similar gathering at his company. Terry is manager of store operations and recruiting at H-E-B, which employs more than 200 UTSA graduates, half of whom work at the management level. At a July 27 program and reception at H-E-B corporate headquarters in San Antonio's King William neighborhood, UTSA President Ricardo Romo gave a presentation on activities at the university to senior H-E-B officers and the more than 50 alumni in attendance. Additionally, Dean Lynda de la Viña gave a College of Business update, athletics director Lynn Hickey spoke about Roadrunner athletics, and Burton closed with an invitation to alumni to stay connected with UTSA. The program also included testimonials from two alumni

who shared how their degrees had helped prepare them for their positions at H-E-B.

Terry said, "Once the word was out about the alumni gathering, even more proud alumni have come forward, including one senior executive who reported that his wife was a proud UTSA graduate."

"Wayne is one of our most engaged alumni," said Burton. "By President Romo sharing the great news about the growth and development of UTSA, we just knew our cadre of alumni at H-E-B would be interested and would want to be more connected to their alma mater."

Hickey summed up alumni involvement in her presentation: "When you ask, 'How can I help?' I say, 'Just come home.'"

"Come to a game, come to a UTSA event, come for a career fair—you will be amazed," Hickey said. "There is energy at UTSA now that didn't exist when I arrived seven years ago. You all graduated from a great university and we are proud of you."

Engineering for growth

UTSA plans for high-tech building for engineering and science colleges

By July 2009, what is now a parking lot could be the site of what's already being called UTSA's most technologically advanced building.

Construction is scheduled to begin July 2007 on an \$82.5 million engineering building designed to technologically replicate leading institutions nationwide and handle soaring enrollments within the colleges of engineering and sciences.

Preliminary plans call for the 150,000-square-foot building to replace a portion of parking lot 6—adjacent to the Biosciences Building and in front of the Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building—to make way for research and teaching laboratories, state-of-the-art classrooms, seminar rooms and/or conference facilities, faculty and staff offices and faculty and student support areas.

Money for the building comes from a \$2.5 billion competitiveness initiative approved in August by the University of Texas System Board of Regents for building projects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and medicine. The university also received \$22.5 million to renovate the Science Building, the life science laboratory, the physical science laboratory and the small animal laboratory.

Officials expect construction on the engineering building will take about two years to complete, while renovations to the science facilities could take 18 months.

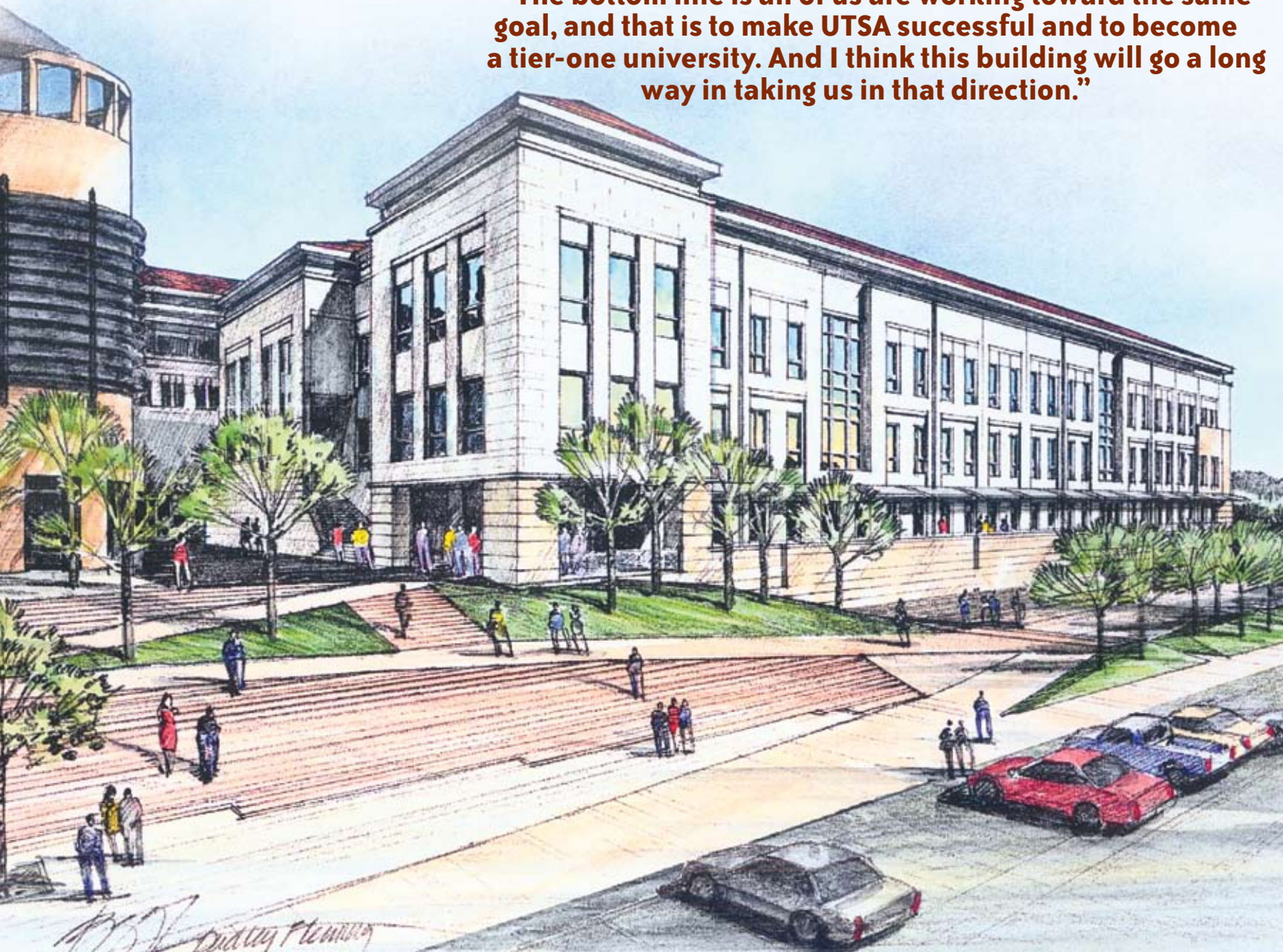
Mauli Agrawal, dean of the College of Engineering, said he was ecstatic and relieved when the money was approved for the new building.

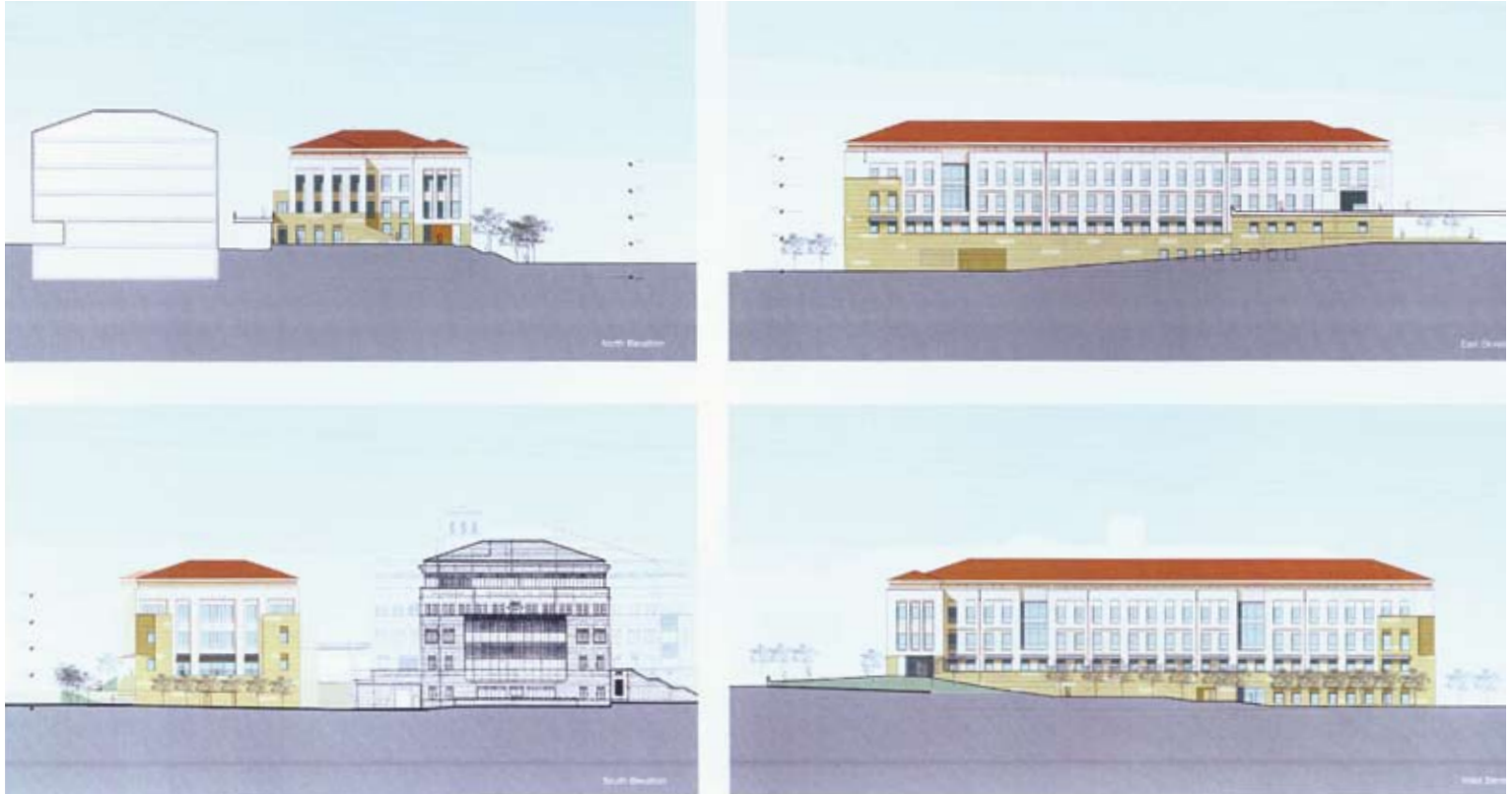
"With the number of students and faculty, we had to get space from somewhere," he said. "Also, there was a sense of relief that at least we had space to look forward to and grow into."

Over the past six years, the enrollment in the college has spiked by 90 percent. In a year, enrollment will double from what it was in 2000. The increasing number of students and President Ricardo Romo's goal of the university's reaching tier-one research status have driven the need for more and better facilities, Agrawal added.

"So we need space on two counts," he said. "We need space for our students for teaching them—for instructional space and instructional labs—and we need space to increase our research. And, as we are bringing in top-of-the-line research-oriented faculty from across the country, we need to provide them with state-of-the-art research labs."

"The bottom line is all of us are working toward the same goal, and that is to make UTSA successful and to become a tier-one university. And I think this building will go a long way in taking us in that direction."





Preliminary plans call for the four-story building to hold physics laboratories and offices on one floor, two floors dedicated to engineering and another floor that will be a combination of science and engineering teaching laboratories. Included will be computer teaching labs and classrooms that will allow video conferencing. One large classroom will have round tables to facilitate student teamwork, and each table will have Internet access and its own projection screen for presentations.

Graduate student Jeanette de Leon, who earned her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from UTSA, said it's time that the engineering department have a building dedicated to students and their needs. Existing computer labs don't have adequate space, and study areas are lacking, she said.

