

# Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Summer 2006  
Vol. 22, No. 2

Also in this issue:

Defending your dissertation  
Searching for IEDs in Iraq

## SOUL SUPPORT

Students find community in campus faith groups







THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO  
Downtown Campus





SUMMER 2006

# Sombrilla

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Sombrilla Magazine  
Summer 2006, Volume 22, Number 2

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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.

Sombrilla Magazine is published three times a year by the Office of University Publications, UTSA, 501 West Durango Blvd., San Antonio, Texas 78207. It is mailed without charge to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### A tale of two campuses

*You can choose to take classes at the 1604 Campus, which is situated on 600 acres on the city's north side, at the foothills of the Texas Hill Country; or you can study at the Downtown Campus, a vibrant urban setting in the heart of San Antonio.*



Here's the news: This spring the UTSA Publications Office, including the Sombrilla staff, moved to the Downtown Campus.

Here's the story: From the window of my cubicle in our old office in the MS Building, I had a great view of the University Center and the sidewalks around parking lot 9. Whenever I looked out the window, I saw students walking or riding their bikes to classes, students meeting to study or grab a coffee. I saw tree leaves fluttering with each breeze. I saw birds and the occasional airplane.

Today, I'm working on my laptop, sitting on a small sofa in a windowed alcove of the

Downtown Campus library. From my perch on the second floor of the Buena Vista Building, I see students and even trees, yes, palm trees. I also see the flow of downtown life in the seventh-largest city in the United States. Downtowners walking to wherever it is they are going. Cars heading to the West Side over the Commerce Street Bridge. The no. 22 VIA bus turning from Frio Street to pass in front of my window. The late-lunch crowd leaving Pico de Gallo. And to the east, the San Antonio skyline.

In the months before our impending move, our staff joked that all our Sombrilla articles from now on would be about the Downtown Campus, either the College of Public Policy or the College of Architecture, both of which are based downtown. Yes, you may see more stories about the Downtown Campus (there's a photo of the Frio Street Building on the page before this one, after all), though we never really thought about this university in terms of its physical locations—not when we're looking for stories we want to share with our readers. We've always tried to cover the university as a consortium of amazing people and groundbreaking ideas that transcend this campus or that campus.

But the fact is, we are influenced by our environments. I edited the paragraph at the top of this story for a UTSA recruiting brochure more than five years ago, but I never fully appreciated until now, looking out this window, how cool it is that this university has such diverse learning environments. It's trite, but I'm going to say it: we really do offer the best of both worlds. And being on this campus will allow us to fully experience another side of the university, and, in turn, share that with you.

We moved our offices downtown for the simple fact that our former, Sombrilla Plaza-level offices were prime real estate that was needed for student services offices. We don't need a storefront locale, just ample space for our Macs and photography equipment and color printer, and we've settled in nicely in an office tucked at the end of a long, quiet corridor in the Monterey Building.

I must admit, I am going to miss the start of fall classes at the larger 1604 Campus. Not the traffic jams, no, but the other things, like having freshmen wander in our office and ask for help in finding their classes. Then again, I may enjoy the first day of class at the Downtown Campus even more.

— Rebecca Luther



## Raising graduation rates is top priority at UTSA, UT System

The UT System Board of Regents approved in February a resolution that made raising graduation rates a top priority for the next decade.

As part of the resolution, each UT System academic institution is to align policies to maximize the positive impact on graduation rates. The policies to be reviewed include financial aid, academic advising, performance review, tuition, course scheduling, campus housing, curriculum, admissions and other institutional practices that improve graduation rates.

The goal is for each institution to make progress toward national graduation rate averages. Currently, the national average six-year graduation rate for four-year public institutions is approximately 50 percent. UTSA's graduation rates have increased in the past few years, although they continue to lag behind state and national averages; the most current six-year graduation rate for UTSA is 30 percent.

As an important step in developing a plan to improve this average, in March UTSA conducted the first Raising Graduation Rates Summit for university faculty and staff. The purpose of the event was to give the UTSA community an opportunity to discuss factors that influence



and promote student success and learn about resources available to support students and faculty.

"UTSA faculty and staff have worked throughout the institution's history to promote an inclusive environment that welcomes a diverse student population and to provide

support for students' educational objectives," President Ricardo Romo said. "As UTSA moves forward in our efforts to enhance student success, it is important to acknowledge that progress has been made, and that we will continue moving forward to build on this foundation."

## Creative minds

### Student group introduces literary journal

A new literary journal—*Sagebrush Review*—debuted this year at UTSA. The magazine is the work of the Students for the Literary Journal at UTSA (SLJ), which was formed in October 2005 by a group of graduate students taking a creative writing workshop.

"We registered as a student organization and went to work raising money and planning events," said Jessica Loudermilk, an SLJ member. In November the group hosted its first poetry reading to raise funds and began accepting submissions for the first volume of the literary magazine.

"Our group felt strongly that participation in the literary arts rather than just appreciating them through classroom study was lacking on campus. Certainly, a university

can function without the arts but its students deserve exposure to them," she explained.

Since their poetry reading, the SLJ has hosted at least one creative writing event every month, partnering with community groups such as Planned Parenthood, the Blood & Tissue Center, Feminists Unite, the Women's Studies Institute, Amnesty USA and the Women's Resource Center. "We want the organization to be about more than just ourselves and our writing. For most of our events, we try to integrate the theme of the reading with some larger concern or the efforts of some community group," Loudermilk said.

The group also wants to build stronger creative arts programs in schools. "Our plan is to form relationships with area middle

schools and high schools. Group members would go into the schools to lead creative writing workshops and also provide opportunities for participating students to be involved in events on the UTSA campus."

The SLJ unveiled the first volume of the *Sagebrush Review* on March 24. "The journal consists of 120 pages of poetry, prose, and art," said Loudermilk. "All of the work in the journal is that of UTSA students. New volumes will come out annually each spring." SLJ will begin accepting submissions for the 2007 volume in the fall.

Copies of the journal are available for \$8. For information about SLJ or the *Sagebrush Review*, contact [sagebrushreview@gmail.com](mailto:sagebrushreview@gmail.com).

—Andrea Archer

# First Edition

Recent faculty publications

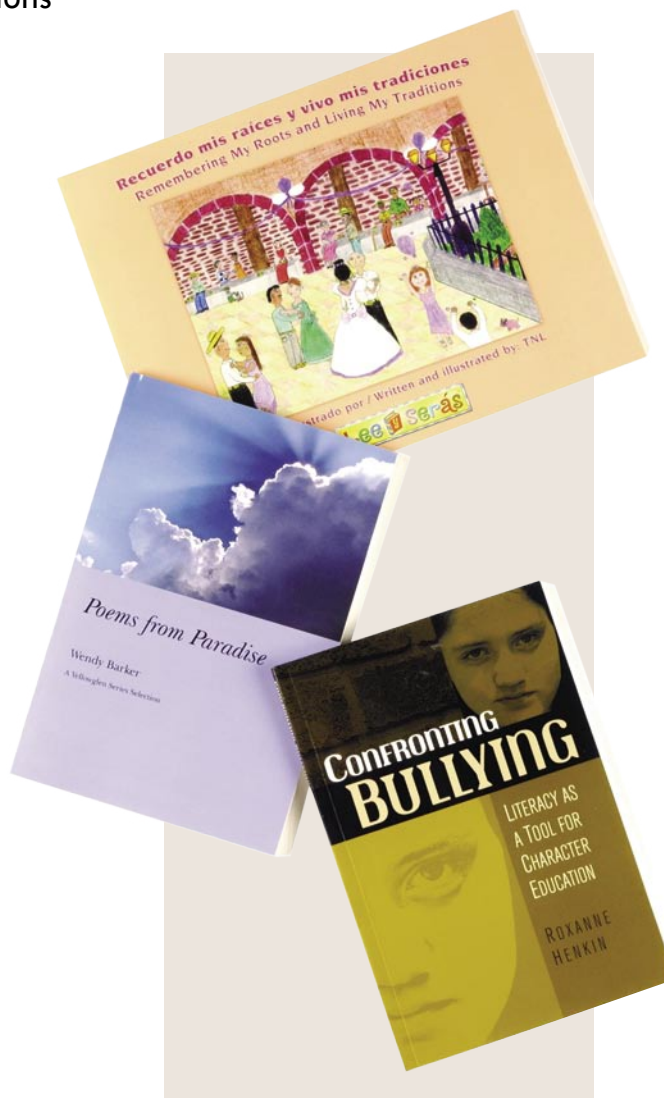
## HEROES IN LITERATURE

Though they may never have heard the term, the issue of transnationalism is important to the millions of schoolchildren who must straddle the fence of being American while still feeling strongly connected to a foreign land. For her doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley, Patricia Sánchez, an assistant professor of bicultural-bilingual studies, decided to write her dissertation on transnational immigrants and their families, and in the process, the children's book *Recuerdo mis raíces y vivo mis tradiciones/Remembering My Roots and Living My Traditions* (Scholastic, 2004) was born.

Sánchez met her three co-authors —Tomas Dueñas C., Montserrat López, Tomas Dueñas T.—through family literacy programs in Berkeley and Oakland, Calif. The four took a research trip to Mexico in 2001 and spent every Saturday from January 2002 to January 2003 writing and illustrating the book.

When she and her co-authors, who dubbed themselves TNL (Transnational Latinas) couldn't find anyone to publish the book, Sánchez used money from a small grant from her Ph.D. program to print 80 copies at a print shop. Those copies were handed out to schools, daycare centers, teachers, friends and family. In August 2004, Scholastic bought the rights to the book as part of their bilingual school market, Club Leo. Recently, the book was awarded a 2005 American Educational Studies Association (AESA) Critics' Choice Award, as an "outstanding book that may be of interest to those in educational studies."

Sánchez hopes that children in these transnational families will be eager to read the book and share it with others. "When you're someone of color or someone from a community that's not represented in these kinds of books, you don't see yourself a lot; people look different from you. Kids need role models not only in life, but also in literature," she says.



## PARADISE FOUND

Wendy Barker says she grew up writing, but it wasn't until she was in graduate school that she realized her calling was poetry.

In her latest collection—*Poems from Paradise* (WordTech, 2005)—Barker, a professor of English, began to think about the idea of paradise from the perspective of loss while working on a translation of poems by the Bengali writer Rabindranath Tagore. "In the work on those poems I was doing a lot of reading, a lot of immersion with eastern writers, so I was becoming increasingly familiar with the notion in Eastern thought that the small "b" beloved—the human beloved—can become a representation of the capital "B" beloved or God," Barker explains.

She began to ponder the idea that if, in the Garden of Eden, there is both the small

"b" beloved—Adam and Eve—and there is also God, then what if the expulsion from paradise is something that we continue to experience? And what if the real pain and punishment is not that of leaving the garden, but rather is the separation from the "b" or the "B" there, whether Adam, Eve or God?

Written from the viewpoint of Eve, the poems were composed individually, but early in the process Barker saw them as a sequence. "Part One, I would really say is all one long poem; little tiny poems, but they all add up to one long poem. Part Two, that's kind of a coda, a very different kind of poem." A small press in London published an early group of the collection called *Eve Remembers* in 1996, but Barker couldn't stop writing.

She hopes that, through her poetry, her readers are moved in some way. "T.S. Elliot talked about wanting poetry to come from what he called the 'deep emotional core', reaching the reader's deep emotional core. I think that that's always the hope," she says.

## BREAKING THE CYCLE

Every day 160,000 children in America stay home from school rather than confront a bully, says Roxanne Henkin. Henkin, who teaches literacy, early childhood and middle level education in the College of Education and Human Development, thinks that number is far too high and offers solutions to the problem in her book *Confronting Bullying: Literacy as a Tool for Character Education* (Heinemann, 2005). "I read and write and research about how to use literacy to promote thinking and how to increase literacy skills by using topics of social justice," she says. Henkin's research focused on third-grade and seventh-grade classrooms and suggests that by engaging students in dialogue through writing and through reading books on multicultural and social justice issues, as well as historical accounts, students will begin to think about bullying in a new way. Through literacy, she says, students will be enlightened and empowered to confront and overcome bullies in their lives. Henkin says that the resulting change in students' behavior will lead to safe, productive classrooms. "We're trying to create hate-free zones where all children feel safe, and all children are treated fairly," she adds.

—Andrea Archer



## Coming soon to ITC ...

Witness the complexities of the U.S.-Mexico border and immigration debate through a lens in a photographic art essay, *Seven-String Barbed Wire Fence: Many Faces of Latino Immigration in the United States*, at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures. The exhibit of works by Diana Molina, a New Mexico-based photojournalist, chronicles four U.S. states' borders with Mexico and shows faces of recent immigrants, pro- and anti-immigrant protesters, and symbols of separation, hope, acceptance and freedom. Molina's photos and artifacts document recent rallies for workers' rights, opposition to legislation to tighten border security and a network of anti-immigrant sentiment. Collages demonstrate the effect of immigrant labor on the economy and an unknown risk-taker's ultimate sacrifice. The exhibit, which opens Oct. 17 and runs through Jan. 14, will include related programming. For more information, go to [www.texancultures.utsa.edu](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu) or call (210) 458-2330.