"In order for the program to start growing and becoming more successful, we need the space and more resources so students can have more space to work and feel more comfortable," she said. "If there were classrooms and lecture halls dedicated to engineering, that would be wonderful."

The engineering program was in its first year when Amir Karimi began teaching at the university in 1982. At that time, it offered only undergraduate degrees. Now, the College of Engineering has blossomed to include master's and doctoral programs.

"Typically as the program gets bigger, many of the laboratories have been cut down and have become offices for faculty," he said.

Over the years, engineering classes have been scattered throughout several different buildings around campus, de Leon said.

"When you're there with students in times of stress, you see things that perhaps before wouldn't seem significant," she said. "Something

simple like having more computers, [because] you get to the point where you're having students leave because there's no place to work. That's not good.

"Students have to feel like the university cares about them and the career they are pursuing," she added. "It's like they're saying, 'We support you and we're going to give you what you need to get there.'"

Karimi said his wish list for the new building includes plenty of classrooms and student lounges that facilitate teamwork and group studying. He'd also like to see a machine shop. But the most important thing, he agreed, is for students to feel comfortable in the new building.

"Basically, I'd like to see the building accessible to students and accommodating to students and to help to make the students successful," he said. To do that, the building needs adequate space for student laboratories and classrooms, he explained. "But also students need to feel that it's their building, that it's the place [where] they want to sit down and study and talk to each other, ...[so] they want to spend some time in that building."

Agrawal thinks that will happen with the new building.

"I think it will increase the chances of success and increase graduation rates and increase retention rates," he said. "It has been shown now through a lot of studies that the more time students spend on campus, the higher the chances of success, the higher the rates of graduation.

"The bottom line is all of us are working toward the same goal, and that is to make UTSA successful and to become a tier-one university. And I think this building will go a long way in taking us in that direction."

— *Lety Laurel*

Teaching the teachers

Collaborative helps teachers add confidence in math

UTSA mathematics professors know that their subject can be daunting for middle school and high school students—and if they didn't know, their own children would tell them.

"My 15-year-old daughter was telling me last night as I was working with her on her homework that everybody hates math. It's the least popular subject," said Sandy Norman, associate professor of mathematics and interim chair of the mathematics department. "I think one of the problems is that we don't have enough teachers out there, especially at the elementary level, who are well versed in mathematics and really understand it well enough to make it exciting and interesting."

So a team from the mathematics department applied for and received almost half a million dollars to continue the San Antonio Mathematics Collaborative, an initiative created by the professors years ago to help teachers in historically underserved districts in and around San Antonio gain confidence and competence in math to in turn help students excel in the subject.

This year, Norman received about \$85,000 to instruct geometry teachers. Professor Betty

Travis was awarded \$169,968 to help teachers in Algebra I and II and Associate Professor Kathleen Mittag received \$169,964 to train middle school math teachers.

The San Antonio Mathematics Collaborative is a 45-hour summer institute, followed by monthly meetings throughout the academic year, led by the professors. It is designed to help teachers develop successful mathematics curricula, build content knowledge and get experience with appropriate teaching tools, among other things. It also allows professors to provide support and evaluation to those teachers.

The collaborative targets educators in high-need school districts such as Harlandale, Southwest, Southside, South San Antonio, Edgewood, Judson and San Antonio. There are about 80 teachers participating in the program. Grant money pays for the teachers' tuition and fees for two mathematics courses, books and materials, stipends for the summer and academic year, registration and travel stipends for conferences.

"The overall purpose is to get as many teachers as possible highly qualified under the No Child Left Behind Act," Travis said.

"We're working [with high school and middle school teachers] to increase their course confidence in mathematics and their competence. To me, those are the things we want to focus on, and in the meantime we want them to focus on being teacher leaders and reach every child in their classroom."

To be highly qualified in Texas, teachers must have degrees in the subjects they are teaching and must have passed the state certification exam, Travis said.

The department has received consistent funding for the project, which demonstrates the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's recognition of a successful program, Travis said.

"I think it says they realize we have a well-established record of helping teachers ... and of course the need in San Antonio is tremendous," she added.

Mittag said national statistics indicate that half of all teachers quit the profession within their first five years. That, coupled with a shortage of math and science teachers, makes it important to have programs like the San Antonio Mathematics Collaborative, she explained.

"The U.S. must improve mathematics education for all students," she said. "The world is now a global economy, and students are competing globally for jobs."

And students having strong math skills can move on to more desirable jobs, Norman said.

"In some sense, not having appropriate mathematics totally closes quite a few doors to them in terms of careers," he said. "Most of the sciences are shut out and business and quite a few things, so having a strong background in mathematics really does allow students to fully participate in their economic future."

Teachers who have gone through the program have made obvious strides in the classroom, the professors reported. By observing the teachers with their students, they've had a firsthand look at the change.

"Some of them have just blossomed mathematically," Travis said, recalling an upper-elementary school teacher she had a few summers ago who was afraid of math, but decided to participate in the program. "She just got a master's degree for education but her concentration was teaching mathematics. She can speak about mathematics with a lot of confidence. Those are my goals at least: develop their competence and confidence."

—Lety Laurel



Digging into history



For five weeks in July, 12 UTSA anthropology students and some community volunteers dug deeper into the history of San Antonio's most recognizable landmark, the Alamo.

A partnership between the 2006 UTSA Archaeological Field School and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas allowed students to excavate areas previously undisturbed by archaeologists.

"The field school at the Alamo proved to be a valuable experience for these students," said Kristi M. Ulrich, project archaeologist and research scientist with the Center for Archaeological Research. "The students were able to get their first field experience at a

historically rich site and learn much in the way of actual field techniques."

Three areas inside the Alamo grounds were excavated. The largest, the southwest portion of the Well Courtyard, produced colonial pottery shards, an intact glass poison bottle and glass flask, grapeshot fired from a cannon and buckshot.

Another dig, located south of the Calvary Courtyard north wall, unearthed materials related to the siege of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, and the days that followed. At the site was a charred section of a cobblestoned floor. Burning was a practice employed by the Mexican army to ensure that the Alamo and its contents would not be used against them again during the war.

Beneath the floor, investigators found additional artifacts, including a Guerrero point. This stone arrow point, in common use from 1718 to 1790, is from the Spanish Colonial period, when the Alamo served as a Franciscan mission.

A third dig, located along the north wall of the Well Courtyard, provided information about how the *convento*—the residence area for the Franciscan priests—was constructed and used. In addition to several archaeological artifacts, evidence of another large burning episode was unearthed. — *Ashley Harris*

To tell the truth

Computers and humans went head-to-head last summer to see which could best distinguish fact from fiction.

With \$8,000 received from the University of Arizona and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research in July 2005, UTSA's Department of Criminal Justice hired students to study recordings of people lying and telling the truth to test the students' skills of deception detection. The results were then compared with those from an automated lie detection system in development at the University of Arizona. The system processes video on a recorder and analyzes body movements to determine whether the subject is being truthful.

If proven successful, this system could be used as a support mechanism in high-security areas like airports, said Pete Blair, assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice.

In cases where the airport security staff had reason to be suspicious, said Blair, "you could

have people who are pulled for secondary screening at the airport and interviewed by [Transportation Security Administration] agents, and while they are being interviewed, this automated system could be evaluating their behavior during the interview to see if they're engaging in behavior that looked more like truth or deception.

"So the idea is not really to replace the person, but to augment the ability of the person who is trying to do the deception task."

Blair, who has been involved in the study of deception since 1999, last spring taught a seminar on his D3 system of detecting, defeating and deterring deception. The seminar was based on research conducted by Blair and others and drew about 50 participants, ranging from banking and insurance company investigators and police officers to students. A repeat of the class was scheduled for December. — *Lety Laurel*



Research on dental crowns gets financial boost

Research to make dental ceramic crowns stronger received more than \$278,000 this year from the National Institute of Dental and Cranial Facial Research, a subsection of the National Institutes of Health.

For six years, Jeffrey Y. Thompson, professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, has sought to make dental ceramic crowns more resistant to fractures by applying a thin film surface of partially stabilized zirconia.

"The problem with ceramics, if you think of them from their simple form such as a pane of glass, is that they're extremely brittle, so they're very susceptible to low-stress failure from the presence of flaws," Thompson said.

Ceramics have high wear resistance and biocompatibility, and are environmentally friendly and chemically durable, but they also are difficult to fabricate. During the fabrication process, there are often flaws or pores created in the bulk or on the surface of the crown or other dental restoration. Over time and with fatigue caused by chewing, the flaws act as initiation sites for cracks that can eventually lead to failure of the crown or restoration.

Adding an outer layer of zirconia extends the crown's service life, Thompson said.

"We've already shown that we can put films down and have a benefit," he said. "But we want to optimize that benefit." He believes the potential usefulness of the thin-film concept reaches beyond dental research.

"This sort of technology ... has the potential for use not only in dentistry, but [has] orthopedic applications as well," he said. "Thin film applications have wide-ranging usefulness in the biomaterials area."

— *Lety Laurel*

Q&A with Brooks Thompson

By Kyle Stephens

It's his inaugural season at UTSA and his first Division I head-coaching job, but Brooks Thompson hopes this year to begin building the men's basketball program into an annual contender for the Southland Conference Championship and someday win a spot at the NCAA tournament.

A former star player at Oklahoma State and Texas A&M, Thompson was a three-time all-conference performer before being selected by the Orlando Magic in the first round of the 1994 NBA Draft.

After a six-year professional playing career, he moved into the coaching profession. He served two stints as an assistant coach under Eddie Sutton at Oklahoma State, one season as head coach at Metro Christian Academy in Tulsa, Okla., and one year as an assistant at Southeastern Louisiana before getting his first collegiate head-coaching job at Yavapai College in Prescott, Ariz. In two seasons at Yavapai, Thompson's RoughRiders posted a 55-14 record and captured two conference championships. Thompson moved back to NCAA Division I, serving two seasons as an assistant coach at Arizona State before landing the UTSA job.



You've spent the better part of the last decade as an assistant coach, learning the trade from some of the best in the business. Now entering your first season as an NCAA Division I head coach, what is your philosophy on coaching? I want to coach the right kind of people, people with high integrity and work ethic and those who put an emphasis on academics. During the recruiting process, one of the first questions I ask is, 'Do you want to graduate from college?' As a coach, you want to win every game you play. I'm a competitive guy, but I believe you can win at a high level with high-character people.

As one of the top head coaching prospects in the nation this past spring, what attracted you to the UTSA job?

First of all, the city of San Antonio is a great selling point. This city has so much going for it and is a great place to live. UTSA has a great vision, not only from an athletics standpoint, but also as an institution from an academic standpoint. It's exciting to be a part of everything that is going on here. Within the Athletics Department, we have a great leader in Lynn Hickey. She has a vision of where this place is

going and I want to be a part of that. We have an opportunity to build something special.

How do you build on the growing fan and community support for the basketball program?

You start with a quality product on and off the floor that the students, faculty, staff and community can be proud of. That comes from recruiting the right type of student-athlete. I also think students need to be able to identify with our players as being good people. We need to get more students involved with wanting to come to watch us play. A big part of that is our players promoting our program on campus by being good people. You also have to play an exciting brand of basketball. The last time I was a head coach at Yavapai Junior College, we averaged 94 points per game. We played pressure defense and forced an up-tempo style of play. You have to put a product on the floor that not only are you proud of, but is exciting to watch as well. We want the fans on their feet, so the atmosphere we create is very important.

As someone who lived the dream of playing on the collegiate and professional levels,

what ultimately led you into coaching?

I've always wanted to coach. It started when I was being recruited to college as a high school player. I wanted to be one of those coaches who was recruiting me. I thought, 'What a gratifying situation to be able to help young people become better basketball players, but more importantly, better people.' I've already had some experiences in coaching where my proudest moments have been seeing my players achieve academically and in the community. There's nothing like watching a player walk across that stage and receive his diploma. That's why I love college basketball.

How much did you learn as a player and assistant coach under a legend like Eddie Sutton?

I've taken what I felt were the greatest things from each coach that I played for, and some of the negative things, and really thought out a process of how I wanted to be as a coach. Playing for a guy like Eddie Sutton was amazing, but the neatest thing was going back and coaching under him. You get to talk with him about basketball and life. He always talked about how important his players were to him.



As a player, you knew that, but you never heard him say that with just the coaches around. From a coaching standpoint, I would say I learned almost everything I know from him. My entire philosophy of discipline and doing things the right way all comes from Coach Sutton.

Very few college players are fortunate enough to go on to a career in the NBA. What are some of the advantages to having an NBA background?

It is fair to say that I have been where they all want to go. I lived the NBA dream, so to speak. It was a dream I had to make it to that level, and I was blessed to be able to fulfill that dream. The young men that I am coaching and recruiting all want to live that dream. Who better to teach them or give them the best opportunity to play in the NBA than someone who has been there? When I'm talking to guys on the team or guys I am recruiting, they know I have played at the highest level. There is an instant respect there, and whether it is warranted or not I can't answer, but they know I've been where they all want to go.

Sports Briefs

SOCCER TEAM TAKES SLC BY SURPRISE IN INAUGURAL SEASON

The UTSA soccer team took the Southland Conference (SLC) by surprise this fall, finishing second in the final regular season standings. Under the direction of head coach Steve Ballard and assistant coach Kristin Boeker, the Roadrunners defied the preseason polls—which picked UTSA seventh—by finishing 5-1-2 in the league, just one point behind Southeastern Louisiana (5-0-3). Chelsea Zimmerman earned SLC Freshman of the Year and first-team all-conference honors at forward, while freshman Ezinne Okpo picked up second-team accolades at defender. Veronica Najera and Kari Weiland earned honorable mentions.

MCMILLAN BREAKS CAREER DIGS RECORD

Volleyball senior Erin McMillan set the school's single-match and career records for digs over a two-week span this season. On Sept. 29 against Utah Valley State, the San Antonio native registered a record 41 digs, and two weeks later against Central Arkansas, McMillan became the program's all-time leader in digs. She enters the final month of the season with 2,102 career digs, a number that ranks among the top 10 in NCAA history.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SQUAD PICKED THIRD IN SLC PRESEASON POLLS

The UTSA women's basketball team was picked to finish third in the west division of the Southland Conference (SLC) by the league's head coaches and sports information directors. Seventh-year head coach Rae Rippetoe-Blair welcomes back three starters from last year's 18-12 squad, which advanced all the way to the SLC Tournament Championship Game.

One of those starters, senior Vivian Ewalefo, was a first-team all-conference selection at forward after earning first-team and Newcomer of the Year accolades last season. Sophomore Monica Gibbs, the 2005–2006 SLC Freshman of the Year, is back

at point guard, while junior Terrie Davis returns as one of the top outside shooters in the league.

CROSS COUNTRY SQUADS STRONG AT RICARDO ROMO/UTSA CLASSIC

The UTSA cross country teams turned in a strong showing at the inaugural Ricardo Romo/UTSA Classic held Sept. 22 at Brooks City Base in San Antonio.

The women dominated the field with a near-perfect score of 18 points behind senior Hope Jimenez, who was the top collegiate finisher and third overall behind two professional runners. She earned Southland Conference Women's Athlete of the Week honors for her performance. Freshmen Dana Mecke and Faith Barlow were fourth and fifth, respectively, while senior Veronica Silva (seventh) and freshman Katy Spence (10th) also finished in the top 10.

Junior Carlos Perez led the men to a runner-up finish behind a solid Rice University squad. Perez placed fourth overall and third among collegians, while senior Benson Cheserek took sixth. Freshman Corey Vargas (17th) and juniors Adrian Vargas (18th) and Eric Miller (20th) also finished in the top 20.

UTSA TO HOST 2007 NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL REGIONAL

UTSA continues its proud tradition of hosting NCAA Championship events as the Road to the 2007 Men's Final Four goes through San Antonio. The NCAA Men's Basketball South Regional will be held at the Alamodome on March 22 and 24.

This marks the ninth NCAA Championship event UTSA has hosted since 1997; the university also will host the 2008 Men's Final Four and 2010 Women's Final Four.

To order your tickets to the 2007 NCAA Men's Regional, please call the Alamodome Box Office at (210) 207-3663 or visit www.goutsa.com.

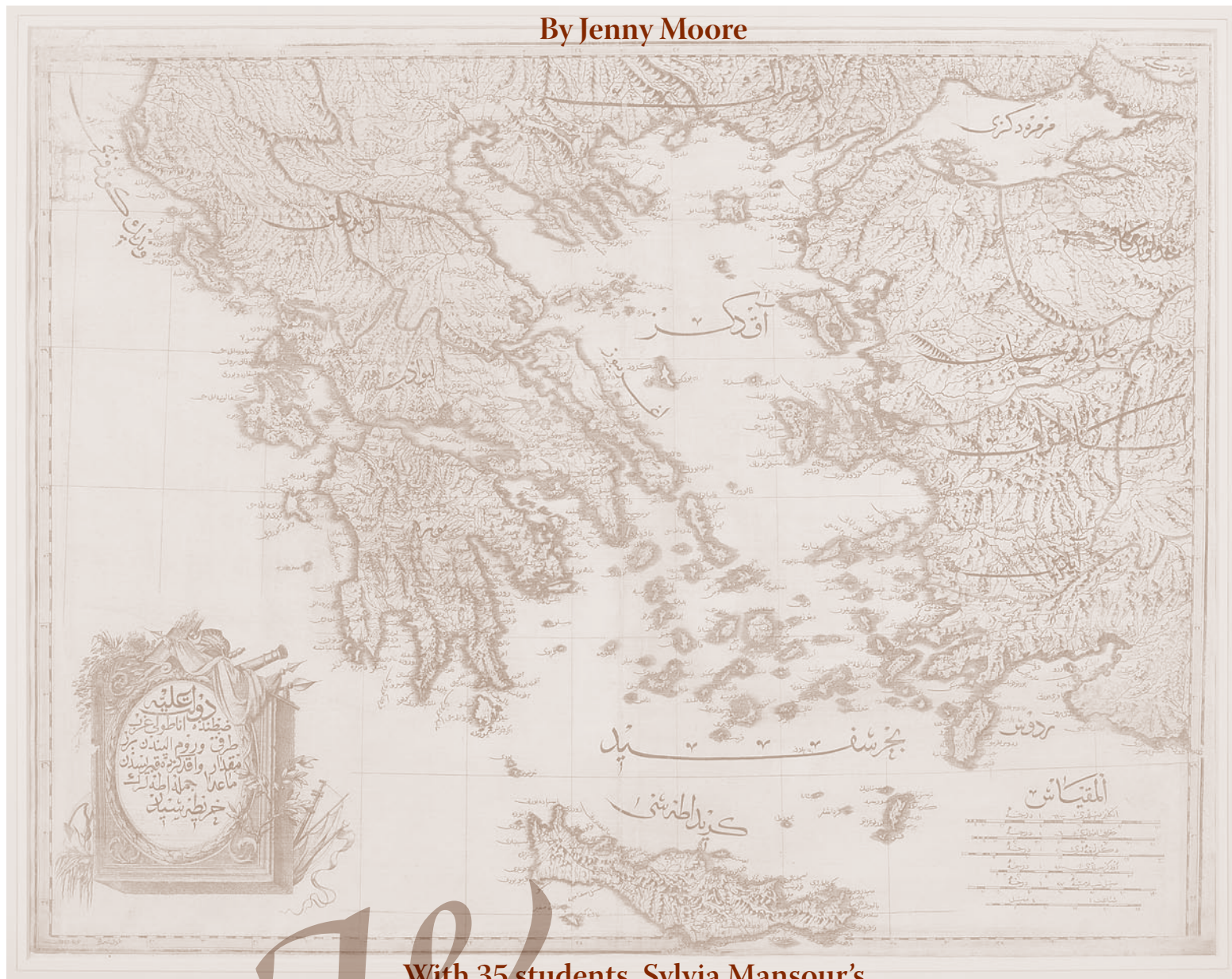
WHAT'S THE LATEST?

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

Tools for Understanding

New courses introduce students to old cultures

By Jenny Moore



With 35 students, Sylvia Mansour's Elementary Arabic class is filled to capacity.

Among them is sophomore Atka Jouini, who in addition to working full time and raising two young children, is learning from Mansour the crucial skills of reading, listening, writing and speaking Modern Standard Arabic. Born in Tunisia, Jouini grew up speaking both French and Arabic before moving to the United States with her parents as a child. "I always wanted to be literate in my native tongue," she says.

أهلا وسهلا

According to a survey by the Modern Language Association, the number of students at U.S. colleges enrolled in Arabic language courses nearly doubled from fall 1998 to fall 2002. At UTSA, students echo this trend. This fall, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures is offering two related courses, Elementary Arabic I and Islam, Old and New Ways of Life. The courses allow students to immerse themselves in a study of the Arab world, its language, history, culture, religion and people. Similar immersion courses are offered in Italian and Japanese. Majors, minors, and teacher certification are offered in French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Marita Nummikoski, department chair, responded to student demand and the larger national trend when she approved the two courses.

"We have been getting inquiries about the Arabic courses for several semesters," she says. In San Antonio, Trinity University and St. Mary's University also now offer formal Arabic instruction.

Arabic I is a 75-minute class held twice each week. The majority of the students in the class are English speakers. Out of the 35 registered students, 10 have some Arabic background. The class is taught by Mansour, who also is an academic adviser in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts Advising Center. Mansour studied Arabic as an Islamic studies major at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany. After graduating with a master's degree, she spent two years in Alexandria, Egypt.

"The experiences and knowledge I gained [in Egypt] have enriched my way of life, and I like to share this knowledge with others, especially [because] in today's media, the Arabic world is portrayed with a negative connotation," she says.

The courses allow students to immerse themselves in a study of the Arab world, its language, history, culture, religion and people.

Through her class, Mansour hopes to teach students the basics of the Arabic language and help them gain a deeper insight into its long tradition and culture. Arabic I is targeted toward students without any previous knowledge of the language, and there are two major challenges for the beginner. First, Arabic words are constructed from three-letter "roots," a concept unfamiliar to native English speakers. And second, there are many Arab dialects, each one differing from the other, and each used in different situations or settings. Mansour is teaching Modern Standard Arabic, which is taught in schools in all Arabic-speaking nations and is used in the media and for diplomacy, she says. Modern Standard Arabic developed from Classical Arabic, the language used in the Qur'an.