## Save the date President's Dinner set for Oct. 17

Friends of UTSA will celebrate the university's past, present and future at the 2006 President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner, set for Oct. 17 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in downtown San Antonio. The annual event raises funds for scholarships and other academic programs at the university; last year's event raised a record \$1.9 million.

The President's Dinner also honors select individuals for their commitment to the university and higher education. This year's honorees are Carlos Alvarez, president and CEO of Gambrinus Co., and Bernard Rapoport, chairman emeritus and founder of the American Income Life Insurance Co. and chair of the Audre and Bernard Rapoport Foundation. Alvarez will receive the Tom C. Frost Award, which is given to a citizen who has provided leadership to important business and community endeavors. Rapoport is the recipient of the Gold Star Award, presented annually to an individual or organization that has forged extensive partnerships with the university and supported UTSA's students and faculty.

The event is hosted by President Ricardo Romo and Dr. Harriett Romo, and co-chaired by John T. Montford, senior vice president of AT&T, and Kenny Wilson, president of Bank of America-San Antonio.

Individual tickets are \$175. Tables for 10 are available at varying levels of sponsorship. For information, go to [www.utsa.edu/presidentsdinner](http://www.utsa.edu/presidentsdinner) or call (210) 458-4129.

## iBravo!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

**C. Mauli Agrawal**, professor and dean of the College of Engineering, was named 2006 president of the Society for Biomaterials, which promotes the use of biomaterials in medical and surgical devices and serves as the leading forum for advancements in biomaterial research; **Hamid Beladi**, professor of economics, was named editor of the international economic journal *Frontiers of Economics and Globalization*. Beladi also has served as editor of *International Review of Economics and Finance* for 15 years; **Rupali Datta**, assistant professor of environmental plant sciences, was awarded the 2005 Young Agricultural Scientist Award by the National Association of Agricultural Scientists of Indian Origin, which is an affiliate of the American Society of Agronomy, the largest association of agricultural scientists in the world; **Eugene Dowdy**, chair of the Department of Music, was elected president-elect of the Texas chapter of the American String Teachers Association; **Jennifer Ehlers**, director of admissions, received the Founders' Award from the Texas Association for College Admission Counseling; **MaryEllen Garcia**, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, was the invited guest associate editor of the Theoretical Linguistics section of the journal *Hispania* in December 2005; **Robert Hard**, associate professor of anthropology, won the Society

for American Anthropology Professional Poster Award; **Jerome Keating**, professor of management science and statistics, received the 2006 Don Owen Award from the San Antonio Chapter of the American Statistical Association. The award is given to individuals who are exemplary in the areas of scholarship, dissemination of statistical knowledge and service to the profession; **Steven G. Kellman**, professor in the Department of English, Classics and Philosophy, received the 2005 biography award from the New York Society for his recent book *Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth*; **Peter Q. Pfordresher**, assistant professor of psychology, was elected to the executive board of the Society for Music Perception and Cognition, an interdisciplinary organization representing music cognition researchers in North America; **Sandra Posada**, coordinator of field education in the Department of Social Work, was named the 2006 Social Worker of the Year by the San Antonio Branch of the National Association of Social Workers; graduate student **Susana Holland** was named MSW Student of the Year; **Harriett Romo**, Department of Sociology, was presented a City Year San Antonio's Lifetime of Idealism Award; **Rick Utecht**, associate professor of marketing, was one of seven faculty nationally to receive the 2006 Hormel Meritorious Teaching Award from the Marketing Management Association.

## Ambrosino named UTSA provost

Officials at UTSA announced in April the selection of Rosalie Ambrosino as provost and vice president for academic affairs, the university's second-highest office. She is the first woman to serve in the role at UTSA.

President Ricardo Romo selected Ambrosino, former UTSA vice president for student affairs, after a nationwide search netted more than 80 candidates for the position. Ambrosino replaces Guy Bailey, who left UTSA in December to become chancellor at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Bailey was UTSA provost for seven years.

"Dr. Ambrosino's talents and experiences will prove fundamental to UTSA's continued growth and development into a premier research university," said Romo. "She is a scholar and dedicated professor with outstanding academic credentials, and she is an experienced administrator who understands the key issues facing higher education in the 21st century."

Ambrosino said, "I am honored and humbled at this opportunity to serve UTSA. I look forward to working closely with President Romo, the deans, faculty and staff in academic affairs as we take the university to new levels of excellence.

I thank all my colleagues in student affairs, and I look forward to expanding partnerships across the university."

The UTSA provost, who reports to the president, is responsible for academic leadership in ensuring curricula, teaching and research of superior quality; working with the Faculty Senate on matters of general welfare for the university; building and overseeing the university budget; advising the president on plans, policies and operations; and representing the university in the president's absence at meetings of state and regional organizations.

Additionally, the provost oversees all aspects of professional and academic accreditation of academic programs, academic space, faculty development and academic personnel, including coordination within the University of Texas System and with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

James McDonald, professor of anthropology and chair of the 18-member university provost search committee, forwarded Romo an unranked list of three finalists at the end of the committee's deliberations. Each finalist spent two days meeting with faculty, students, staff and community members at both the 1604 and Downtown campuses.

"We were privileged to have such an impressive pool of applicants,



and the finalists represented a group of administrators with a rich array of skills, talents and experience," said McDonald. "Rosalie Ambrosino is an outstanding leader who will help steward UTSA toward a new level of competitiveness as an outstanding undergraduate and research-intensive institution."

Ambrosino joined UTSA in 1999 as associate vice president for undergraduate studies. She was named vice provost for undergraduate studies and enrollment services in September 2000 and vice president for student affairs and undergraduate studies in April 2001.

Before joining UTSA, Ambrosino was associated with UT Austin since 1977. A social worker with a special interest in social welfare policy and multicultural education, Ambrosino directed the School of Social Work undergraduate program there, and was one of the school's first 12 faculty members selected to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers.

Ambrosino holds a bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in educational administration and multicultural education from Antioch University, and a doctorate in social work from UT Austin.

She began her career at UT Austin at the Center for Social Work Research, where she oversaw more than \$5 million of federally and state-funded research and training projects in child welfare and welfare reform. Ambrosino also is the lead author of *Social Work and Social Welfare*, a textbook that soon will be in its sixth edition. While at UT Austin, Ambrosino was recognized for her service to students and her commitment to excellence in teaching. She received seven university teaching awards, including the William Blunk Professorship and the Chancellor's Teaching Award.

As UTSA vice president for student affairs and undergraduate studies, Ambrosino oversaw a number of offices and programs, including the Offices of Academic Support and Undergraduate Studies, Admissions, the Registrar and Student Financial Aid. Additionally, as the chief student affairs administrator, she was responsible for UTSA's Division I athletics program.

Kevin Price, assistant vice president for student life, was appointed to serve as interim vice president for student affairs. Price joined UTSA in 2005 and has more than 20 years' experience in student affairs, including serving as dean of students as Louisiana State University and as both assistant and associate dean of students at UT Austin.

— David Gabler



## UTSA hosts first national cyber defense competition

The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) in April hosted 40 of the nation's top collegiate and military cadet cyber defense team members at the inaugural national Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (CCDC).

The competition featured five eight-member teams that were judged on their ability to operate and maintain a business network while under hostile cyber attack. The University of North Carolina-Charlotte took first place honors in the competition. UTSA, which captured first place at the second annual Southwest Regional Cyber Defense Competition in Corpus Christi in March, finished third.

"UTSA is proud to be a leader in cyber security education, particularly as it relates to homeland security," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "Hosting this competition supports UTSA's commitment to be involved in activities that will help move the university toward premier research university status."

Andy Purdy, acting director of the National Cyber Security Division at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), closed the three-day competition. Purdy spoke about current partnerships between the government and private sector and said DHS is helping organize and

develop plans to conduct future cyber security risk assessments.

"Exercises are an important way to improve our cyber security preparedness and having competitions like these are excellent ways to practice for the real thing," said Purdy.

"We set up networks which were functionally the same as what the students would see in the real world and the teams were given the opportunity to try and do things that you would not necessarily see in an academic environment," said Greg White, CIAS director. "We hope this exposure helps to raise the level of interest in security as a potential career and educates the students on the importance of defending the nation's critical infrastructures."

The national CCDC is the first cyber defense competition to allow teams of college students and military cadets to apply their information assurance and information technology education in a competitive environment.

While similar to other cyber defense competitions, CCDC competitions are unique because they focus on business operations and incorporate the operational aspect of managing and protecting an existing network infrastructure. The teams utilized an operational



network from a fictional business complete with e-mail, Web sites, data files and users. Each team was required to correct problems on their network, perform typical business tasks and defend their network from hostile activity.

The participants advanced to the CCDC after winning regional competitions against teams in the Southwest, Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

The 2006 regional competitions were modeled after the first regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition, hosted by CIAS in April 2005. UTSA is the first Texas university and one of 66 in the nation with the "Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education" designation from the National Security Agency.

— Kris Rodriguez

## IN MEMORIAM

**Kenneth Alan Hovey**, UTSA associate professor of English literature, died May 25 at Christus Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio.

Born Oct. 17, 1945, Hovey earned a B.A. from Cornell University (1967), an M.A. from the Graduate Theological Union (1970), and an M.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1982) from the University of Virginia.

Hovey came to UTSA in 1984 with a specialization in early modern British (Renaissance) literature. He taught a broad range of courses and topics including Shakespeare, Milton, the Bible as literature, Edgar Allan Poe, the Renaissance idea of humanity, the literature of the American West, Jeffersonian America, the Literature of Scotland, the Byronic hero, Washington Irving and American regionalism.

Friends are invited to commemorate Hovey by making donations in his name to The Memorial Book Fund, UTSA Libraries, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249.

**Michael Kelly**, retired longtime dean of the UTSA libraries, died May 17 at his home with his family at his side.

Kelly received his Ph.D. in English literature and Shakespeare studies from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a master's degree in library science from the University of Kentucky. In 1972, while teaching in the UK College of Library Science, Kelly was recruited to UTSA by President Arleigh Templeton. He was the first person to hold the titles of director, then dean, of the UTSA libraries, and served under presidents Flawn, Wagner, Kirkpatrick and Romo. He was the only permanent dean of libraries since UTSA's inception.

Kelly's wish was to set up a fund for library staff and faculty development. Contributions can be mailed to the Mike Kelly Library Staff Development Fund, UTSA Office of Development, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249.

**Associate Dean Paul Henry Martin Westmeyer** died May 28 at his home.

Born Dec. 9, 1925, Westmeyer was UTSA associate dean for graduate studies and research, professor of education and graduate adviser for the College of Education and Human Development. He earned a B.S. degree (1949) and an M.A. degree (1953) from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., and an Ed.D. from the University of Illinois (1960).

Westmeyer taught at Purdue University, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Texas at Austin and Florida State University before joining UTSA in 1973. At UTSA, he authored numerous books and articles on adult and higher education and science education and served in a variety of professional organizations. Most recently, he taught courses in research methods and statistics in education.



# An Interview with David Hernandez

Think being a campus cop is an easy job? Hold off on the Barney Fife jokes and consider the words of UTSA Police Chief David Hernandez: “You try policing 30,000 people; we are our own little city here.” Add to that the fact that he and his staff of some 75 sworn officers and guards are policing this little city from three different campuses. Hernandez, who joined UTSA in January, feels like he’s up to the challenge. He brings to the job more than 20 years of experience from the Rochester (N.Y.) Police Department and a master’s degree in public administration, not to mention a family tradition of law enforcement—four of his brothers are police officers, too.



**Talk about your background. You earned both your bachelor’s and master’s degrees in New York. Are you a New York native?**

I was born and raised in the Bronx in New York City. My parents are both from Puerto Rico, both from the same town in Puerto Rico. They met for the first time in New York—isn’t that crazy?—and there they raised seven boys in a three-bedroom apartment in the Bronx. My father worked 35 years as a bartender at a place called Roseland. Most folks from New York City know of it because of the big bands and ballroom dancing that took place there.

He never earned enough to really be able to support seven boys so we had social services and food stamps. I remember as a kid, if you had to go to the store and buy something with food stamps, you would try to hide so your friends would not see you. Those types of embarrassing moments are the little things that influence and motivate you to work hard and succeed.