"In my class, we focus on overcoming the initial hurdle of learning the letters and sounds of the Arabic alphabet," she says.

Students also will be introduced to the Egyptian dialect, the most widely used and understood dialect in the Arabic-speaking world.

"I don't think the Arabic language is more difficult to learn than any other language that uses non-Latin orthography. As with any new language, practice, practice, practice is the key," says Mansour.

"By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to read and write simple sentences in Modern Standard Arabic and speak some basic sentences, such as greeting forms, asking for directions [and] ordering coffee in the Egyptian dialect."

As is true of any language course, students should not expect to be fluent after the first semester.

"Quite honestly, many students have unrealistic expectations regarding the courses," says Nummikoski. "Some of them may think that they will join the National Security Agency or another government agency

who needs staff with Arabic language skills. The reality is that it would take approximately 17 semesters of UTSA courses to become anywhere close to fluent in the language, and UTSA is only planning to offer two semesters. However, I am hoping that the first two courses of Arabic will open [students'] eyes and minds to different cultures, and teach them the first building blocks of the language," she explains.

UTSA is in a good position to offer the class now, Mansour says. "As UTSA has been consistently growing, the demand for an Arabic language course has been growing as well. A tier-one institution not only offers opportunity for research in science, but should also offer a strong liberal arts education with the opportunity to be exposed to different cultures."

Students who do well in the first elementary course may be eager for an intermediate level class. "Based on the students' feedback so far, there is a strong interest in Arabic I, and I hope all four basic language courses will be offered in the future on a regular basis," says Mansour.

In a related class—Islam, Old and New Ways of Life—Francisco Marin hopes he can offer his students information about the Islamic world on which they can base their own views and conclusions.

"The basic idea is that students may form their own opinions after my introductions to geography, history, religion, law, art, social issues and their personal research on those aspects. Islam is polyglot and diverse. Its diversity leads to different answers to basic human questions," he explains.

Like Mansour, Marin has a deep understanding of the Arabic language. He has published widely on subjects related to the language and to Islamic culture.

"As a student, I became interested in Arabic since my first year [in college]. Later on I had the opportunity to study and work in several Arabic countries," he says. "The role of Arabs and Islam has changed a lot in the last 40 years, and I think that if I can contribute to a better understanding, that should be part of my work for UTSA and the community in San Antonio," he explains.

For her part, Jouini is happy to see so many other students signing up for the Arabic and Islam courses. "It makes me feel extremely proud to be an Arab American," she says.



FROM



FROM WORKBENCH TO WORKPLACE

Technology
transfer
connects
the academic
world
with the
corporate
world

By Randy Lankford

Ruben Lopez's phone is starting to ring more. And it's not surprising. As the head of UTSA's Intellectual Property and Technology Development Office, Lopez is the first point of contact for faculty members who want to find out if their discovery can, or even should, be patented. As UTSA pursues its goal of becoming a tier-one research institution, Lopez expects his office to become even more popular.

"I'm here to assist faculty members in completing their invention disclosures and getting them reviewed, [and] helping the university decide whether it's something that's even subject to ownership by the UT System," Lopez explains. "As the university strives for tier-one status, I would expect to see more of those research disclosures."

UTSA has made several moves to not only increase the number and scope of researchers on campus, but also to beef up its ability to move that research from the workbench to the workplace.

Technology transfer is a hot topic at UTSA, and, in little more than a year, the university has built an all-star team of researchers and entrepreneurs determined to make it even hotter.

First, there was the appointment of Lynda de la Viña as dean of the College of Business. She returns for a second tour at UTSA after serving as associate dean of the Graduate Division of Business and Management and chair of the Department of Finance and International Business at Johns Hopkins University. She also has been a senior policy adviser for the U.S.-Mexico Foundation and the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce.

The university also added George Perry as dean of the College of Sciences. Perry was recruited from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, one of the top 20 private research universities in the United States.

Then came the addition of Robert Gracy as vice president of research. Gracy is vice chairman of the board of directors for Texas Healthcare and Bioscience and vice chairman for the Texas Healthcare Information Council. He came from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, where he was associate vice president for research and biotechnology and professor of molecular biology and immunology.

Finally, UTSA added Mauli Agrawal, the holder of 11 patents (with seven more pending) and one of the founders of Xilas Medical, Inc. Agrawal moved from the UT Health Science Center (UTHSC) in San Antonio to become dean of UTSA's College of Engineering.

These new administrators join Robert McKinley, who has been the associate vice president of the UTSA Institute for Economic Development (IED) for more than five years and who connects the business of science with the science of business as the liaison between the university and the corporate community.

The search is currently on for one more player to complete the lineup. UTSA and UTHSC are looking for someone to head what will be a joint technology transfer office serving both institutions. That collaboration is seen as a key to a successful technology transfer program.

"What happens in many cases," explains Gracy, "is let's say a faculty member at the Health Science Center comes up with a new potential drug that blocks tumor formation, but it's very toxic, as many anti-tumor drugs are, so he needs a new way of delivering that drug—but he has no capabilities in that field because it's not his area of expertise.

"At the same time, you have another faculty member in the UTSA engineering college or chemistry or physics department who has a new nanodelivery system. It might be good, but by itself, it's probably not commercializable."

Gracy continues: "With a joint intellectual property group, you have people looking at all the disclosures that are coming out of both UTHSC and UTSA. They can put those two discoveries together and now you have a blockbuster."

It's no coincidence that Gracy uses a biomedical example. The health care and bioscience industry is San Antonio's largest, with an economic impact of \$14.3 billion in 2005. More than 108,000 of the city's residents work in the field.

"The beauty of what we have here is the close relationship between the UTHSC and UTSA," adds Gracy. "We're in close proximity to each other, our presidents [Francisco Cigarroa at UTHSC and Ricardo Romo at UTSA] get along very well and our faculties are familiar with each other."

"UTHSC is the anchor for [the biomedical] industry," Agrawal adds. "There are tremendous opportunities in the field here. That's one of the things that differentiates us from UT Austin. They don't have a medical school."

The College of Engineering began its collaboration with UTHSC more than three years ago with the creation of a biomedical engineering graduate program. With faculty members from both UTSA and UTHSC, the program treats the two locations as separate campuses of the same institution. UTSA's creation of a Department of Biomedical Engineering was another step toward linking the two facilities.

"We've started hiring people into that department," Agrawal says. "We've had the luxury of being able to start from scratch and we've started by hiring mostly senior people, people who are already well-established at other places."

Agrawal also has seen a paradigm shift among academics.

"It used to be, many years ago, that if you were a professor at a university and you started working with businesses, it was considered to be working with the 'dark side.' That has certainly changed," he says.

"For one thing, there is a more common understanding that whatever we do in the laboratories is of no use unless it goes out to help society. Otherwise it just stays on the shelves and gathers dust. The way to get a discovery to society so it can help the community is through tech transfer and commercialization. That's the bridge that takes you there and that's a necessary part of our technological society."

Perry agrees that that paradigm shift will be a factor in making UTSA a top research facility. He says an entrepreneurial culture with a high-powered technology transfer program will attract faculty members interested in seeing their discoveries commercialized.

"We have some leading faculty members here now and we want to build on that," Perry says. "So one of the things we're looking at are the current areas of excellence that we can build on. And, certainly, tech transfer would be part of that equation."

It isn't just about having smart people on staff, he continues. It's also a matter of priorities and attitude.

"It used to be, many years ago, that if you were a professor at a university and you started working with businesses, it was considered to be working with the 'dark side.'"

"Many of the faculty members that are going to be recruited are going to want to know what the

environment here is like for bringing their discoveries to the marketplace," he says. "That's an important aspect. When they come here and establish relationships with businesses, they want to know that technology transfer is going to be done seamlessly and effortlessly. And it's of benefit to them, the university and the companies for that to happen."

Perry agrees that collaboration with UTHSC is important but is quick to add that other facilities in San Antonio, such as the Southwest Research Institute and the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, also are fertile sources for research partnerships.

From a College of Business perspective, de la Viña sees UTSA's technology transfer initiative as both a learning and a teaching opportunity. Not only are faculty members involved in the rollout of new technology, but students also are being immersed in the entrepreneurial experience and exposed to the early stages of product development.

Toward that end, the university has created the Center for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship, a joint venture between the colleges of business and engineering.

"There are two ways to look at the transfer of technology," de la Viña says. "One is to simply license technology to larger corporations or other established companies. Another way to bring technology to market is through the creation of new entrepreneurial ventures. The establishment of those new companies means there have to be business plans, market research, financial analysis. There have to be people who understand venture financing. We see ourselves as partnering with the other UTSA colleges in these areas."

The College of Business also is conducting research of its own in globalization, health and technology, security, transformational leadership, consumer behavior and exchange rates.

"Part of our mission statement," de la Viña adds, "is 'theory with practice and rigor with relevance.' We have to have the theory and we have to have the rigor. Those are part of our academic credentials. There's both academic and practical research being done."

While the task of the technology transfer office is to help faculty members determine who owns their discoveries and whether their inventions can be patented, the Institute for Economic Development helps researchers and entrepreneurs find each other.

But even before that, the IED also helps faculty members secure funding for transitional research through government sources such as the Small Business Innovation Research and the Small Business Technology Transfer programs.

Funded by 11 government agencies, the programs provide \$100,000 grants for phase-one research and grants of up to \$750,000 for phase-two research. Those are dollars available for research and development of advanced technologies that don't require repayment and don't require the



While the task of the technology transfer office is to help faculty members determine who owns their discoveries and whether their inventions can be patented, the Institute for Economic Development helps researchers and entrepreneurs find each other.

researchers to give up any equity in their discovery.

John Fritz, a business development specialist at the IED specializing in technology transfer and commercialization, has seen inventions in all stages of development.

"We've had people come in with technology that's already patented who want to look at a marketing plan to grow their business, all the way to people who don't even have their invention sketched out on a cocktail napkin yet," Fritz says. "They want to know if their idea is patentable. We usually start there, whether the product can be patented and then whether it can be taken to market. It's a market evaluation process. Just because you can produce something doesn't mean that you should. It may not be profitable or may not be worth the investment or the risk."

One piece of advice Fritz offers his clients is to get a notebook and start documenting early.

"U.S. law gives patents to the first person to invent something," he says. "So if you document your discoveries first, you have a chance to win the intellectual property rights later."

"We start with protection and then move on to evaluation. Then we get into development, production and marketing."

The IED isn't dedicated only to UTSA. It covers 79 counties from Austin to El Paso with 10 regional offices. McKinley adds that while the

demand pattern for his office varies, he's seeing a general upward trend.

"I'd say that's because the scope and number of researchers at UTSA is increasing," he explains. "The economy in South Texas is doing relatively well and you see a lot of investment by businesses in new products and services."

"Our job is to help foster that and take it forward. We work on getting scientists and businesspeople on the same page. We used to have seminars where we'd put them all in the same room where they'd get to know each other, learn their vocabulary and their ways of doing things."

McKinley explains that, in many cases, scientists are not interested in business and businesspeople are not interested in science. Then, he adds, it's the IED's role to arrange a marriage between the two cultures.

"Scientists are often not even interested in going into business, and, even when they are, they're going to need to build a team around them," he says. "They can run the research and development and maybe have some involvement in manufacturing, but they're going to need a marketing person and an accountant and a financier and human resources people and all those things."

"In other cases, a business might come up with a technology idea or application that they can only take so far, and then they need professors to conduct the kind of research they're not capable of."

Gracy says one of his goals is to broaden the pool of contributors. To do that, the faculty must first be educated.

"We do it by changing the culture of the institution," Gracy says. "I think this is a process that's happening across academia and across the United States. Most of our faculty came up through academia when 'intellectual property' was a foreign term. And many of them, outside of engineering and sciences, had no interest in ever patenting anything or developing a practical product to sell. But that's changing now."★





BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Architecture students learn about life on the other side of the blueprints.

By Rebecca Luther

If everything goes according to plan, students in Diane Hays' fourth-year architecture studio will be spending most of their class time during the spring semester outdoors.

As the realization of what has been an ongoing project for Hays and her students for over a year, the group this spring will be constructing a 148-foot pavilion in Raymond Russell Park in northwest San Antonio. The project has been the sole focus of Hays' design-build studio, which was first offered in fall 2005. The goal of the studio is twofold: to give students hands-on experience in construction and to provide a service to the community.

Community outreach certainly is not a new idea in the College of Architecture. Professor Richard Tangum's students over the years have worked on numerous studies for communities around South Texas—the Avenida Guadalupe plaza, a town center for the City of Windcrest and an entrance corridor for the City of Castroville among them. Senior Lecturer Susan Lanford's interior design students designed a storefront health clinic for the Hispanic community in Los Angeles. Associate Professor Marc Giaccardo's students designed the playground for the Early Childhood Development Center at San Antonio's Navarro Academy. And for the past three summers,



Assistant Professor Sue Ann Pemberton-Haugh has taken a group of students to Norogachi, Mexico, to design and build facilities for the Tarahumara Indian community there, most recently building a boarding school in 2006.

The list goes on. But Hays' design-build studio marks the first formalized effort of the college to establish a design-build component as part of its curriculum, something that the college is committed to doing, says Dean Julius Gribou.

"Design-build studios are one of the better ways of being engaged in the community," Gribou says. "The students really want to do it; the faculty wants to do it. It's really one of the best ways to make any kind of impact in the community because you're actually going to leave something that's built and usable."

The college, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2005, is in a good place to begin pursuing design-build projects now for several reasons, Gribou says. Since he came to the university six years ago, enrollment in the college has nearly tripled, from more than 350 students in 2000 to 1,000 students for the fall 2006 semester. In 2001, the school's master of architecture program was accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board, making UTSA a viable program among architecture schools in Texas and around the country. Finally, in 2003, the entire college relocated from the 1604 Campus to the Downtown Campus, giving it more visibility and access, not just to the architecture community, but also to the entire San Antonio community.

Design-build and outreach projects are important, faculty members say, because they offer students real-world and hands-on experience that they might not get in a traditional studio setting.

"To me, it is very important, and always has been, for students to work on real projects," says Tangum. "We can talk about theory, but [students]

need to learn how to translate what they are learning in school into a real situation. Then they really can understand how to execute their work in a much more realistic way. ... It helps the community and it helps the student become a better future professional because they're working with real clients, not hypothetical ones."

Tangum and his students are working on plans to renovate a vacant mercantile building in the town square in Carrizo Springs to turn it into an outreach center for UTSA. Tangum, who's been involved in a number of outreach projects in Carrizo Springs and other areas over some 15 to 20 years, would like to see a design-build program at UTSA evolve to the point of having students build housing units in high-need areas such as Dimmitt County.

"You use it as a learning experience," he says, "introducing new and innovative ways of constructing units and having students learn in the process."

Hays, a senior lecturer in the College of Architecture, shares that vision of UTSA students designing and building actual homes one day, a vision that mirrors her own interests in serving the community as well as in the technology and sustainability of manufactured housing. But housing will be a future project, she says.

"That will be more complicated, because we will have to deal with all the interior systems and environmental systems," she says. "It's a more complicated structure ... so this is an easier program for us to deal with."

Building an open-air pavilion is far easier than building a house, but the Raymond Russell Park project has been far from a simple process. Hays and local architect John Grable of John Grable Architects in 2005 approached Bexar County Commissioner Lyle Larson with the idea of having UTSA and the county partner together for a design-build project. Their pitch to Larson and county commissioners was simple,



Diane Hays (center) works with students in her design-build studio. At left, Hays' students surveyed and created a master plan for Raymond Russell Park.



“The first thing the students are going to realize is those beautiful, straight, precise drawings that they’ve done are a fantasy, because in reality, the construction out there in particular is not fine, formalized construction.”



Hays recalls: “You have a lot of projects that need building, and we need the experience.” County commissioners and officials were immediately receptive to the idea. and after a brainstorming session, it was suggested to Hays that she go take a look at Raymond Russell Park and see if that sparked any ideas. Flooding in 2000 had damaged the park, which was designated in the 1950s, and bond money from a 2003 election had already been earmarked for its renovation.

So in the fall of 2005, students in the College of Architecture’s first design-build studio took a field trip to Raymond Russell Park. They surveyed it, took hundreds of photographs and held a charrette to come up with potential designs. Ultimately, “the students felt strongly that the park needed a master plan,” Hays says. “We ended up master-planning the whole park. ... We’ve tackled the entire 19 acres.”

Six weeks after the group was given the assignment of doing something in Raymond Russell Park, the UTSA students took their plan back to county officials, who, Hays reports, were “blown away.”

Larson says he’s been impressed by what Hays’ students have come up with. “They have some interesting ideas that were a lot different than what we’ve got in some of our other parks,” Larson says. “I think these folks have brought forward some ideas that the Bexar County park system hasn’t seen, at least in my tenure in the last 10 years.

“I thought the whole plan was going to change that park pretty significantly. ... The plan is a lot more ambitious than what we had thought in 2003. I think the functionality of it and the usability of it is going to surpass what we had anticipated back in 2003.”

Though the students have plans for the entire park, they’re starting slowly and are preparing to renovate just the one picnic pavilion for now. The existing pavilion is to be demolished, though students plan to recycle much of the material from the old pavilion for their new structure. “We’ve identified the materials that we want saved and methods of how we want it demolished,” Hays says. “So it’s not just a big bulldozer coming in; it’s got to be done piece by piece.”

“We’re saving all the lumber, we’re saving some of the paneling, we’re saving some of the roofing material,” she says. For example, corrugated metal from the roof will be used as vertical siding. Rebar and scrap metal will be used to create a decorative and protective cage around the pavilion’s chimney.

“One of our goals was to be sustainable,” Hays says. “We wanted to develop designs that were compatible with the camp architecture quality of the park, but also that could teach a lesson to the layperson so they could look at how we used materials in a unique way or how we’ve used recyclable materials and they could take those lessons home with them.”





Finding ways to be innovative in their design work is by no means the biggest hurdle the group has had to overcome. Legal teams from both the university and the county have been working—for as long as the students have been working on their designs—to address legal issues such as liability. A number of people from UTSA and the county's infrastructure services, architecture, parks and district attorney's offices have collaborated on the project. Hays also sought the expertise of architecture faculty at other universities in Texas as well as at Auburn University—whose Rural Studio is a model for its success in building innovative, low-cost housing using such found materials as tires, hay bales and newspaper—to learn about their design-build projects. But, she says, “We really had to start from scratch and develop it ourselves.”

“We think we’re coming up with a good process. We probably picked the hardest way to go about it by dealing with a public entity [as opposed to a private or nonprofit]. Both legal departments and risk managers on both sides have been working diligently for months to come to resolution and agreement on how we do this.”

As Bexar County and UTSA officials worked to finalize a contract, which was approved in November, Hays' students have had plenty to work on. She divided the students into teams, matching their skills to necessary tasks, such as computer-aided design (CAD), surveying and model building. Some students who have had the class before were appointed as team leaders to help Hays manage the project.

“A lot of studio time is spent bringing them up to speed so that this will be comparable to an office setting, where they would be expected to know AutoCAD and to know their codes and to know how to detail,” she says. “And as we do more and more drawings, it raises more and more questions about detailing and materials and consistency. ... There's just so much information that has to be included in those drawings—and they don't know a lot of it—so a lot of time is spent running to the hardware stores researching different bolt sizes and all that kind of information that they don't get in a normal studio.”

One of Hays' goals for the studio is to create a real-world environment that will help them as professionals convey their designs to the people

who will be building them. “They’re going to have to learn how to communicate effectively with the contractor,” she says. “They have to be clear and have everything thought out on that piece of paper when they hand it off to the contractor.”

As part of the contract with Bexar County for the pavilion construction, the students will work with a licensed structural engineer who will develop the sealed drawings for the project based on the students' design work. Hays has emphasized to the students that their plans must be flexible to handle unforeseen situations.

“The first thing the students are going to realize [when they get on site] is those beautiful, straight, precise drawings that they’ve done are a fantasy, because in reality, the construction out there in particular is not fine, formalized construction. It was done by laypeople, by and large,” Hays says. “Who knows if the slabs are level? Chances are they’re not. Who knows if the whole face of the building is flush and in line? Chances are it’s not.”

In short, Hays says, “We’ll be designing until we’re walking off that construction site.”

Larson is anticipating a ribbon-cutting celebration when the pavilion is completed in 2007, but that will by no means mark the end of the project. There are still other pavilions and structures in Raymond Russell Park for UTSA students to renovate, and more possibilities beyond Raymond Russell Park.

“We are going to invite them in on some other projects. I think this is the first of many projects what we want them involved in,” Larson says. “This is a good pilot to see exactly how this turns out, and I think it will go a long way toward bringing UTSA's architecture department into play, not only with the county, but I think at the city level as well.”

“Once they establish the credibility that I think they will establish with this project, I think a lot of folks are going to look at some of the concepts and the energy that these folks can bring, because they’re not doing it for a profit; they’re doing it because they want to demonstrate their creativity. They’re a lot more aggressive than what you might get out of a traditional architecture firm.”

Hays, too, envisions the college's design-build efforts growing to the point of someday possibly having multiple teams of students and professors working on a number of projects.

“There's a tremendous need out there, and we've got a wonderful student body in our College of Architecture,” she says. “They're talented; they're smart; they're energetic. They are great problem-solvers, and they want to learn this. They have a real desire to learn all about this profession.”

“They're just so ready to get their hands dirty.”★



Some materials from the old pavilion will be salvaged for use in the new construction, such as the corrugated metal roofing.



RISKY BUSINESS TASTY BUSINESS

By Lety Laurel

UTSA ALUMNI TRADE IN
SLEEP AND SECURITY
TO SERVE UP CUISINE.

Josh Dayton missed his own graduation from UTSA last December—he was too busy opening a restaurant to cross the stage.

“I was sleeping up here on a blow-up mattress. I would be up here six days straight and I wouldn’t leave besides going to get some food,” the 27-year-old says between seating guests, taking orders and delivering food to tables at El Siete Mares Inc. at Encino Rio, a restaurant he co-owns with two other alumni. “My thought was every hour was valuable.”

And looking around the spacious restaurant, with its vibrant blue ceiling accents, map murals and leather-covered seats, he has no regrets.

“This was my stage,” he says. “I didn’t go to school to work for somebody [else]. Opening this was crossing the stage.”