**How did you manage to pay for college?**

Financial aid, and what I did not get through financial aid, I took out in loans and earned by working two or three jobs. I worked in the cafeteria washing dishes, I worked in the student union selling food, and, believe it or not, I worked campus security as a student with a radio walking around campus.

**Did you ever imagine that you’d be running a university police department?**

The last thing I would have thought of was a police department at a campus. But I realize now that there was a part of me that always longed to be in a university setting.

I was trained to be a teacher. I majored in sociology and minored in education; I got certified to teach elementary school. Actually, after working as a police officer for three years, I quit and taught school. I had started subbing on my days off, and I subbed for a bilingual class. It was September and the principal called me and said, ‘We have a new class starting. Can you come and sub for me until I can find a teacher?’ I agreed to do it. Two months later I was working full-



time at night as a policeman and teaching full time during the day. I told the principal, 'I can't keep doing this. You have got to find a substitute teacher.' She said, 'No, you have to quit your job as a policeman and stay with your kids.' That kind of resonated with me, so I walked in one day and dropped a resignation letter at the police department. I finished teaching the school year, and I took the summer off and then that September rejoined the police department.

So being on the campus, for me, is great. There are so many things I want to do. I want to work on a Ph.D. and I want to someday teach again.

**Talk about the differences between running a university police department versus a metropolitan police department.**

Well, you are talking about two different worlds, you really are. The business of policing is the same in both those worlds; you're practicing the same principals. But the way you administer those principals, the way you conduct yourself on a university setting is much different from the metropolitan police department.

Our number one customers are our students; they are paying to be here. So I want them treated well. Unfortunately, protecting our students sometimes means arresting a student, but that doesn't preclude their being treated with respect. They are still our customers.

**I think the public perception might be that this would be a cushy job after working in a city police department, but is it?**

It is not a cushy job. The national news will tell you that educational institutions—whether a high school campus or college campus—are quite vulnerable to any kind of violence. We have seen incident after incident, and the bottom line is that those incidents could happen anywhere on any campus in the United States.

When I left the Rochester Police Department I was running the Special Investigation Section. We investigated all drug cases and all the cases of internal corruption. So it was nonstop with the drugs and the violence from the Rochester gangs. We had tremendous problems with youth gangs and drugs. So, sure, you come here and you come with the thought that this should be a little bit more tranquil.

Then Feb. 19 came and we had Naomi Fuentes disappear.

**The UTSA Police Department found that student, who had disappeared from the Downtown Campus, safe and living out of state a few weeks later, so that was a success story. Did you handle the case the same way a metropolitan police department might have handled it?**

If a large metropolitan police department is given a missing person report like this, they will enter it into the computer and they will check around the area and that is it. There is no evidence of a crime or wrongdoing; there is nothing that would indicate something bad happened.

But I knew right away that wasn't what was going to happen here. When you talk about the differences, well, that is the difference. One missing student on a university campus is a big deal. This was a case with extenuating circumstances. This was one of our students who parked her car and walked away from it to go study; she made phone calls and told people to meet her at the Downtown Campus to study. At that point I knew this was going to be a full-blown commitment to finding this student.

One of the things I had learned in my short tenure at the university was that there was this perception—and I always say perception is reality—that the Downtown Campus was not a very safe place. I knew that was not necessarily based on fact because we had instituted a crime stat approach here of documenting every crime at 1604, Downtown and the Institute of Texan Cultures. So I knew the numbers clearly demonstrated that crime was not a problem, especially violent crime.

**So what did UTSAPD learn from that investigation?**

The one thing that I learned from the whole process of Naomi Fuentes was that people were afraid because they did not see the guards and police officers that often. So we needed to increase the numbers, not because there was a need in terms of criminal activity but because there was a need in terms of visibility. If somebody said to me, 'Was the Downtown Campus safe before you got here?' I would say yes. 'Is it safer now?' Yes, for two reasons. One, we have created enough visibility that people feel safer. Two, creating that visibility required adding more personnel, and that's more sets of eyes, arms and legs that could help stop something bad from happening.

**So what crime problems do we face on campus? It seems like many universities struggle with underage drinking.**

That's probably the lead problem that we deal with here. So I try to be realistic about how we approach that. I want our officers to use some discretion in how they make those decisions, because I don't want us to be naïve and think that we are going to send every 18-year-old to court.

Now on the other side of that coin is the reality of the tragedy of the deaths that we have had as a result of intoxicated students driving cars. So I never want to confuse the message when it comes to the issue of abusing alcohol and abusing drugs. We are not afraid to send a message to students here that if you drink and drive, we will send you right to jail. If you are here to educate people on the realities of life and how you conduct yourself, then it starts here.

I think if there is any shortcoming in today's educational institutions, it is the issue of integrity and what we are teaching our young folks about integrity and values. Anybody who says to me, 'Well, that is not for us to teach; that is mom and dad's job'—hogwash! It needs to be part of what we educate folks on.

We also have a problem with theft. It is a scary thought to think that in here—where people are educated to be future leaders of tomorrow—you have to be concerned about leaving your room door open because when you come back your iPod and your laptop are going to be gone. So there are some challenges, and while not unique to this institution, they have to be addressed.

**Are there any crime prevention or education initiatives you are working on?**

We are doing a lot of different things. We started a newsletter, 'Runner Beat', which is sent electronically to every student and which helps educate them on what we do as a police department and how they can prevent becoming victims of crime.

We also teach a lot of classes on safety, a lot of classes on why you do not drink and drive and why you should refrain from drinking until you are of legal age. I feel a lot less guilty about seeing a young person arrested if I know that we did everything we could to educate them about what they can and cannot do.



# Battle of Nerves

## Immunologist's Goal is a Treatment for MS

For the past 15 years, immunologist Thomas Forsthuber has been searching for therapies to help people with multiple sclerosis live more comfortable lives as they battle the chronic and sometimes disabling disease. Now a \$510,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society is aiding him in that quest.

Scientists believe that MS is caused by an erroneous attack on the central nervous system by the body's immune system. The illness, which is more prevalent in women, is not contagious, nor is it directly inherited. Symptoms vary, but can include numbness in the limbs, paralysis and loss of vision. Most MS patients have a normal or near-normal life expectancy. Although there is no cure, medication can help slow the course of the disease and alleviate symptoms in some patients.

Forsthuber's research grant focuses on eliminating certain types of T-lymphocytes (T-cells) that are thought to promote MS. According to Forsthuber, scientists believe that the immune system attacks a certain part of the brain called the myelin sheath. The myelin sheath is the insulation of the nerves that go from the brain to the periphery. When the immune system starts attacking the tissue, this myelin sheath insulation will be harmed and paralysis and other symptoms may result.

"We've basically designed these tiny little bombs that are meant to eliminate these bad lymphocytes that attack your own body," said Forsthuber. "We've been amazingly successful in tissue cultures and humanized mice; the next step is to draw cells from MS patients to see if it works with humans."

Forsthuber is quick to point out that developing new therapies for people with MS is still several years away. "This is a long process, and before we take this to patients, we want to make sure that we are not doing something that is undesired," he said. If successful, he believes the research could be applied to other autoimmune diseases such as asthma and rheumatoid arthritis.

Forsthuber recently had the opportunity to share his research findings with MS patients and their families at a dinner hosted by the South Texas Region of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

"It was amazing to have patients come up to me and request to be part of a trial. They have been calling and sending e-mails, and I had to

let them know that it is way too early to be part of a trial. But at this point, I am very optimistic."

According to Patricia Bodet, executive director of the organization hosting the dinner, this grant is the first of its kind to be awarded in the San Antonio area. Most MS research money in Texas has gone to Houston or Dallas.

"The research Dr. Forsthuber is doing is very exciting and gives hope to persons living daily with the devastating effects of this disease," Bodet said. "It's wonderful to see money for multiple sclerosis research directed into the San Antonio area."

Forsthuber holds the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Endowed Chair in Biotechnology in the College of Sciences, and is one of 15 faculty members in UTSA's new South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases. The center's researchers are focusing on critical areas of human health, including anthrax, tularemia, cholera, Lyme disease, desert valley fever and other parasitic and fungal diseases.

"We have a really strong infectious diseases group developing at UTSA, which will soon be world class, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it," said Forsthuber. "I see myself as part of a bigger picture, bringing a different expertise to the table."

Although he has been at UTSA only since last fall, Forsthuber already has made quite an impact on the

university—not only with his research, but also by assisting in the recruitment of College of Sciences Dean George Perry. Perry and Forsthuber worked together as faculty members at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, one of the top 20 private research universities in the nation, with more than \$200 million in private research funding.

Perry, a nationally recognized expert in Alzheimer's disease, has authored more than 600 scientific publications and 500 abstracts. He serves on the editorial board of more than 20 publications and is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. In 1998, Perry was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society.

—Kris Rodriguez



Faculty researcher Thomas Forsthuber (center) joined UTSA in 2005.



Forsthuber meets with MS patients.



## Scientists, engineers collaborate on cardiac stents

When the College of Sciences and College of Engineering faculty moved into the new \$84 million Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building in February, one of the chief reasons given for the move was to foster interdisciplinary research between scientists and engineers. One project capturing that spirit of collaboration involves College of Engineering Dean Mauli Agrawal and David Johnson, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. With Arturo Ayon in the Department of Electrical Engineering and clinicians from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, the team is working to develop a new drug delivery system with cardiac stents to help in the recovery efforts of heart attack patients.

The research involves searching for a better way to release tiny, nano-sized drug molecules from cardiac stents that are implanted during balloon angioplasty surgery. Surgeons have found that the current drug-eluting procedure

is causing adverse reactions in some of the two million patients who undergo balloon angioplasty annually.

During the procedure, a catheter is inserted into an artery and a small balloon is inflated to stretch open the artery. Tiny metal stents then are used to keep the artery open to drive clog-building plaque out and allow for smoother blood flow.

But in some cases, the negative reaction by the body to the metal stent insertion can lead to renarrowing of the artery and subsequent heart attacks. The UTSA/UTHSCSA collaborators will use a different type of coating on the stent that would allow medicine to be distributed to a specific area over a 30-day period.

If successful, Agrawal hopes this new drug-eluting system could be used for other implants, including dental and orthopedic procedures. The team of collaborators has a patent pending on their invention.

— Kris Rodriguez



## CIAS awarded \$3.1 million in defense bill

The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security (CIAS) was awarded \$3.1 million in the 2006 fiscal year Defense Appropriations Bill to support community cyber security defend-and-attack exercises, and infrastructure assurance and security research.

Established in 2001, CIAS is a partnership between academia, the information technology security industry and the local Air Intelligence Agency. CIAS is one component of UTSA's encompassing Institute for the Protection of American Communities (IPAC). Established in 2005, IPAC provides technical expertise and solutions to security challenges facing communities. IPAC also includes the UTSA Center of Excellence in Biotechnology, Bioprocessing, Education and Research and the Center for Response and Security Engineering and Technology.

This spring CIAS personnel participated in the Department of Homeland Security's CyberStorm National Cyber Security Exercise in Washington, D.C. The center was selected after leading the highly successful Dark Screen cyber terrorism exercise for San Antonio in 2002 and 2003, bringing national attention as the first city in the nation to conduct a cyber-security exercise.

Additionally, CIAS has conducted cyber security exercises for several communities throughout the U.S. and is planning an exercise for the State of Texas this summer. CIAS personnel have worked on infrastructure assurance and security issues for financial services, telecommunications, oil and gas communities, and the chemical sectors in Houston, San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Miami and Baltimore.

— Kris Rodriguez

## Grant funds research in critical areas of human health

The Culture and Policy Institute (CPI) was awarded a \$1.3 million grant by the Agency for Health Research and Quality, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The new grant underwrites the San Antonio Health Services Research Program, a collaborative effort involving faculty and researchers at UTSA, the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) and the UT School of Public Health, San Antonio Regional Campus. Raymond Garza, executive director of the Culture and Policy Institute, will serve as director and principal investigator. Donde Plowman, professor of management, will serve as co-principal investigator.

Four research projects are funded through the grant. The first, "Direct Observation of Competing Demands for Diabetes Care: Understanding Ethnic Disparities in Care for Hispanics," will be conducted by Bob Ferrer and Michael Parchman of UTHSCSA and Dorothy Flannagan, UTSA associate professor of psychology and dean of graduate programs.

In the second project, Garza, Stella Garcia-Lopez, associate professor of psychology, and Cynthia Perez-McCluskey, associate professor of criminal justice, will focus on "Enhancing Health-Conscious Attitudes and Behaviors

Among Hispanic Youth." The project aims to reduce the prevalence of cigarette smoking and alcohol use, modify unhealthy eating habits associated with obesity and diabetes risk, and increase physical activity.