The trio is just one example of San Antonio-area alumni who have taken on the risky prospect of opening a restaurant. It can take several hundred thousand to millions of dollars to open a restaurant, only for owners to face the reality of an 80 percent failure rate for all business ventures in the first five years, says Wayne Loeff, senior business adviser with UTSA’s Institute for Economic Development. Yet it’s that scent of potential profit, as well as the thrill of an ever-changing, fast-paced profession that draws people to the restaurant business.

“Generally to every client of mine that says they want to go into the restaurant business, I say, ‘Are you out of your mind?’ And most of them are,” says Loeff, who has owned nine restaurants, one for over 20 years.

WEB EXTRA:
To see a video with the owners of El Siete Mares, go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.

Getting started

Dayton’s partners in El Siete Mares are Alejandro Villanueva and Daniel Eisenhauer. Villanueva’s parents opened the original El Siete Mares on the West side 10 years ago. So when his two classmates suggested opening another restaurant by the same name, this one on the city’s North side, Villanueva knew he had the experience to make it work.

Funding was the problem. Rejected by banks, the three incorporated and got financing through family. A year later, they signed a lease on the facility, taking a financial gamble on the prospect of success.

“Nine out of 10 new restaurants will fail,” says Villanueva, 28. “We knew we were running a risk, but the product we knew was acceptable and good. And I had experience, and there were so many ways to cut expenses because I am the chef as well.”

Russell Reyes also knows about risk and what it’s like to be turned away by banks. It was through a friend’s family that Reyes, now 29, was able to get the financial backing he needed for his restaurant, Pericos Mexican Cuisine.

Like Villanueva, Reyes’ first job was in a restaurant. His mother took over her father’s business, Panchito’s Mexican Restaurant, on Zarzamora Street on the West side, when Reyes was about 3 years old. By the time he was 12, he was spending his summers washing dishes in the kitchen. He worked his way from dishwasher to busser, then to cook, server, bartender, manager and finally, general manager. After graduating from UTSA with finance and accounting degrees in 1999, he opened Pericos on Bandera Road in 2002. He’s now working on opening a second location on Sonterra Boulevard.

It was when Reyes created a plan for a restaurant for his small business entrepreneurship class that the idea to open his own place struck him. “I thought, ‘I could do this,’” he says.

The El Siete Mares trio also took an entrepreneurial class at UTSA. They learned tips that today help them run their restaurant more efficiently. “It’s helping us see what we need to be careful with and realizing the details you can [overlook] can sometimes bite you,” Villanueva says.

Still learning

Joey Villarreal, 43, owner of the Blue Star Brewing Co. brewpub in the Blue Star Arts Complex in the King William District, admits he's still learning how to run a successful business 17 years after opening his first bar, Joey's, on North St. Mary's Street.

"You'll never quit learning," he says. "One thing I'm still trying to learn is that when things get tough, that's when you should smile and not take things personally."

He says he's never been a good businessman. Even so, he's launching his third venture, Joe Blues, a bar next to Blue Star Brewing Co.

"If I had gotten a business degree, I probably would not be in this business. I probably would have been too afraid to get into this business because there was too much risk," he says now, sitting at a corner table in the brewpub, the tables around him filled with lunchtime customers. "I don't consider myself a good businessman, but I consider myself hanging in there."

Villarreal graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. In the two decades since graduating, he has never worked a day as a scientist, but instead has put his degree to work in creating the perfect brew.

"If you had told me then that I'd be doing this, I wouldn't have believed it," he says. "Not the bar business. I would have thought I'd be working in a lab or something like that." With no business training, Villarreal says, "I winged it. I learned as I went."

Although the owners of El Siete Mares have the academic background in business that Villarreal lacks, owning a restaurant is a learning experience for them as well. Their most important lesson so far: even if they net \$100,000 monthly, tens of thousands of those dollars go back into rent, employee pay, utilities and the other costs of running the restaurant. "We'll do \$1 million our first year, but it all goes back to everything else," Dayton says. "But it's still exciting."



(above) **MAKING IT WORK:** Daniel Eisenhauer, Alejandro Villanueva and Josh Dayton took a gamble on the prospect of success.
(below) **FROM DISHWASHER TO OWNER:** Russell Reyes' restaurant grew from a class project.

Timing is everything

When the dot-com industry collapsed, Alfonso Tomita found himself in Japan without a job. So he returned to UTSA to finish the two classes he needed for his M.B.A. in finance, then decided to open a restaurant. He thought a quesadilla stand would be perfect, but his oldest son, 10 years old at the time, pushed for a sushi restaurant instead. Tomita, however, was unable to find a Japanese franchise willing to risk opening in a city with little history of Japanese cuisine, and no chefs were willing to make the jump into such a small market.

Then the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks happened and the economy responded with a sharp slump. Suddenly, Tomita found a chef in need of work, then a property owner willing to lease space to a man with dreams of a sushi restaurant but no experience in owning one.

"I think we're very lucky to be able to have our space, even though we didn't have any restaurant experience before," says Tomita, 44.

On Dec. 12, 2001, Our Lady of Guadalupe Day and a significant day for the Mexican-born son of Japanese parents, Sushi Zushi opened at the Colonnade in Northwest San Antonio. Tomita now has four Sushi Zushi locations—including one in Dallas—and is working on a fifth. He hopes to open in Lincoln Heights, near Broadway and Basse in San Antonio, by the end of the year.

The venture that began with Tomita, his wife and two chefs has expanded to include 150 employees. Last year, the restaurants brought in close to \$6 million in sales and likely will earn up to \$8 million this year.



Word of mouth

After serving another table during the lunch rush, Dayton sits down on one of the leather chairs he covered himself in the days before his graduation. He talks about how good it feels knowing that another meal has been served, another customer satisfied. There's nothing like knowing people are happy with the food, he says. And that's a good thing, considering that because there's little money for advertising, the restaurant's main source of customers has been word of mouth.

Word of mouth is also how the pizzeria owned by Lori Hakspiel and her husband, Frank, has survived in Leon Springs for the last two years. Despite a lack of advertising money for Fralo's Art of Pizza, awards decorate the entrance and waiting lists are the norm during dinner.

"People wait one to one-and-a-half hours for a table then another hour to an hour and a half for their pizza. That's more of an honor than an award on the wall," Hakspiel says.

Like Villarreal of Blue Star, Hakspiel, 32, never thought she'd work in a restaurant after she graduated with an M.B.A. in finance in 1999. But Fralo's immediate success made it necessary for someone with a finance background to take control of the books.

"People laugh and say, 'Did you ever think this is what you would have used your finance degree for?' But without it, I couldn't have handled the growth we've had," Hakspiel says as her employees take orders over the phone. "It would have overwhelmed me."

The restaurant opened in 2004 with five employees who were all family members. The company has now grown to include 47 full- and part-time employees. It took two years to see a positive bottom line. Sales have increased 65 percent over last year.

"We felt like we were running after it. It has been that way ever since [we opened]," she says. "The growth of it, even my dad says, 'Who would have thunk it?'"

Rewarding enterprise

Running a restaurant is not a nine-to-five job, Loeff says. "You're working when everybody else is out and having a good time."

A typical day for Hakspiel begins at 11 a.m. and stretches until 3 a.m. With her finance background, she handles the bookkeeping, but she also is a floor manager, helping with customers' needs and keeping her wait staff working efficiently. She's usually in bed by 5 a.m.

"We do a lot of hands-on because we're the owners. We don't just leave and expect things to get done," says Hakspiel, who calls herself an insomniac. She notes that those considering a career in this business should take into account the time commitment it takes. "Basically you're married to the restaurant. The staff becomes your children and the customers become your family."

The experience of the El Siete Mares trio is similar. If they can snatch a couple of days of rest during the week, they're lucky. Almost every day is spent at the restaurant, pulling shifts of 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

When Tomita was opening his first restaurant, he was running on pure adrenaline, he says. The fatigue from working daily 13-hour shifts for six months didn't hit him until he took his first four-day vacation. He slept the entire time.

"There's a longing about those initial days because there was a feeling of anticipation standing there and seeing if customers would walk in," he says. "Like anything you do for the first time, it feels different once you get used to it, like driving a car or your first day of college."

This semester, Tomita is sharing the benefits of his experience with M.B.A. students in Associate Professor Katsuhiko Shimizu's business strategy class. Tomita visited the class periodically throughout the semester, offering his restaurant as a case study. The students then were expected to come up with Sushi Zushi's expansion strategy.



(above) **PURE ADRENALINE:** kept Al Tomita going as he was opening his first Sushi Zushi.
(right) **FROM BIOLOGY TO BREWING:** After 20 years Joey Villarreal is still learning the business.



“BASICALLY YOU’RE MARRIED TO THE RESTAURANT. THE STAFF BECOMES YOUR CHILDREN AND THE CUSTOMERS BECOME YOUR FAMILY.”

A TYPICAL FRIDAY: Lori Hakspiel says customers at Fralo’s are willing to wait more than an hour for a table on a busy weekend night.



“I think it’s going to be really good exposure for them and also for me because there’s a lot of professional people taking the M.B.A. at UTSA. It’s going to be a rich mix of feedback ... from their different backgrounds and disciplines.”

The alumni-entrepreneurs say the countless hours that go into owning a restaurant have rewards that reach into their personal lives. They know their customers by name. They’re invited to their homes on holidays. Some are considered family and invited on ski trips and other outings.

“You take it for granted, but how else can you meet all these people?” Villarreal says of his customers. “We’re social animals and I enjoy being around them.”

It’s also more rewarding than Hakspiel would have imagined, though she knocks on wood even as she talks about it. “The relationships with our customers are the things that really make the difference. That makes it all worth it.”

Graduation time

As El Siete Mares was about to have its grand opening last December, UTSA for the first time stretched commencement to six ceremonies over three days to accommodate the 2,811 students who had earned degrees.

Dayton was too busy working in the restaurant to notice, but his family felt they had missed out on a milestone. So for Christmas, Dayton wore his cap and gown home so they could take pictures and mark the occasion.

But for Dayton, opening the restaurant was the real milestone. And he hopes that, like a graduation of sorts, it will someday launch him into a career where he’ll head up his own Fortune 500 company. Until then, he says, working at the restaurant will be a constant, but rewarding, stress in his life. “I wouldn’t change it for the world, even though I have an ulcer,” he says. “It’s mine. It’s really mine.”★

Diploma Dash 2007

Get ready to run

The 23rd Annual Diploma Dash, sponsored by the UTSA Alumni Association, is scheduled for Feb. 17, 2007, as part of the university's Homecoming Week activities. This annual event, which serves as San Antonio's City Championship 5K race, raises money for the UTSA alumni scholarship program, UTSA track and cross country scholarships, and alumni programs and services.

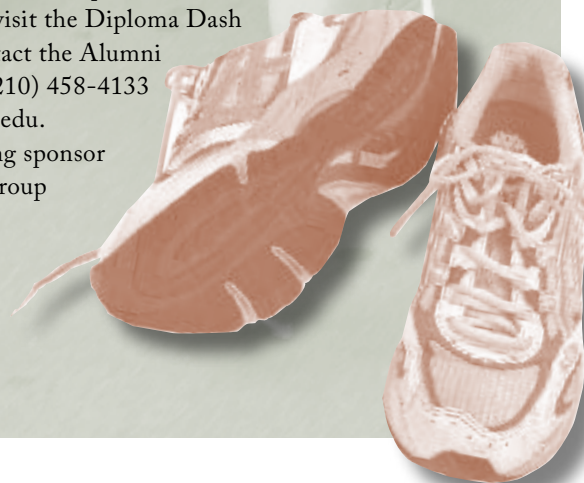
The race course at the 1604 Campus offers a certified 5K flat and fast course for accomplished runners as well as a scenic 1.5-mile course for those who prefer an easier pace. This year, for the first time in the race's history, all Diploma Dash participants will wear a computer chip on their shoes. This will greatly enhance the speed and accuracy of race results. Danny Zimmermann '01 and Cathy Starnes '92 are chairing this year's Diploma Dash committee; Dennis Blick '84 is race director, and Roger Soler '85 is race adviser.

All Diploma Dash participants receive a long-sleeved T-shirt, and medals and cash prizes are awarded to the top three men and women, along with running shoes from Roger Soler's Sports. Master's men's and women's divisions, Clydesdale and Filly divisions and corporate challenge teams also will receive prizes. Medals are awarded in 13 age categories.

Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Convocation Center; the race starts at 9 a.m. Early registration is \$20; after Feb. 14, the entry fee is \$30. Registration for corporate teams is \$250. UTSA students with valid identification can register for only \$10 at the Alumni Programs Office in the University Center before Feb. 14.

Participants can register online at www.utsa.edu/alumni/dipdash/. Entry forms also are available at San Antonio area sports stores including Roger Soler's Sports. For more information or to volunteer, visit the Diploma Dash Web site or contact the Alumni Association at (210) 458-4133 or alumni@utsa.edu.

The presenting sponsor is the Capital Group Companies.



76 Eve Dolores Santos, B.A. in English, is the author of two self-published books. She also writes humorous life observations under the pseudonym Tejana Juana. You can find these stories on her Web site, www.bookcantina.com. Eve welcomes your comments on her stories and books.

77 Pete M. Gonzales Jr., B.B.A. in accounting, is an audit manager for the U.S. Postal Service's Office of the Inspector General in Boston.

78 Diane Gonzales Bertrand, B.A. in English, was honored by the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library at the 2005 Arts & Letters Award Ceremony. Diane is the author of a number of children's and young adult books including *Sip, Slurp, Soup/Caldo, Caldo; Family/Familia; Uncle Chente's Picnic*; and *Empanadas that Abuela Made*. She has won ALA's Schneider Family Book Award and was a finalist for the 2005 Texas Writer's League Teddy Award. She is a writer-in-residence at St. Mary's University.

JoAnn "Jodi" Hall-Neumann Gunckel, B.A. in English, M.A. in education '85, is the owner of J&L Bicycle Shop, which features recumbent bicycles. The shop is in Seguin, Texas.

Chris Riley, M.A. in education, was re-elected mayor of the City of Leon Valley on May 13, 2006, for a second two-year term. She was unopposed.

81 Joseph Glenn Charles, B.S. in biology, has been teaching science for 22 years and for the past 18 years has been head of the science department and master teacher at Dr. J.G. Cigarroa Jr. Middle School in the Laredo Independent School District. Joseph has been nominated five times to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. He helps to write the curriculum for Laredo Community College Environmental Center as well as the new science curriculum for the LISD middle schools. You may e-mail Joseph at jgcharles@elisd.org.

Andres Rodriguez Velasco, M.A. in education, is a published author and poet and poet laureate of Laredo, Texas.

83 John J. Arias, B.B.A. in accounting, is president of ACC Consulting Inc., a construction cost control, risk management and accounting firm in San Antonio.

87 Cheryl Hammon Johnston, B.B.A. in management, is managing partner at Gourmet Gala Supper Club in Waco, Texas. The company produces prepared meals and catering. Check out its Web site at www.gourmetgala.com.

88 Maria Luisa Alvarado, B.A. in sociology, was the Democratic nominee for Texas lieutenant governor for the November 2006 general election.

89 Fred W. Bosshardt II, M.B.A. in business, is the owner of Caliente Harley Davidson, a new Harley Davidson dealership in San Antonio that will be located at Loop 410 and Culebra.

90 Denise Gales Langabeer, B.B.A. in management, is the associate director of research finance operations for US Oncology in Houston. She relocated to Houston from Boston, where she lived for five years. **Albert Morales**, M.B.A. in business, M.S. in environmental science '98, is a mechanical engineer for the Defense Contract Management Agency in Dallas.

91 Virginia Baeza Flores, B.B.A. in accounting, is credit manager for Valero Logistics LP at Valero Energy Corporation in San Antonio. **Kevin Prescott**, B.B.A. in management, was named partner in a new human resources consulting and talent management services firm, Nextaff of San Antonio. Nextaff provides a range of training and development programs and assists clients in identifying, evaluating and hiring candidates for short-term or long-term human capital needs. Visit their Web site at www.nextaff.com/sa. You can reach Kevin at kprescott@us.nextaff.com.

Shadana Hurd '04

Catching on in a new field

As an athlete in high school and college, Shadana Hurd was used to hearing fans cheer, but this was a new one:

"Shadana, don't be scared!" her grandmother yelled.

The next thing Hurd knew, "I was on the ground, my helmet got knocked off, and I was limping away."

This was last spring, at Hurd's first game with the Austin Outlaws, part of the National Women's Football Association (NWFA). With 40 teams, the NWFA is the world's largest women's tackle football league. The Outlaws, organized in 2000, are one of its more seasoned teams.

Hurd, 25, was anything but seasoned when she tried out last fall. "Even my brothers hadn't played football," she says. At Sam Houston High School in San Antonio and at UTSA, where she majored in kinesiology, Hurd ran track and played basketball. But after college, she missed the rush of competition. "One day at home, I was messing around on the computer, looking for women's softball leagues or anything else I could do," she says. When she hit the NWFA site, she read that the league was considering a team in San Antonio.

"I thought, 'Sweet!' and called the general manager," she says. Plans for a San Antonio team had been postponed, she was told, but would she be interested in playing for the Austin Outlaws? Tryouts were the next week.

Beginning in September 2005, Hurd gritted her way through a four-month elimination process. Around 300 women attended the initial meeting; only about 50 were offered a place on the team.

With her new teammates, Hurd started practicing three times a week to get ready for the 2006 season, which ran from April through August. Like her, most of the rookie Outlaws were learning the game for the first time. "We picked things up as we went along," says Hurd.

The Outlaws don't play a powder-puff game. "We play by the exact same rules as the NFL," Hurd says proudly. Hurd started as a wide receiver, then shifted to running back. In both positions, she was challenged with carrying the ball while bigger people were pounding down the field to take it away from her.

"I started out real timid and shy," she says. "Then I learned to be more aggressive. When I thought I was about to get hurt, I'd drop my shoulder [to block a tackle], and they'd think twice about approaching me."

So far, Hurd hasn't sustained any serious injuries. "When I told my mother I was going to do this," she says, "the first thing she said was, 'Make sure you keep your insurance.'" For the most part, Hurd's family has been supportive. Her 6-year-old daughter, Ma'Kayla, attends practices and home games, wearing a small-size team jersey. "She's like our little mascot," Hurd says. "She tells me, 'When I turn 16, I'm going to play your position.'"



Like other Outlaws, Hurd has kept her day job, as trainer and manager in an Austin health club. The Outlaws are incorporated as a nonprofit organization, and players are not paid; Hurd and her teammates take hits for nothing but opportunity. Though she's also considering a return to track and field competition, Hurd plans to stick with the Outlaws for 2007. "I have a passion for competition," she says, "and here I have this chance to start a new sport as an adult. If professional [women's] football goes big-time, I'd love to try out for a team."

— Paula Allen



Greg Mikesell II '00

Defining by design

Greg Mikesell II grew up drawing houses for fun. As an adult, he builds them for a living.

It was in December 2001 that, with the encouragement of a builder and the help of family savings, Mikesell decided to take a risk and buy two lots of land. Soon thereafter, his company, Definitive Custom Homes, was born.

He chose a name that encompasses the qualities he prizes most. "Definitive," Mikesell says, "meaning the standard by which you measure."

Definitive Custom Homes has received two Summit Awards from the Greater San Antonio Builders Association for Best Product Design, one in the \$200,000 and under category and the other in the \$500,000 to \$625,000 category, recognitions he's especially proud of, since design is what inspired Mikesell to start his company in the first place.

Mikesell followed an unexpected route to turn his drawings into solid homes. He began pursuing a nursing degree in 1992, but eventually realized that wasn't the path for him. In 1997, after taking time off to work, he decided to focus on his education and enrolled at UTSA. He graduated in 2000 with a degree in accounting and a minor in finance with a concentration in real estate development.

One of the advantages of returning to school as a more mature student, Mikesell emphasizes, is that it helped him take school seriously.

"The things we use every day, the spreadsheets, for example, are things I learned in school," Mikesell says. "We have a few people here who don't have college degrees and it's a real disadvantage. That's why we offer tuition reimbursement. We have two people who are doing that now."

Mikesell and his wife, Tara, live in a home that was built by his company. Tara, who graduated from UTSA in 1999, is the administrative director and interior designer of Definitive Custom Homes. The two of them say it's probably a good thing that they work together because they might not see each other much otherwise.

Mikesell acknowledges that getting the company off the ground was challenging. The first two years, he worked such long hours, he says, that if he had foreseen what it would take to start the company, "I don't know if we would have done it or not." The company currently employs 11 people, but Mikesell continues to put in long hours. "I'm the first one in the office at 7:30," he says, and he's usually the last one to leave.

After almost five years, the company has homes under construction in Bexar, Comal and Medina counties. Mikesell is working on acquiring land and developing a high-end production home line that will turn even more of his design ideas into three-dimensional constructions.

— Dawn Pomento

Michael Tallon, B.A. in Spanish and geography, earned a Ph.D. in foreign language education from UT Austin, graduating in May 2006.

92Victoria Ford, B.A. in political science, M.P.A. with an emphasis in health policy '00, joined Hughes & Luce in Austin as a consultant in the firm's public policy group. She previously served for 14 years in various roles in Texas state government. She spent the last two years as a deputy legislative director and senior adviser for health and human services in the governor's office. Victoria has received honorary recognitions from the Texas Association of Community Health Centers, the Texas Center for Rural Health Initiatives and the Selective Service Association.

H. Harison Grindle III, B.A. in American studies, M.P.A. '94, is a senior research coordinator for the Port Authority of San Antonio.

Genevieve Garcia Martin, B.B.A. in management, is the publisher of New Home Guide. E-mail Genevieve at gmartin@newhomeguide.com.

93Scott E. Stewart, M.P.A. in accounting, was promoted to partner in the firm of Gracey, Ratliff & Miller L.L.P. in Fort Worth, Texas, where he practices law in the areas of corporate, estate planning and probate, real estate and tax. Admitted to the bar in 1998, he is also a certified public accountant and member of the American Bar Association, the Tax Section of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Tax Section of the Tarrant County Bar Association and the Texas Society of CPAs. *Texas Monthly* honored Scott in 2005 as one of the "Rising Stars in Tax Law."

Andrea G. Whitlock, B.S. in computer science, is a software systems specialist at UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

94Jim "Jay" Rodriguez, B.A. in anthropology, is a senior adult immunization representative for Merck & Co. Inc. Jay is married to alumna **Maricruz Garza Rodriguez**, B.A. in education '97. Jay and Maricruz announce the birth of their second daughter, Alana Andrea, on May 15, 2006. E-mail Jay at jayrod4@msn.com.