The third study, conducted by Plowman, Dennis Duchon, professor of management, and Frank Moore at the UT School of Public Health, will explore "Organizational Complexity and Decision Making in Health Facilities and Services in Relation to Quality Improvement, Patient Safety and Human Resources." The researchers seek not only to understand the changes that health care organizations make in response to rapidly changing and turbulent environments, but also to develop an evidence-based system of decision-making to better meet goals of delivering the best possible patient care.

Finally, Ruben Martinez, interim chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, and Miguel Bedolla of UTHSCSA will research "Decision Making at the End of Life in Mexican American Elderly." The project will explore how socioeconomic status, acculturation, depression, capacity to perform daily activities and religiosity are related to attitudes toward life-support treatment and physician-assisted suicide.



# Running on Faith

By Emily Grobe

He is a UTSA senior and a star performer on the men's track team.  
But that is only the beginning of an answer to the question, "Who is David Burnett?"

"Athlete, singer," he says, adding, "I like kids a lot. I work with kids in summer camps and Christian camps." Though David Burnett describes himself humbly, he has overcome a number of obstacles that have strengthened his religious faith and molded him into a person who has a unique ability to affect people's lives without even realizing it.

During his freshman year of college, Burnett was faced with one of the first of a series of events that would change his life dramatically. At the time, he was trying to make the track team at UTSA as a walk-on.

"I had to work really hard," he explains. "There were so many distractions, you know, being a freshman and trying to find yourself."

That semester, Burnett's father, Uthai Burnett, a businessman, musician and humanitarian, died of a stroke while in his native Jamaica. Burnett had no mental or emotional preparation for the loss of his father. "That was a difficulty in my life at that time. Trying to make the team and going through that really made it hard," Burnett says. "I missed pretty much half of the semester dealing with that."

Nearly a year after the death of his father, Burnett's mother, Eutedrah, died in a car crash. Burnett, the youngest of three boys, had a strong relationship with his mother and was affected deeply by the sudden loss of his only surviving parent.

During that tumultuous year and over the next two, Burnett held on to his faith and excelled in academics and track at UTSA. His freshman season, Burnett ran a season-best 7.5 seconds in the 60-meter



and an outstanding 24.36 in the 200-meter at the Houston Invitational. He posted a season-best 49.42 in what would become his event, the 400-meter, during the Southland Conference Championship preliminaries.

The following season, Burnett took the 400 at the Whataburger Relays with a time of 49.04 and placed second at the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Invitational with 49.99. Burnett's times improved with every season. As a junior, Burnett posted a season-best 48.10 for outdoor and 9.12 for indoor events.

"It is amazing to look at what David has gone through and where he came from as a freshman to where he is now as a conference champion and team captain. It's been a pleasure for me to watch him grow from a young kid into a mature adult," says track and field coach Aaron Fox. "With what he faced his first two years here, a lot of people could have just quit and walked away from it all."

After doing so well, it seemed that Burnett was achieving some stability in his life. Then in August of 2005, Burnett and his then-girlfriend went on what was supposed to be a relaxing trip to New Orleans. It turned into what Burnett could only describe as "something you see in a movie ... a really bad movie."

Having flown into New Orleans, the two had no ground transportation to get out before Hurricane Katrina struck. "It

was a scary experience because people were running around our hotel just screaming and yelling. The weather was really bad," Burnett says. "There was nobody on the streets. It was just completely dead."

The two managed to find a ride with an Australian couple who had been honeymooning in New Orleans and had a rental car. According to Burnett, a 10-mile drive took nearly two hours.

"On the road, it was jam-packed," he says. "People were on the side of the road with no gas. People were begging other people to give them rides.

I saw 15 people in a Neon—you know, a little car.”

Burnett’s only focus on the trip back to Texas was “on getting out and being alive.”

“This has affected my faith a lot,” Burnett says. “At the time it was looking bad. But then I told myself all I have is my faith, and if I leave that, then I’m not going to get out of the situation.”

After Katrina, Burnett felt he should give something back. He volunteered with the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. He donated half of his clothing and spent many weekends bringing food and clothing to hurricane victims or babysitting their children. For that and his other community service and leadership activities, Burnett was honored in June by the Southland Conference as an inaugural recipient of the Steve McCarty Citizenship Award, named for the former Stephen F. Austin athletics director.

Now, in the aftermath of his experiences, Burnett doesn’t think

about the “what ifs.”

“That’s what led me to be stronger with my faith because I was second-guessing not only myself but God and his ways,” he says. “What’s to say I wouldn’t be a different person if I had both my parents right now and all the other people I’ve lost over the years? You know, a worse person, or worse off.”

Though Burnett has been through many traumatic experiences, he believes there are others who have endured more than he.

“You never know what someone has gone through unless you take the time to stop and talk to them. That’s what makes me want to reach out to people,” says Burnett, who expects to graduate in December with a degree in kinesiology. “That’s helped to strengthen me as a person. All these roadblocks were in the way and all I had to do was push them. Just one by one, out of the way and keep going.”

*Emily Grobe is a student intern for the athletics department.*

## Sports Briefs

### **SOCCER ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL TEAM, SEASON**

Women’s soccer coach Steve Ballard announced the signing of 23 student-athletes for the inaugural 2006 soccer season. Ballard and assistant coach Kristin Boeker acquired 21 players from the state of Texas; the other two hail from California.

Team members include Celeste Carruth, Carly Chudej, Svetlana Dmitriakov, Rachel Francis, Halee Hamm, Kasi Hebert, Kylee Hix, Julie Kopp, Holli McGue, Veronica Najera, Ezinne Okpo, Chelsea Pack, Chea Pajak, Melanie Ringel, Kimberly Selman, Mikelle Stack, Kaitlyn Symons, Christy Underwood, Erin Ussery, Christine Walker, Kari Weiland, Meagan Woods and Chelsea Zimmerman.

UTSA’s soccer program begins its 2006 season with an exhibition match against UT Austin on Aug. 18 at Myers Stadium in Austin. For the full schedule, go to [www.goUTSA.com](http://www.goUTSA.com).

### **UTSA NAMES NEW BASKETBALL COACH**

Athletic Director Lynn Hickey announced in April the hiring of Brooks Thompson as head men’s basketball coach. Thompson was an assistant coach at Arizona State from 2004 to 2006, helping the Sun Devils reach the National Invitational Tournament in 2005.

A standout player before becoming a coach, Thompson played two seasons at Texas A&M in 1989-91, where he earned second team All-Southwest Conference honors. He then transferred to Oklahoma State, where he was a second team All-Big Eight selection in 1992-93 and a first team all-conference player the following season. He led the Cowboys in assists both seasons and averaged 16.9 points per game as a senior.

The Orlando Magic selected Thompson in the first round of the 1994 NBA draft. He played in the NBA Finals in 1995 for the Magic and set the franchise record for most points in a quarter (21). He also played for the Utah Jazz, the Denver Nuggets, the Phoenix Suns and the New York Knicks.

Thompson replaces Tim Carter, who posted a 160-152 record in 11 seasons as head coach of the Roadrunners.

### **SOFTBALL EARNS SLC TITLE**

The UTSA softball team won the Southland Conference Tournament title in Natchitoches, La., on May 7 with an 8-3 win over Texas-Arlington. Four Roadrunners were named to the 2006 Southland Conference All-Tournament Team: Jessica Els (MVP), Stacey Gillespie, Ursula Mares and Rachel Rackley.

The Roadrunners, three-time defending SLC regular season champions, earned their second NCAA Tournament berth in the past three seasons, but were eliminated from the NCAA Regionals after losing to Utah on May 20 in Austin.

In their loss to Utah, the Roadrunners hit two home runs, bringing their total to an NCAA-leading 105 for the season. That number breaks the school and Southland Conference record of 103 home runs set in 2005. The Roadrunners now sit in sole possession of second place on the NCAA’s all-time single-season home run list behind Arizona’s 126 posted in 2001, and own three of the top five seasons in NCAA history. Additionally, their per-game average of 2.06 broke UTSA’s own record of 1.87 set in 2004.

### **GERVIN JERSEY RETIRED**

UTSA recognized Derrick Gervin, the second leading scorer in the history of the men’s basketball program, on March 3 during halftime of its Southland Conference men’s basketball game with Northwestern State. Gervin joined Devin Brown as the only UTSA basketball players to have their jerseys retired. Brown, the former Spur now with the Utah Jazz, broke Gervin’s all-time Roadrunner scoring record in 2002.

In only three seasons with the Roadrunners, Gervin scored 1,691 points, averaging 21.1 points per game—highest in UTSA history. In his final season (1984–1985), Gervin averaged 25.6 points per game—another UTSA record. The Detroit native spent two seasons in the NBA—1985 with the Philadelphia 76ers and 1999 with the New Jersey Nets. In between, he spent more than 10 seasons playing professional basketball overseas. Gervin now lives in San Antonio, where he works with youth groups.



# Don't know much about history ...

Seminar students play a key role in documenting their alma mater's past

At the beginning of her senior year, history major Jerri Rhodes searched through the new class schedule looking for the seminar class she needed to graduate. She found one: History of UTSA.

"I laughed," she says, "because I thought, 'Who in the world would want to take that?' I knew there just wasn't a lot of history."

Martin Quirk, too, needed to take a senior-level seminar, for which students have to produce an original, 20-page research paper. When he spotted History of UTSA on the fall 2005 schedule, he says, "I thought the same thing: 'It really is a young university—how much history could there be?'"

"But then I thought that history has to start somewhere," Quirk continues. "Just look at the changes in the world since 1969, when the university was established. A lot has gone on during that time, and I figured some of those worldwide changes would be reflected in what was going on at the university."

History does have to start somewhere, says Associate Professor Gregg Michel, and that's one of the reasons he chose this 37-year-old university as the subject for his seminar. Michel, who joined the UTSA faculty in 2000, had done research on other campus histories, particularly of universities in the South, for his 2004 book on the Civil Rights Movement,

*Struggle for a Better South: The Southern Student Organizing Committee, 1964–1969*. "That's what piqued my interest in the subject of universities and university history," he says. And, he adds, "I didn't know too much about UTSA's history."

As Michel and the 15 students in his class discovered, not many people do know much about the university's history, and the lack of both original source material and secondary literature about UTSA created a huge challenge for them. For his previous senior-level seminar, on the Civil Rights Movement, Michel says, "I did assign two or three books, and the entire class read them together to just get their feet wet and give them an overview of the subject. There's nothing I can give [students] that has been produced on UTSA's history. There have been journalistic articles but nothing scholarly that deals with the entire history."

"The university has done a poor job of preserving its past until recently," he says, crediting Institute of Texan Cultures head archivist Gerrienne Schaad and the Special Collections staff for their work in beginning to compile an archive of university materials. "My students have made use of it, but it is by no means comprehensive," Michel explains. "Material just has not been kept, which is sad."

That meant that Michel's students had to dig to research their topics. One student, who wrote about the history of the Texas Folklife Festival, was able

to sort through a number of boxes containing unprocessed material that had recently been received at the archives. "What you have are boxes that have scrawled on them where they came from, and that's it," Michel says. "So the students are learning that historical research is time consuming, and a lot of it is like looking for a needle in a haystack." Michel explains that many of his students "have become really good at what I would call sleuthing—detective work—because they've done an amazing job in cultivating sources and finding people to talk to."

Michel gave his students considerable leeway with the subject of their papers—they simply had to have something to do with UTSA. The topics ranged from the founding of the Downtown Campus to the creation of the Tomás Rivera Center to Title IX athletics at UTSA. Martin Quirk was talking with a group of fellow history majors about UTSA's history program when he got the idea for his paper: the history of the Department of History. ("Which is funny, because you would think historians would know more about their own history than we actually do," Michel says with a laugh.) Quirk's research involved combing through a file cabinet full of meeting minutes, directives and mission statements saved by Department Chair John Reynolds, and interviews with former and current faculty. He also interviewed alumna

and lecturer Dee Mitchell, who was able to offer her view as a former student and current faculty member.

"It was a lot more work than I expected," Quirk says. "There's so much research and writing and rewriting. ... I was making changes to that paper up until an hour before I handed it in."

Michel required all his students to conduct personal interviews, reasoning that many of the people who were involved in UTSA's history still are readily available. "They're still alive and



the vast majority of them are in San Antonio, if not still here at UTSA," Michel says. "They've generally been helpful—and flattered, I think—to share their perspective."

Former *Paisano* editor Matt Stern, now a lawyer in Austin, even drove to San Antonio to talk with Jerri Rhodes for her paper on the student newspaper. Rhodes, who volunteers at the Jewish Community Center

in San Antonio, is particularly interested in Holocaust history. Another of Rhodes' professors who knew of her interest told her about a Holocaust denial ad that was submitted to the *Paisano* in 1992 and suggested that be the topic of her seminar paper. Rhodes spent the first two weeks of the semester looking through microfilm archives, but couldn't find such an ad. "I was devastated at first because I had pinned all my hopes on writing this paper," she says. "[Michel] stressed over and over how,

out at the *Daily Texan* at UT Austin, which ran the ad after months of debate within the newspaper's board, and at the independent *Paisano*.

By the end of the semester, after completing her own exhaustive research as well as critiquing her classmates' rough drafts, Rhodes says she had a new appreciation for the university's short history. "I'm very impressed with the history of UTSA," she says, "and look where we're going."

At the end of the class, Michel's students donated their finished papers as well as their

interview transcripts to the ITC Archives, both for the sake of posterity and for use by future researchers.

"In a way, it's a first step toward writing UTSA's history. And it's a history that people just don't know," Michel says. "Institutional history is not sexy; it doesn't inspire a lot of people.

"But," he adds, "it's vital."



depending on the research, things might change."

After interviewing *Paisano* faculty adviser Diane Abdo, Rhodes learned that the ad had indeed been submitted but the *Paisano* staff had chosen not to publish it, instead running an editorial by Stern explaining that decision. So Rhodes tweaked her topic and wrote about the differences between the way the process played

"The students are learning that historical research is time consuming, and a lot of it is like looking for a needle in a haystack. [Many of them] have become really good at what I would call sleuthing—detective work—because they've done an amazing job in cultivating sources and finding people to talk to."



# D-DAY

## IT'S A LONG, HARD ROAD TO THE DISSERTATION DEFENSE

BY LESLI HICKS

In the middle of her dissertation defense, Kathy Ferguson forgot what she was talking about. After an anxious three-second silence, she recovered, then plowed on, succeeding in the end.

"I don't think anyone noticed," she says now. "It probably looked like a thoughtful pause."

Of the more than 350 students enrolled in doctoral programs at UTSA, Ferguson was one of a handful who made it to the spring 2006 defense, the yea-nay, pass-fail threshold that doctoral candidates must cross to receive their degrees. The defense requires students to explain

in detail their dissertation and conclusions, then field questions before awaiting the biggest answer of their academic lives: Will they now be able to attach "Doctor" to their name?

In the academic world, Ferguson considers herself a late bloomer. She earned her bachelor's degree from UTSA in 1988, when she was an Army officer's wife and the mother of two girls.

She recalls the day she crossed the stage for the first time and heard tiny voices shouting, "Yea, Mom!" After a satisfying career teaching English-as-a-second-language instructors and picking up a master's degree along the way, Ferguson decided to pursue a doctorate because she felt there was more she could achieve – for herself, but also for her students and her peers.

**"THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION IS ONE OF THE MOST INTENSE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES THAT INDIVIDUALS ENCOUNTER IN THEIR LIVES. ... THE ENTIRE DISSERTATION PROCESS FOR MANY DOCTORAL STUDENTS APPEARS SIMILAR TO A MOUNTAIN LOOMING IN THE DISTANCE, INESCAPABLE, MAGNIFICENT, BUT IMPOSSIBLE TO SCALE."**

— INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY, SEPTEMBER 2005









"I'm not trying to save the world," says Ferguson, who now designs ESL curricula for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio, the sixth-largest district in the state. "I'm trying to make a difference."

Ferguson studied an emerging specialty called "mindfulness," which focuses on interpersonal dynamics in schools and how environments influence learning. To research her thesis, Ferguson developed questionnaires for select districts. With a team of students, she tirelessly sorted responses and tabulated results for a database. One of her conclusions shook a tired paradigm: Lower socioeconomic status, she found, does not necessarily make a school an underachieving one. In other words, it is the dynamic of principal, teachers and students that determines successful outcomes, not simply dollars. With the help of her fellow students and her professor, Page Smith, Ferguson was propelled to that discovery, and from there to graduation.

For Ferguson and for other students, getting through the process of acquiring a doctorate is not easy, and there are no guarantees. Many students report falling asleep with "The Dissertation" on their minds, only to



awaken a few hours later thinking about it again, sometimes questioning the foundation of their thesis or dreading what some drolly call "D-Day," the day they will defend their dissertation. At times, they say, the achievement requires fending off demons of doubt, especially when it seems like the rest of their friends are outside playing while they are remanded to study hall.

And as enriching as these programs are to students and to society, they do not come cheap. Most doctoral students, who move either from a master's or directly from a bachelor's into a doctoral program, rely on a mix of grants or outside income such as stipends. Full-time employment is sometimes required, too, but often it is linked to the doctoral work.

Kathy Ferguson worked full time as a teacher while she completed her graduate studies. Her counterparts in other programs, Roberto Aguilar, a biologist, and Ashlesh Murthy, an infectious disease specialist, served as teaching assistants at the university.

Roberto Aguilar is one student who went straight through from bachelor's to Ph.D. He spent nine years studying how neurons regenerate, with the dream of helping people with spinal injuries control basic bowel and bladder function, giving them greater mobility and hope.

In the laboratory Aguilar focused on how rats responded to growth hormones, while at home, he and his wife, Sonia, expanded their family to three daughters, one of whom battled non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She has been cancer-free for 10 years, but her illness took an emotional toll.

### Overcoming obstacles

Then, when his dissertation was nearly complete, a burglar stole Aguilar's home computer, and his nine years' research with it. After a wrenching internal debate about what to do next—including questioning whether he could finish at all—Aguilar reassembled his data and recast his dissertation. In May, he received his doctorate in biology with an emphasis in neurobiology.

In retrospect, Aguilar believed it was simply meant to be.

"I actually think my dissertation was stronger after that process," the 36-year-old says philosophically.

"Walking into the room to defend my dissertation – there is only one way to describe it – was like what they say happens in the last moment of your life," Aguilar says. "Everything that came before flashed into this accomplishment." Echoing Ferguson, he adds, "I'm not seeking monetary success. Yes, it would be nice to be on a team that won a Nobel Prize, but I want to make a difference."

Today, he is doing that by continuing his research and teaching at the University of California-Irvine.

As inevitable as such success can seem after the fact, completing a dissertation is anything but. There is actually a term for withdrawing from graduate school without doing so: "ABD," or "All But Dissertation." Aguilar and others stress the importance of one or even several mentors who, by providing encouragement and direction, can ease self-doubt and help pave the path to the doctoral degree.

Aguilar credits Luis Haro, associate professor of biology, as one of his primary mentors at UTSA. Each student requires a team of five professionals in the field, plus at least one person outside the discipline, to support his work from research inception to graduation.

Ashlesh Murthy, 30, is proof positive of the power of a mentor. UTSA Associate Professor Bernard Arulanandam joined the Department of Biology just as Murthy was considering pursuing a doctorate.

"I learned that we shared similar interests in applied life sciences research. I was on board the following year," Murthy says.

Murthy, who trained as a physician in India, says he actually "enjoyed" his May defense as part of a continuum rather than the conclusion of four years of work. Instead of jitters, he felt exhilaration. It was an opportunity to show the committee that he did what he set out to do: make advances in the treatment of infectious diseases.

"It was a great experience and a happy day," he says.

### Months of work

In his research, Murthy used mice to test proteins to deliver a vaccine for chlamydia, a parasitic disease often without symptoms that can cause infertility in women. It took months to write about his work in a way that peers and those outside the field could understand.

Murthy, who graduated in May with the first doctorate from UTSA's cell and molecular biology program, feels that his laboratory work will not stay buried in an analytical paper. He plans eventually to return to his home country, India, where few doctors engage in medical research.

While pursuing a doctorate requires smarts and stamina on the part

of the student, support also must come from the university. Doctoral programs at UTSA are part of the school's long-term growth strategy, offering the institution more ways to distinguish itself in the region, nation and world as the university works toward achieving tier-one research status. "Many excellent faculty members prefer to work in universities where there are doctoral students, so having doctoral programs can assist in faculty recruitment and retention,"

notes Dorothy Flannagan, associate professor of psychology and dean of the UTSA Graduate School.

The first UTSA doctorate, offered in 1992, was in biology with an emphasis in neurobiology. Today, the university offers 18 doctoral programs, with more on the way.

"Since 2000, 14 additional programs have been approved," says Flannagan.

"Twelve of these programs are currently offered, with two new programs scheduled to launch in fall 2006: a Ph.D. in applied statistics offered in the College of Business and a Ph.D. in applied demography offered in the College of Public Policy," she says.

As the number of programs increases, so does the number of graduates. Twelve students received doctorates in 2005 and another 20 were on the list for the May 2006 commencement. UTSA is counting on a significant jump in the number of doctorates awarded by 2010, only four years away, Flannagan says.

### **Designing doctorates**

As difficult as a doctoral program is to complete, designing one is hard work, too. When an academic department proposes a program, the idea is first pitched to the Graduate Council, and from there it goes to the Faculty Senate, provost and president for approval. Once it has cleared those hurdles, the proposal must go to the academic affairs officers of the University of Texas System.

If endorsed at that level, it moves to the Board of Regents, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and a team of external reviewers. Their task is to discuss proposed programs with appropriate administrators, faculty and potential students.

If the review team and Coordinating Board staff member approve the program, it is submitted to the Coordinating Board for final, official approval. Once green-lighted by that body, the doctoral program can be implemented.

"Each proposed program is reviewed by many groups of individuals, and must be determined to be a program with high demand: one in which there are good employment opportunities for graduates; that the university is committed to offering; and that has highly qualified faculty who will deliver the program," says Flannagan.

Flannagan, who earned her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, "loved the emphasis on learning and curiosity that I found," she says, recalling those days as both hard and halcyon. "And once I discovered my love for research and teaching as a graduate student, I knew

**"MANY EXCELLENT FACULTY MEMBERS PREFER TO WORK IN UNIVERSITIES WHERE THERE ARE DOCTORAL STUDENTS, SO HAVING DOCTORAL PROGRAMS CAN ASSIST IN FACULTY RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION."**

that I wanted to pursue a career as a faculty member in a university setting."

Becoming a professor or university researcher is a goal of many students who acquire doctoral degrees. Others seek posts in private industry or pursue philanthropic causes such as work with nonprofit organizations.

For some, their doctoral achievements lead to a higher standard of living than they might have had otherwise. But

recent UTSA doctoral candidates insist their motivation was not greater income, but deeper meaning. This was Brian Daugherty's perspective as he defended his dissertation in business administration with an emphasis in accounting in spring 2006.

Daugherty's research focused on "An Experimental Analysis of Potential Unintended Consequences of Sarbanes-Oxley," the Congressional legislation passed in 2002 when the collapse of Enron put auditors in the spotlight. The legislation attempts to prevent auditors from passive reviews of institutional balance sheets, yet it has been criticized by some as a short-term fix that will not prevent abuse.

### **Real-world applications**

Daugherty had enjoyed a successful career crunching numbers and recruiting for Arthur Andersen before he began teaching accounting at UTSA. For his dissertation, he studied responses from 90 auditors about potential real-life scenarios; to test the legislation's impact, he also set up a mock jury with 70 participants to consider a hypothetical shareholder lawsuit.

"My finding was that the general public does not perceive a great difference between an auditor's responsibilities today, while the industry has higher expectations of performance among auditors," Daugherty says.

Besides possessing a natural interest in keeping the accounting industry honest, he believed academia was a natural progression of his career. Daugherty, now an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, where he teaches auditing, appreciated UTSA's proximity to where he lived and worked in San Antonio.

"What appealed to me about UTSA was that it was local, but the program also has been outstanding," says Daugherty, who credited professors Rick Hatfield, Marshall Pitman and L.J. Shrum as his doctoral guides.

For her part, Kathy Ferguson describes the dissertation process as an end and a beginning. "I am very, very happy that I stuck with the program and completed it," Ferguson, 50, says of her doctorate in educational leadership. But, she added in a crucial footnote, "I am still learning."

It wasn't until two weeks after she defended her work that the momentous achievement finally seemed real.

"I handed a check to the bursar's office to pay for 10 bound copies of the dissertation," she says. And, as she walked back to the college that had been her second home for four long years, she allowed herself to cry with joy. ★







# SOUL SUPPORT

## Students find community in campus faith groups

By Jenny Moore

**W**hen Samantha Tugentman began college at UTSA, she felt that there was something missing. “My whole life I had been involved in some Jewish activity,” she says. In high school she had been an active member of United Synagogue Youth. She missed being able to socialize with others who shared her faith. Then Tugentman, a public relations major, found Hillel, a religious student organization for students wishing to practice Judaism.

“Hillel has introduced me to some awesome people, and also kept me close with some Jewish friends I already knew. For me, the most fulfilling part of being a part of Hillel is to see how much the organization has grown in just one year,” she says.

In April, Tugentman congregated with members of Hillel for a Passover seder, the annual observance that commemorates the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt. That night she listened to a rabbi discuss the meaning of the holiday. She also received a survival kit, but not one that included water or first-aid supplies. Inside she found a box of matzos, a bag of chocolate-coconut macaroons, a disposable seder plate, and a Haggadah, the text that explains everything about the seder. “They wanted to make sure that since students are away from home, we would be able to celebrate Passover. That’s why they called it a ‘Survival Kit,’” says Tugentman.

Stephen Cheney, a philosophy major, was looking for similar support when he joined the campus chapter of United Methodist Student Movement. As a member of the same group in high school, he found the university chapter a good way to stay on track. “Students who were involved in faith-based groups in high school find that membership at the college level helps them keep in touch with old friends and meet new ones,” says Cheney. The UTSA chapter of UMSM, Cheney says, allows him to network with other devoted peers and share experiences, prayers and encouragement. His group meets frequently in the University Center.

### Faith on Campus

UTSA, as a public university, does not have a religious tradition, but it does have a growing number of religiously oriented students. “I think we are witnessing a renewed interest in religion and spirituality,” says Professor Rosalind Horowitz, the faculty adviser for Hillel. “Since 9/11, there has been a growing desire to find structures that one can connect to. Students, in particular, are eager to learn about the symbol systems that unite a people. ... They seek texts and liturgy that express their fears, hopes and dreams for a respectable, peaceful and happy life on this earth.”

In short, faith-based student groups are emerging as a vibrant part of UTSA’s student life. Of the 20 existing groups with a religious basis, more



**“It is very important that a university have a place and means for students to practice their faith.”**

than half are less than 10 years old, including the Student Association for Islamic Dialog and the Catholic Student Association—Downtown. New students routinely seek out these organizations, and student officers make sure they are a visible presence on campus. The groups are valuable, students say, because they provide the opportunity to build a community of people that share common values, traditions and friendship.

“There has been an increase in religious groups,” says Misty Kelley, assistant director of student activities for student organizations. In addition to the spiritual, social and intellectual support provided by these groups, there are opportunities within them for students to develop leadership and management skills as well. These are among the reasons that the university, through the Office of Student Activities, has helped create the organizational structure in which such groups can thrive. For example, Kelley says the university requires a minimum of only five students and an adviser to start a group. “I believe that [because] our process is so simple, it encourages any group to start on campus,” she adds. Campus faith groups receive the same privileges as other student organizations, including the ability to apply for a bulletin board, reserve meeting space, and apply for fee funding for such activities as bringing a program to campus or underwriting attendance at a conference. Meeting spaces are available close to classrooms, allowing access so that students can have as much involvement as they have time.

### **A Balanced Life**

Full course loads, part-time jobs and familial obligations in a secular academic environment can tug students in many different directions. On any given day, for example, Farheen Mir may go to classes, attend a Muslim Student Association (MSA) meeting and visit the mosque.

“I’m a strong believer in Islamic values and morals,” says Mir. “I practice my faith by performing regular prayer, staying active in the Muslim Student Association and involvement with the mosque.” Mir says she joined MSA because it has brought her closer to “highly motivated, ambitious people” who share her principles. Her involvement has also supported her academic goals as she pursues her degree in biology. “Everyone in the MSA shares the beliefs in standing up for important Islamic values. We push one another towards staying focused in life. I was in many classes with [other] members and we would study together. And when we weren’t studying we’d hang out and just have fun,” she explains.

Faith groups are the primary, but not the only, venue for religious practice on campus. Some individuals worship on their own between classes; others meet for prayer in larger groups in one of the university’s conference rooms. For some students, spending an hour or two a week on religious activities is all they desire, while for others, their religion is a way of life, integrated seamlessly with their other obligations.

“Several Muslim students try to perform their daily prayers—at least three out of five—in the school, but they do not have a place, so they need to do it wherever they can,” says Turgay Korkmaz, the faculty adviser for the Student Association for Islamic Dialog (SAID). After trial and error, most students find a place on campus where they feel comfortable, though Korkmaz believes that the university should create a dedicated facility, such as a chapel, for student prayer.

“It is very important that a university have a place and means for students to practice their faith,” Horowitz adds.

### **A Religious Agenda**

One way that Maria Rodriguez of the Catholic Student Association practices her faith is by going on retreats with other Catholic students. Rodriguez says the CSA has introduced her to wonderful people who help her maintain a personal connection with God. “College students are practicing their faith because of personal reasons, not because they have to,” she explains. “Many of our members who are not originally from San Antonio have said that in CSA they have found a home at UTSA and in San Antonio.”

While the campus religious groups generally operate separately, UTSA also encourages interaction between them. "Most faith groups are amicable towards each other," says Rodriguez.

One such event was a debate on evolution versus biblical creationism co-sponsored by the Atheist Agenda and the Campus Crusade for Christ in late March. That evening, 1,300 students and others interested in the topic filled the campus Convocation Center to listen to presentations and rebuttals on topics such as the age of the earth and the origin of life. Bryan Boutwell, an officer for Campus Crusade for Christ, had spent nearly 90 hours that month dedicated to his Campus Crusade activities. It was a particularly active month for his group, Boutwell says, but normally "we hang out with each other, spend time studying the Bible in small as well as large groups, pray together as well as on our own, and we practice yielding to God and His ways in our daily lives."

Membership in the Campus Crusade for Christ was particularly important for Boutwell when he arrived his freshman year. "The summer before I came to UTSA I had just recently surrendered my life to Christ, and I knew I needed to be involved with an organization that would help me figure out exactly what it meant and how it was possible to follow Jesus," says Boutwell.

The organization offered him continued support while he was forced to confront difficult questions that came up in his studies. "It is not hard to see why so many students come to college and then struggle with the faith they were raised with, especially with all the questions that are raised in classes concerning religion, philosophy and biology," he adds.

**"It is not hard to see why so many students come to college and then struggle with the faith they were raised with, especially with all the questions that are raised in classes concerning religion, philosophy and biology."**

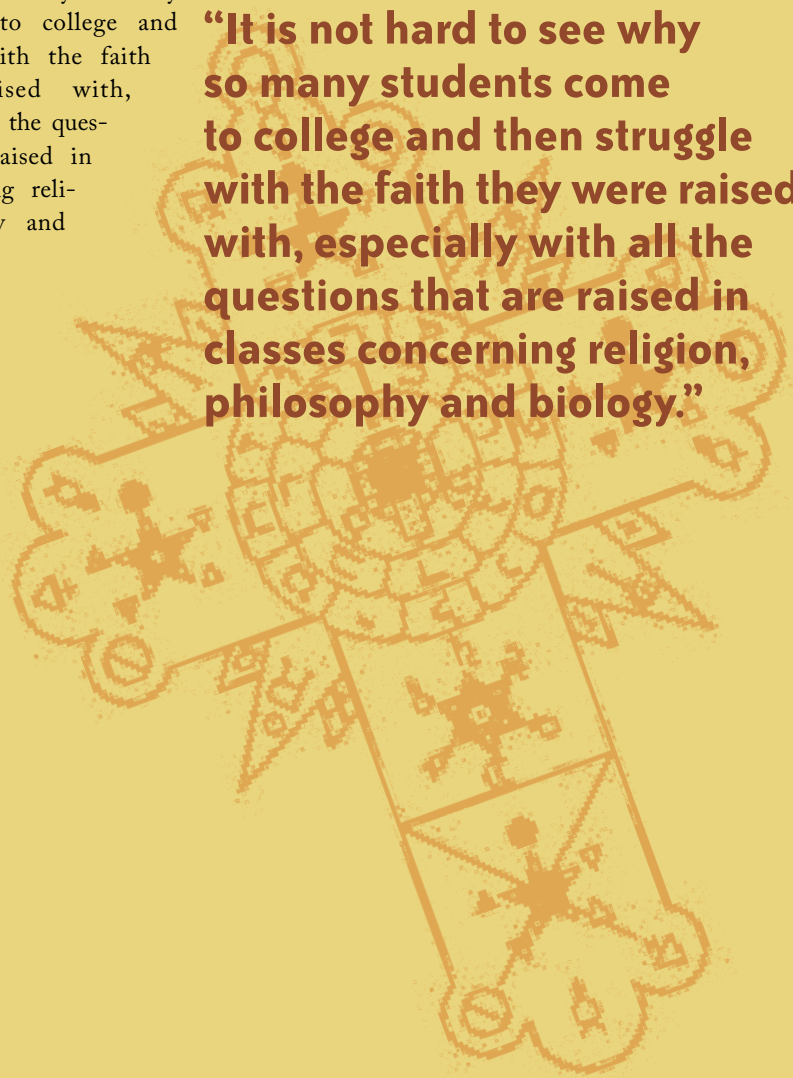
### Connecting the Pieces

Between classes, Farheen Mir speaks thoughtfully about how she relates her religion to her experiences in college. "Islam is a beautiful religion. It has many connections to our studies of history, art, science and math. All the subjects I study have relations to the Islamic faith," says Mir.

Other students are also working to figure out how their school life connects to their spiritual life. "Having a guide or reference point to live my life by to understand the world and my community has helped tremendously in being able to think critically about the multitude of ideas, theories and beliefs that are taught in class," says Boutwell.

Samantha Tugentman and Stephen Cheney also find meaningful connections. "As a philosophy major, I practice my faith on campus by learning the higher truths of academia," says Cheney. Tugentman adds that participating in Hillel helps her focus on the important things she needs to do in college.

Rosalind Horowitz believes that college is a perfect time to explore religious identity. Students "are learning to think critically about themselves and [about] how all the parts of their lives fit together," she says. "The difficulty of prioritizing how one arranges studying, social gatherings and prayer is offset by the ease of faith groups, which can give students a place to do all three." ★





# DETECTING

BY RANDY LANKFORD    Engineering professors work to

**T**here are plenty of adjectives to describe a tour of duty in Iraq: hot, dangerous, hellish. “Wonderful,” however, isn’t a word usually associated with time in the region. Yet that’s what Keith Clutter calls the summer of 2004. The assistant professor in the College of Engineering says his time in Kirkuk is something he wouldn’t have missed.

“I volunteered to go,” the mechanical engineer says, adding with a certain amount of chagrin: “My wife encouraged me not to do that again. They wanted me to go back the next summer. I told them, ‘If you need me, activate me, but I promised the wife I wouldn’t volunteer again.’”

Clutter met his wife, Paula, in the Air Force. “She’s just as committed to the mission as I am,” he explains, “but her position is that I’ve had my turn. It’s time for someone else to take theirs now.”

As a major in the Air Force Reserve, Clutter served in an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit, splitting his time between protecting his base from unexploded projectiles, looking for cached weapons and sweeping the surrounding area for improvised explosive devices (IEDs). “We’d been training to do this job for years. I had senior NCOs [non-commissioned officers] with me who had been in the service for 18 or 19 years and the three months they spent in theater was the culmination of all that training.”

That is the reason Clutter uses the word “wonderful” to describe his service in Iraq. “It was a very rewarding experience to be able to put all that training to use. It was very satisfying at the end of the day to know you’d done something important, something that was going to save lives.”

The 39-year-old Clutter’s only complaint was the heat. “I’ve spent my whole life in hot climates. Over there it’s 120 degrees and you’re wearing body armor all the time. We were doing a lot of range work to dispose of captured munitions. That was the first time in my life I’d ever had to take a break from manual labor. The heat was pretty intense.”

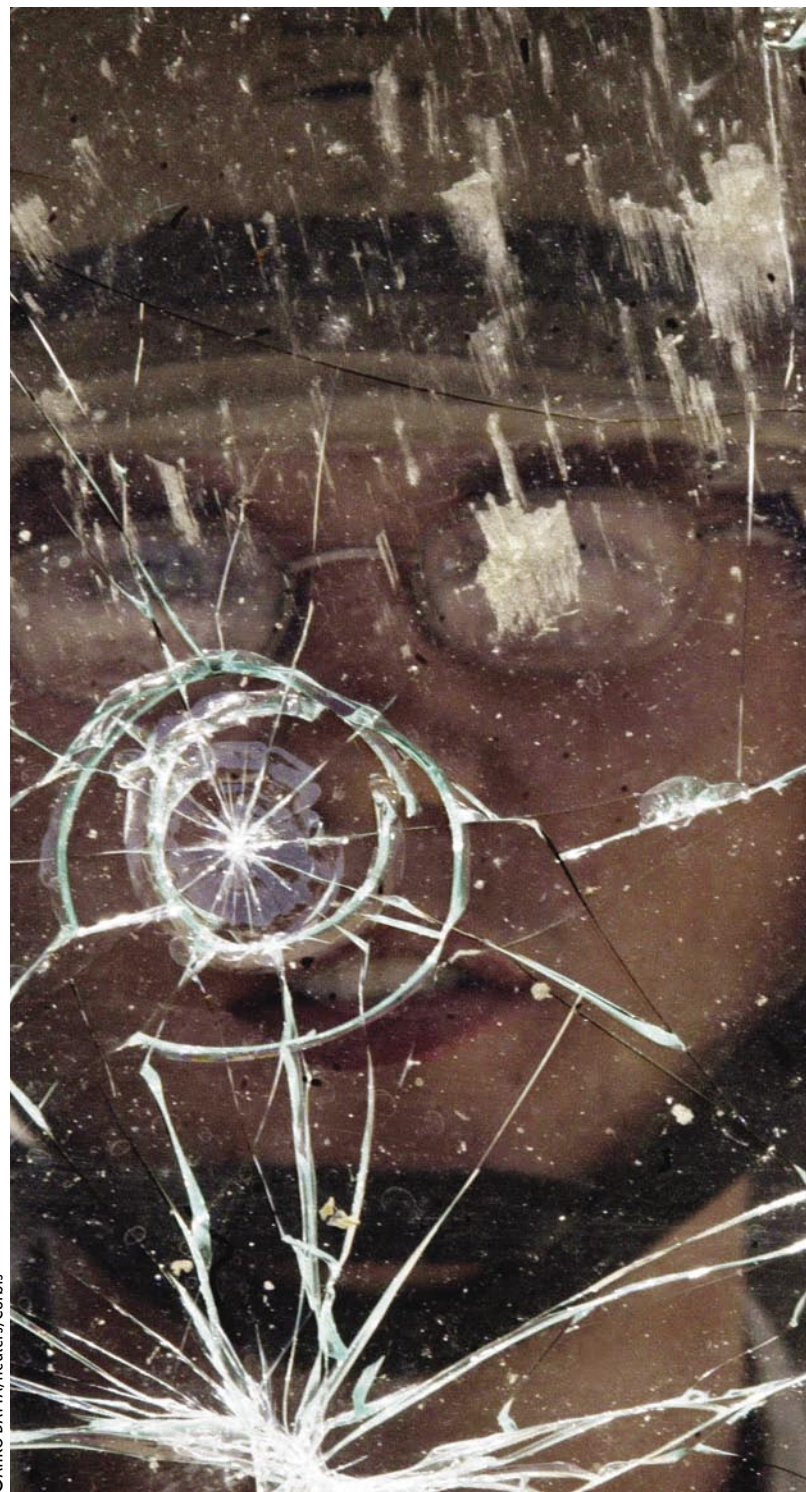
In an effort to keep EOD units fresh and alert, assignments rotated between three-person teams in Kirkuk, meaning that Clutter was frequently on patrol looking for hidden roadside IEDs.

“Those are the primary concern,” he explains. “They’ve killed more troops than anything else in theater.”

Not only are IED patrols searching for and disarming remotely controlled explosives, they’re also an enticing target for snipers and rocket-propelled-grenade attacks. Those painstaking searches, conducted at low speeds on narrow streets, are a hazardous assignment. On one occasion, Clutter, the father of two, found out just how hazardous.

“We were sweeping one morning and an IED was detonated on us. They could tell we were getting close enough that we were going to find it. Fortunately, they set it off a little too early and no one was hurt.”

For his actions on June 16, 2004, Clutter was awarded the Bronze



© APKO DATA/Reuters/Corbis



# G DANGER

make the war in Iraq a little safer for U.S. soldiers



Star with Valor: "After robot malfunctions and at personal risk, [Major Clutter] worked within the kill zone to perform render-safe procedures on the first vehicle improvised explosive device found in the Kirkuk area." Clutter was also recognized for his performance during the June 30 IED attack and again during a small-arms attack on July 29. In all, Clutter commanded more than 90 joint Air Force and Army combat operations and destroyed 105,000 pounds of explosives during his three months in Iraq.

It was while working on his master's degree at Mississippi State that Clutter became enthralled with explosive dynamics. "I went into aerospace engineering because I was interested in airplanes when I was a kid. My dad was an aircraft mechanic so I had been around them a lot," he explains.

"As I got older, I became interested in the fluid mechanics aspects of aerospace engineering. While I was working on my Ph.D., I got into modeling combustion and shock waves."

After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Florida, Clutter joined the Air Force. There, he was trained in weapon system development. "We worked on things like air-to-ground weapons and guided missiles. I got a little more into the energetic side of those things."

Now Clutter is using his wartime experience to help others do a dangerous job as safely as possible. He's working with associate professor Fred Hudson, an electrical engineer, to develop a scanning device to make the search for IEDs more efficient.

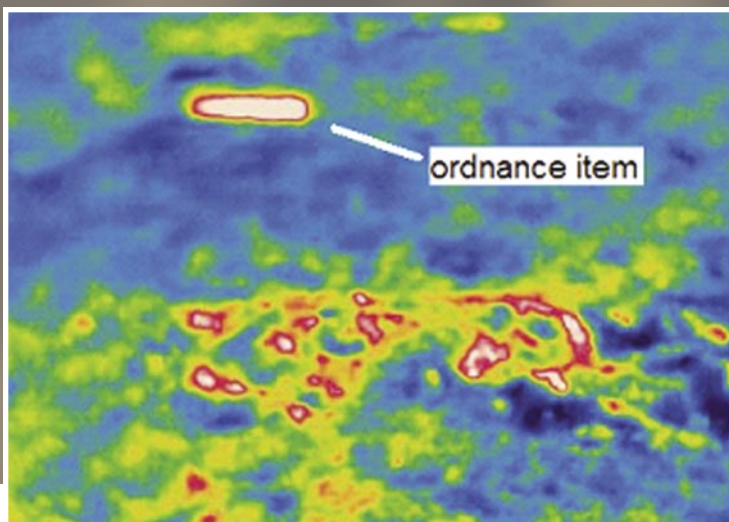
"There's a common misconception that it's the explosive that's improvised. That's not true," Clutter says. "When people in the U.S. think of an IED, they think, 'pipe bomb.' That's not it at all. There is lots of military ordnance in Iraq. There are shells and rockets and grenades everywhere. That's what's used to make these bombs. It's not the explosive that's improvised, it's the initiation system. Whether it's on a timer or command detonated via remote control like a cell phone, radio, pager, you name it, they use it."

Clutter explains, "The weapons we're facing are not high-tech devices. They're made using household items. The thing is, the volume at which they're able to put them out there."

IED searches today are done at approximately five miles per hour. A spotter with binoculars scans ahead of the vehicle, looking for anything out of the ordinary: a pile of trash, some rubble, anything that looks like it's been disturbed. If the spotter notices something unusual, it is carefully investigated and, if need be, disarmed. The challenge, according to Clutter, is not in the disarming but in the detecting. In the heavily damaged city of Kirkuk, there's rubble everywhere. Complacency is a constant danger.

"I saw it when I was in theater and you see it on TV all the time—an EOD team will be clearing a device on one shoulder of the road and





Real-time video of a roadside with ordnance item flashing as a result of positional image analysis based on input from wide-band radar system.

traffic will be passing on the other shoulder. There are so many that people just get used to them and don't pay too much attention to them."

That false sense of invulnerability happens in the military, too, Clutter says. A team that has safely driven a route several times may relax and overlook something. "Until it happens in your unit, you don't believe it's real. That's just human nature."

With insurgents saturating the battlefield with such simple, proven technology, Clutter believes the best way to respond is through equally simple, proven technology. His solution, with Hudson's assistance, is a scanning device that combines thermal imaging with radar and video input. "We're not inventing anything new," he says. "We're taking existing technology and recombining it in a new way."

**"The situation now is that a patrol has to be in close proximity to a device before it can be identified. If we can help them locate and identify an IED 70 or 100 feet earlier, then their likelihood of survival goes up dramatically."**

"The buzzword right now in the military is 'IED defeat,'" Clutter adds. "We're not about defeat. We're all about detect. The situation now is that a patrol has to be in close proximity to a device before it can be identified. We want to be able to give them an early warning that a device may lie along their route. If we can help them locate and identify an IED 70 or 100 feet earlier, then their likelihood of survival goes up dramatically."

Clutter questions the value of some other technology currently under development. The government is interested in a hand-held, battery-operated device that, at the push of a button, will cause every cell phone in a specified radius to ring. The theory is that any IEDs wired with cell phones will be triggered.

"There are solutions being proposed and tested right now that are the be-all-and-end-all magic wand that you can send over there to do

everything—and that's all fine and dandy, but what if I'm not where I get the magic wand?" Clutter asks.

"What we're developing is a very simple, inexpensive piece of equipment that can be mounted on a vehicle with a monitor on the dash that provides the driver with an easy-to-read and understand data stream that gives him a heads-up that something may be suspicious."

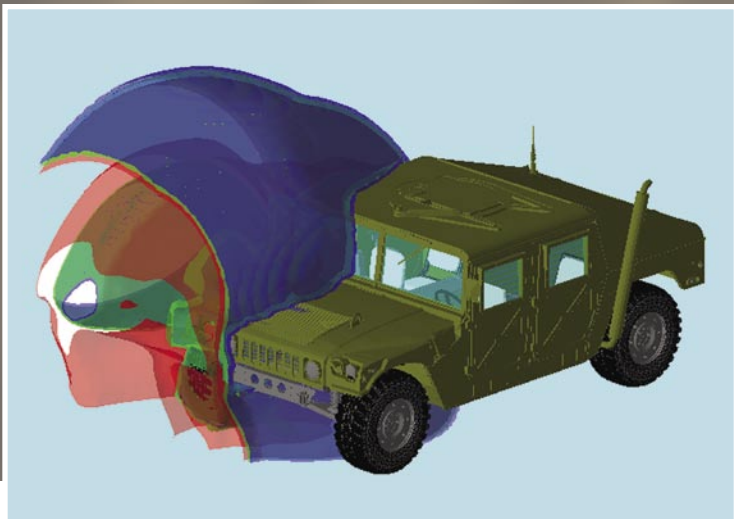
"The last thing I want to do is to make these things explode," says Clutter. "We already know how to defeat them. That's not the challenge. Our goal is to locate them and neutralize them with no damage to our troops, our equipment or any civilians. We want to find them and defuse them before they can do any damage."

Clutter's ultimate goal is to find the devices before they can even be armed. "The modus operandi is to plant the explosives during the night. What often happens is the bomb will be put in place one night and the triggering device will be attached the following night. We want to be able to detect the IED before it can be armed. That's a lot safer for us and the local citizens."

Clutter and Hudson are working with radar experts at UT Pan American in Edinburg to create a prototype device that will be field-tested in the back of a pickup truck this summer.

"If that goes well, we'll generate a schematic that we'll present to the military. More testing could lead to mass production and deployment to the field. That's the ultimate goal. We want to create a piece of equipment that's inexpensive enough and





Computational simulation performed by Clutter of an IED attack against a Humvee, the type of attacks he hopes to prevent with the detection system under development. This work is being performed to predict damage to existing and future tactical vehicles.

**“We want to create a piece of equipment that’s inexpensive enough and simple enough that there can be at least one issued to every EOD unit in theater.”**

simple enough that there can be at least one issued to every EOD unit in theater.”

Clutter’s research is closely related to the Institute for the Protection of American Communities (IPAC). Under the direction of retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Lawson Magruder III, IPAC is the newest research center at UTSA. IPAC combines emerging technology from UTSA research centers with other private and public sector initiatives to focus on protecting communities and neighborhoods in the United States. With its

focus on cybersecurity and on finding solutions to keep citizens safe from chemical, biological, radiological and explosive threats, IPAC is a think tank for improving homeland security.

“IPAC started a couple of years ago,” explains Clutter. “What I helped start here in the College of Engineering is the Center for Response and Security Engineering and Technology, which supports the whole Homeland Security mission.”



College of Engineering faculty Fred Hudson (right) and Keith Clutter

Clutter is also organizing an educational element to the IPAC mission. With his expertise in computational modeling, he has put together a concept for a series of classes, the first of which was recently offered to graduate students. Security and Response Applications of Engineering covers everything from explosives and blast waves hitting buildings to shaped charge and ballistic impacts.

“My vision is to put together a book. And my goal there is to have a sequence of classes that students can take, and when they complete that sequence, they get a certificate in that area and then they can go on and get a master’s degree.

“My vision is that the College of Engineering will address the technical issues [regarding homeland security] because I’ve done this enough to know that security is a team effort. It’s a multidisciplinary team: you have the security professional, the engineer and the manager. I think that each college at UTSA can tackle educating one of the people on that team. So I want the College of Engineering to have a curriculum to educate the technical or engineering person.”

Clutter sees Fort Sam Houston, headquarters for the land component of all homeland defense, as a natural pool of potential students. “There are military personnel, contractors and civil service employees right here in town looking for educational opportunities tailored to homeland security.

“General Magruder and I have been working together on this project. My goal is to have four to six classes that I’m personally involved in. The class I conducted this term was videotaped and is available on the Web now, so that next spring we can have students either on or off campus enrolled. I want to create a library of these kinds of classes to meet those certification requirements.”

Of his Kirkuk experience, Clutter says, “When you’re actually doing the work, you don’t think about it. You’re busy all the time, both physically and mentally. But the last three or four days I was there, when my replacement was already there, I just deflated. You don’t realize how worked up you are. When I got back I just sat in a chair for days. It really wears you out.”

Fully recovered now and surprisingly grateful for the opportunity he had to serve in Kirkuk, Clutter is working hard to make the Iraq experience more “wonderful” for others. ★



# Catch a rising star at Alumni Gala



The UTSA Alumni Association hosts its seventh annual Alumni Rising Star Gala on Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Westin La Cantera Resort.

"The association honors its own rising stars this evening," says Gala co-chair Yvonne Fernandez '85. "It is the association's way of saying thank you to alumni and community members who want to be involved in UTSA and contribute to its future. They continue to give back to the university in so many ways."

This year's top honorees are Alumnus of the Year Dayton Schrader '93 and Bonnie Terry '83, whom the association is honoring posthumously with its Distinguished Service Award.

The silent auction and cocktail reception with music by the UTSA Marimba Ensemble begins at 6:15 p.m., and dinner is served at 7:30 p.m. The program begins at 8:20 p.m., followed by the announcement of the winners of the power drawing. Gala-goers will then dance to the music of Newsboyz from Austin.

Renée Crittenden-Garcia '96 is co-chair of the event. Honorary chairs are Irma Flores '80 and Tony Flores. The emcee again this year is KSAT TV anchor Steve Spriester.

Table sponsorships for the event are available at the Rising Star level for \$3,500, Shooting Star level for \$2,500 and Lone Star level for \$1,500. Sponsor tables seat eight. Rising Star and Shooting Star sponsors will have one student scholarship named for them for the 2007-2008 academic year. Individual tickets are \$125. A portion of the proceeds benefits the UTSA Alumni Association Scholarship Fund; last year's event raised more than \$58,000.

Reservations can be made online at [www.utsa.edu/alumni/gala](http://www.utsa.edu/alumni/gala) or by calling (210) 458-4133.

**74 Sylvia Ann Cantu Marcus**, M.A. in education, was elected vice president of the board of directors of Parent Child Inc. and was named to the national advisory committee for the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities.

**75 Donn Jeffrey Di Nunno**, M.S. in mathematics and systems design, was the first graduate of the UTSA Department of Mathematics. Donn received his Ph.D. in engineering management from Kennedy-Western University in Wyoming in 2004. Donn is a quality manager and consultant for Engineering Management & Integration Inc. and is currently a contractor for the U.S. Department of Defense Business Management and Modernization Program. He and his wife, Cecil Malberg Di Nunno, reside in Herndon, Va.

**79 Alex Garza**, B.B.A. in management, has been promoted to assistant

director of the contracts department at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

**Patricia Ortiz**, M.F.A. in art, was promoted to executive director by the board of trustees of the Museo de las Américas Museum in Denver, Colo. She was formerly director of programs of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver. The Museo de las Américas is the Rocky Mountain region's foremost museum dedicated exclusively to the art, history and culture of Latin America from ancient times to the present.

**82 Steven Blake Thompson**, B.A. in history, has been promoted to colonel in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) of the U.S. Air Force. Steven's wife, Cheryl Thompson, was also promoted to colonel in the JAG Corps. Steven is stationed at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., and Cheryl is stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.

**Patricia O. Alvarez**, B.B.A. in finance, is the national director of the Defense Research Institute—The Voice of the Defense Bar. DRI, with 21,500 members, is the nation's largest organization of defense trial lawyers and corporate counsel. Patricia is a founding partner of the Laredo law firm of Alvarez, Notzon & Gutierrez.

**85 Vickie Williams**, B.A. in early childhood education, and her husband, Jerry, celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of their home for teenage girls with a golf tournament, "Golfin' for the Girls," in October 2005. During the last 10 years they have provided a home for 17 young women ages 12 through 26. Vickie is employed as a middle and high school science and math teacher at Lifegate Christian School in Seguin, Texas.

**86 Barbara J. Bode**, B.B.A. in management, and Stephan P. Trenholm were married July 16, 2005.

**87 Mario J. Oliveira**, B.B.A. in management, is assistant to the president and a member of the board of trustees of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

**89 John Rene Haase**, B.S. in biology, is a bank sales specialist III for USAA in San Antonio. John and his wife, Shari, have two children: Emily Alice, age 5, and Wesley Louis, age 3.

**90 Barbara Ann Goldsmith Rodela**, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in education '97, is director of the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance at UTSA.

**91 Ruben Michael Flores**, B.A. in political science, is a participant in the American Council on Education Fellows Program, working with the president of LaGuardia Community College in New York for a semester.

**92 Joyce Pixler Harris**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, announces that

her daughter, Zita, won a contest to name the newest high school in San Antonio's Northside Independent School District. All Northside high schools are named in honor of Supreme Court justices, and Zita submitted Louis D. Brandeis' name. The school will open in 2008.

**93 Debra Ann N. Garcia, B.A.** in interdisciplinary studies, is the principal at Pena Blanca Elementary School in Rio Rico, Ariz. Debra was awarded the 2005 Administrator of the Year award for the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35. **Teresa Gil, B.A.** in sociology, is a team leader for the University Health System in San Antonio.

**94 Robert A. Partain, M.A.** in English, and his wife, Heidi, announce the birth of daughter Cecilia Anne on July 7, 2005. **Brian Wheeler, B.A.** in criminal justice, completed his master's of public health at Emory University and will begin work toward his master's degree in infectious disease at the University of London. Brian has been working for the Centers for Disease Control, where he has served in India helping to eradicate polio in that country.

**95 Melissa Leigh DeHoyos Munoz, B.A.** in psychology, and her husband, **Salvador Munoz, B.S.** in biology '98, announce the birth of son Salvador Munoz IV on July 28, 2005. **Janette Ramos, B.A.** in psychology, M.A. in counseling '03, is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services in San Antonio, where she was awarded Vocational Rehabilitation Professional of the Year.

**96 Bradley A. Moore, B.B.A.** in human resource management, and his wife, Veronica, have two daughters: Raquel, age 3, and Miranda, age 1. **Martin I. Nealeigh II, B.B.A.** in management, earned an M.A. in organizational management in 2005 from the University of Phoenix. Martin has been promoted from investigator to contract policy and training specialist for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Martin and his wife, Cynthia, reside in New Braunfels, Texas, with their sons, Trevor and Landon.

**97 Yvonne Marie Gomez Gonzales, B.A.** in criminal justice, and her husband, Donald, have two daughters: Sarah Marie, age 3, and Sophia Isabella, age 2.

## Ross Meriwether '78 and Charlene Meriwether '78, '84

Sniff, swirl, savor

Charlene Meriwether isn't teaching the three R's anymore. After more than 20 years of educating youngsters, Charlene is now teaching adults the three S's—sniff, swirl and savor ... your wine.

Just a year ago, Charlene and her husband, Ross Meriwether, opened D'Vine Wine in Granbury, Texas, about 45 miles south of Fort Worth. The winery is one of several franchises in Texas of the company, whose headquarters are in Toronto.

"I educate from behind the bar now," says Charlene, who earned a bachelor's degree in special/elementary education from UTSA in 1978 and a master's degree in education management in 1984. "We want our customers to learn and

have fun. I love to teach the customers the proper way to taste wine. And I've found that the best tip is to swirl the wine with the base of the glass sitting on the bar—that avoids spills."

Charlene taught in Texas classrooms for 17 years before becoming an administrator and consultant for school districts around the state. At the same time, Ross, who graduated from UTSA in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in business data systems, traveled the globe as a technology consultant for companies such as Mary Kay, Sony Entertainment and H-E-B.

"As we headed toward [age] 50, we wanted to slow down and have more control of our destiny," Charlene says. "We felt like we had the skills, we just needed to find a business that we enjoyed."

The Meriwethers, who married in 1976, purchased their franchise after visiting a D'Vine Wine in Fort Worth. Charlene says that "it wasn't a hard sale"—the couple always had a love and appreciation for wines.

"We have two partners, and the four of us purposely didn't hire any other employees so we could learn everything about the business. We scrubbed the floors, worked the bar, did our own producing, merchandising and decorating," she says. "Now we know that I prefer working the tasting bar and Ross likes the business and production part of it. Ross is a master vintner."

The Meriwethers' wines are produced using grape juice from vineyards throughout the world, anywhere from Italy to Argentina. The juice is then fermented, bottled and labeled at the Granbury store. The winery produces between 3,000 and 4,000 bottles a month in more than a dozen varietals, both whites and reds. Their best-selling bottle is a peach chardonnay.

"Our most popular red is Cowtown Red. Everyone from out of state wants the Cowtown Red," says Charlene, who has now hired several employees to help with production.

More than 50 percent of their customers are locals, and the remaining sales are to corporations, restaurants and tourists.

"Granbury is a small piece of Americana and it attracts a lot of tourists in the summer," Charlene says.

D'Vine Wine sits in an old town square. While Charlene and Ross renovated their store, they unearthed a red oak floor that was more than 100 years old. "That was enough to get people in the door once we opened," she says.

Since opening their doors in Granbury, the Meriwethers have opened a second location in Kemah, Texas, just northwest of Galveston, and hope to open more.

"We're having so much fun," Charlene says. "It's a way to have a wine-tasting room without the less romantic parts of wine making—crushing the grapes and working the vineyards."

— Lori Burling Alves







## Roberto Ramirez '97

Captain in the courtroom

Air Force Captain Roberto Ramirez knew since he was a child that he wanted to be a lawyer. The youngest of six boys in a family of migrant farm workers from northern Mexico, Ramirez grew up in Premont, Texas, just south of the King Ranch—and, he says, “only seven miles from the U.S.-Mexico inspection point.” He was the first child in his family who was allowed to attend an entire year of school. “My older brothers had to leave [school] in the spring to go pick fruit and vegetables, and they’d start late in the fall because the harvest wasn’t finished until then. So they really had a tough time with school.

“I really had a lot more opportunity, and I wanted to be in a position to help the people down there with the problems I saw there,” he says. “I wanted to be a champion of the little guy.”

Ramirez chose UTSA for its criminal justice program, and after graduating in 1997, went to Houston for law school. There, he clerked with a law firm that specialized in military and civilian criminal defense, and he realized that the military is full of people with the same kinds of life circumstances and limited opportunities as his friends and family in Premont. “As I’m working with this firm, I see a lot

of the same injustice that I saw back home,” he says. In 2000, Ramirez earned his juris doctorate, passed the bar exam and accepted a commission from the Air Force.

There are about 1,400 lawyers in the U.S. Air Force Judiciary, and in his first assignment at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Ramirez did “a little bit of everything,” but strengthened his resolve to be a defense lawyer. “The only time I was excited about being a lawyer was when I was inside the courtroom,” he says. After two years at Peterson, Ramirez got his wish. He was chosen to be a defense counsel and transferred to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. There, he represented personnel stationed on the island of Okinawa as well as in mainland Japan, South Korea, Guam, Singapore and Hawaii in a variety of cases, everything from DUI to tax fraud to aggravated rape.

While in Japan, Ramirez fulfilled another of his longtime dreams: completing a marathon. “I had this list of things I wanted to do before I turned 30 ... and running a marathon was on my list. I’d been putting it off and putting it off, because it’s far. It’s 26 miles!”

He ran his first marathon in Okinawa in 2004, and then a friend who had to drop out of the 2004 race talked him into running again in 2005. “At the end of the first race I swore I would never, ever do that again, because that’s just silly, running that far,” he says. “After the second time, I was beginning to enjoy it.”

After two years in Okinawa, Ramirez was reassigned to Randolph Air Base in San Antonio as a circuit prosecutor, one of only about 15 throughout the world. Now he travels among 11 states in the central circuit, from Texas to North Dakota, assisting 26 bases with their major criminal cases. As a circuit trial counsel, he also teaches criminal law and advocacy classes.

While he and his wife were happy for the opportunity to return to their home state, Ramirez still prefers defending to prosecuting.

“As a defense attorney, you’re actually dealing with the people, and in the Air Force, a lot of times it’s good people that just messed up somehow, and it makes you really, really want to help them,” he says. “There’s just something about having a client put everything in your hands to defend them.”

His return to the States also gave him the chance to compete in his first American marathon, in Houston this past January.

*Roberto Ramirez can be reached at roberto.ramirez@1stcounsel.com.*

— Rebecca Luther

**Paul Robert “Rob” Killen**, B.A. in political science, is an attorney and vice president for Kaufman & Associates