96 Deborah A. Beam, B.B.A. in accounting, is a CPA and tax manager at Polansky, McNutt, Perry & Gentry PC in San Antonio.

Regina L. Vasquez-Espinosa, B.A. in criminal justice, has been promoted to partner at the law firm of Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller L.L.P. in Fort Worth, Texas. Prior to joining the firm in 2001, she clerked for Justice Dixon W. Holman of the Second Court of Appeals in Fort Worth, Texas, and was a legal assistant and law clerk for Wayne Wright P.C. in San Antonio. She is a member of the American Bar Association, Mexican American Bar Association, Tarrant County Bar Association and Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association.

97 Carlos Durand, M.B.A. in business, recently moved to Arizona, where he opened offices to offer independent marketing consulting services and pursue other entrepreneurial activities from Phoenix. Visit his Web site at www.globalnoiseint.com.

Karen White Lawhead, B.B.A. in accounting, and her husband, Seth, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison, on June 26, 2006.

98 Mark E. Jackson, B.S. in architecture, is a registered architect and is employed as a project architect for Leo A. Daly in Houston.

Calvin R. Speer, M.B.A. in international business, is a financial adviser at Falcon Vest Financial Services in San Antonio. Calvin recently completed a 30-hour family mediation training course through the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center. He completed a 40-hour basic mediation training course in 2005.

99 Jessica Denise Garcia, B.B.A. in management, is director of adult education for Laredo Community College in Laredo, Texas.

Jayson Meyer, B.A. in political science, was promoted to assistant director of alumni relations by the University of Missouri Alumni Association. Jayson joined the association in 2004 and is responsible for alumni chapter management/coordination, the alumni scholarship program and MU Founder's Celebration. He is a graduate of Leadership Columbia.

Carlos G. Pérez, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies '03, is the recipient

Clara Aragón '04

A dedicated teacher

Clara Aragón clearly remembers the day a piece of mail changed her life.

"In 2000, I was a single mother of two, raising my children. My son was 12 and my daughter was about 7. I had three jobs and I was going to school full time. When I look back, I don't know how I did it."

Aragón was living in Clyde, a rural town about 30 miles from Abilene, when, a few weeks after applying for a scholarship from the Bill Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS), she drove to the post office with her children to check the mail.

"This is bad, but I was driving and opening my mail," she laughs. "It's out in the country. So there I am driving—and I stop. I get out of the car and I say, 'Yes! Yes! I can't believe it! He chose me.' From that point on," she says, "my life changed."

Aragón was able to quit two of her jobs and complete her bachelor's degree at McMurry University, and she remained on the scholarship

while earning her master's in bicultural-bilingual studies in education at UTSA. During her time at UTSA, she was the co-founding president of the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute, along with Leticia Duncan-Brosnan, director of the Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success. Their goal was to get minority students involved in their community and the nonprofit sector and also to help them find internships. Still on campus today, the HSF Institute is now an official HSF Scholar Student Chapter and is working to double the rate of Hispanic college graduates by 2010.

Aragón attributes her educational success to the GMS Program. She now teaches fourth- and fifth-grade students at Dellview Elementary in San Antonio's North East Independent School District. She proudly says she empowers her students through cultural identity, voice, individuality and an equitable education.

Recalling her background, she says, "My father was Navajo and my mother was Mexican. I lived in a small country area, and I didn't start school until second grade. My father was a cotton farmer, and so my mother was kind of the home school teacher."

Reflecting on where life has taken her so far, she beams as she says, "It's been a good journey."

Aragón was a single mother just hoping to get her bachelor's degree. She's now pursuing a Ph.D. but plans to take it slow until her daughter finishes high school.

"People need to know that if you have a vision for someone else, amazing things can happen. When you invest in someone, you see a harvest. The people who benefit from what Bill Gates did are the students I work with. I've worked with kids from the barrio, and kids who are struggling, and to see them succeed is my reward."

— Lisa Chontos



of the Science Teacher Mentor Award. Carlos married Annie M. Martinez-Pérez in March 2003.

01 Jason Havrda, B.A. in history, M.A. in history '05, is the author of *A Dysfunctional Afterlife*, published this year by Dan River Press. Jason and his wife, Melissa, announce the birth of their son, Truman Henry Cabello Havrda, on Dec. 7, 2005. **Barbara Dean Hendricks**, M.S. in management of technology, received Proliner Excellence Awards from the Women in Communication's San Antonio chapter for her Central Catholic TV commercials and her reporting on the Witte Museum's World of Water exhibit.

02 Rebecca A. Gonzalez, B.B.A. in information systems, and her husband, Joe, have a son, Roberto A. Gonzalez, born June 20, 2005. **Yvette L. Ramirez**, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in adult higher education '05, is an instructor in English as a second language for the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) in San Antonio.

03 Steven DaLuz, B.F.A. in art, had artwork selected by the Fiesta San Antonio Commission for the Official 2007 Fiesta Poster. **Sandra Brown Ikenaga**, B.A. in psychology, is studying at the Clayton College of Natural Health

in Birmingham, Ala., for a master's in holistic nutrition.

Richard Santoyo III, B.B.A. in accounting, is a tax accountant at Valero Energy Corporation in San Antonio.

Daniel Steve Villarreal, M.A. in education, was selected to teach English as a second language at the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology in Taipei, Taiwan this past July and August. Daniel is pursuing his Ph.D. in foreign language education at UT Austin.

04 Eva Biediger, B.A. in English, is a second-grade teacher at St. Louis Catholic School in Castroville, Texas. Eva also teaches second-grade Sunday school for University United Methodist Church in San Antonio and is a troop co-leader for the Girl Scouts of America in Castroville. **Christina French**, B.A. in geography, is a mobile mapping project coordinator for Tele Atlas, based in Lebanon, N.H. **Megan Elizabeth Kromer**, E.M.B.A. in business, received the 2006 San Antonio Athena Award at the 17th annual Enterprising Women's Conference hosted by the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes individuals from the local area for their professional achievements, community service and generosity in assisting women in attaining pro-

fessional excellence and leadership skills. Megan is the developer of Precious Minds, New Connections, a Kronkosky Foundation parenting education program that has trained more than 18,000 parents.

Frances Martinez, B.S. in civil engineering, is an engineer-in-training II for Civil Engineering Consultants in San Antonio. Frances has worked for Civil Engineering Consultants for two years, working on projects in San Antonio, Fredericksburg and Jourdan, Texas.

05 Ashley Arguijo Brus, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a first-grade teacher at Wanke Elementary in San Antonio. Ashley and her husband, Ryan, were married in April 2006. **Kimberly B. Belongia Caldwell**, B.S. in biology, married alumnus **Philip B. Caldwell**, B.S. in biology '04, on Dec. 29, 2005. **Michael W. Hubbell**, B.A. in psychology, is the recipient of the 2006 Faculty Service Excellence Award from Bismarck State College, in Bismarck, N.D. **Christine Kane**, B.A. in psychology, is pursuing her master's in psychology from Walden University. She maintains a 4.0 GPA and is on the honor roll. **Fernando P. Lozano**, B.B.A. in management, is operations officer for X-Press Wallboard Inc. in

Comfort, Texas.

John Milner, M.A. in counseling, is a high school counselor for the Medina Valley Independent School District.

Dirk Struve, B.B.A. in general business, is an account manager for Toshiba Business Solutions in San Antonio.

Tran Que Tang, B.S. in mathematics, is a regulatory compliance analyst for PCI Inc. in San Antonio.

Christopher Terrazas, B.A. in criminal justice, is employed with the Guadalupe County Jail in Seguin, Texas.

Becky Ruth Thomas, B.B.A. in finance, married Jonathan Schiferl on Sept. 23, 2006.

I N M E M O R I A M
Private First Class Paul H. Flores, B.S. in mechanical engineering '03, died June 21, 2006, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Paul was born Oct. 15, 1976, and attended high school in Austin. At UTSA he was a track and field athlete and member of several engineering societies. He joined the United States Marine Corps in January 2006 to be a reconnaissance Marine. He attended boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego and School of Infantry at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Paul joined the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion in San Antonio in June 2006 for continued specialty training.

Keep in touch

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

E-mail: alumni@utsa.edu

Write: Office of Alumni Programs, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619

Fax: (210) 458-7227

Log on: www.utsa.edu/alumni

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If you do not want your Class Note posted on our Web site, check here. <input type="checkbox"/>		

For marriage announcements, include your spouse's full name, class year and degree (if UTSA graduate), and wedding date. For birth and adoption announcements, include your child's first name and the date of birth or adoption.



**“Get behind your school.
Increase the value of your diploma.
Be proud of it. I’m proud of
everything at UTSA.”**

WHEN PATRICK CLYNES WAS A SENIOR AT UTSA, HE KEPT A SUIT IN HIS CAR just in case the placement office had any open time slots with companies interviewing on campus. Now Clynes, a transportation manager with BP Energy in Houston, keeps a UTSA banner in his car just in case the Roadrunners are playing anywhere nearby and he has an opportunity to go catch a basketball game or a track meet. Since graduating with his B.B.A. in accounting in 1989, Clynes has been a great supporter of UTSA—as a loyal fan, an involved alumnus and a regular donor.

GIVING TIME

“Most people don’t put giving money to their alumni association or giving money to the athletic department as a priority that early after leaving college,” he says. “I started giving back immediately. Mostly it was my time, like I did a lot of recruiting at college nights at local high schools. ... When I joined the Roadrunner Club for athletics my first year, I just joined at the \$100 level, and to me, at that time, \$100 was a big deal. It was a big deal; I remember even paying that in installments.”

SHARING ENTHUSIASM

As his career has progressed, and even since getting married and starting a family, Clynes continues to make giving back to UTSA a high priority in his life. He gives money to his favorite areas—the Alumni Association, the College of Business and UTSA Athletics; he still helps out with recruiting and volunteers for other activities; he rarely misses

a Homecoming, and if any of the Roadrunner teams are playing within an hour’s drive of Houston, he’s there with his banner, cheering on his school.

“I’ve been happy about my experience at UTSA, and I believe I should give something back,” Clynes says. “I feel like I can make a difference there because we’re just starting our traditions. UTSA is just developing, and I think the money and the time I give have a big impact.”

As UTSA grows, generous gifts from alumni such as Pat Clynes become even more important to the university. To learn more about giving to UTSA, contact the Development Office at (210) 458-4131.

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Looking back

Showing
your colors?

In this 1980 photograph, senior Liz Pearce shows off bumper stickers promoting the university's new intercollegiate athletics program. Beginning with the 1981–1982 academic year, UTSA fielded men's and women's teams in basketball, tennis, cross country, and track and field. Twenty-five years later, the UTSA Athletic Department now competes in 16 sports, completing the inaugural season of its newest competitive sport, women's soccer, this fall. As an NCAA Division I school, UTSA has hosted nine NCAA championships, including the 2004 Men's Final Four.

Like most of the archival UTSA photographs from that time, this one was shot in black and white. The original caption that was published with the photo in the September 1980 issue of the *UTSA Bulletin* promises that the bumper stickers are "printed in university colors of orange, navy blue and white." We'll have to take their word for it.

*Photo courtesy of the UTSA Archives
at the Institute of Texan Cultures.*

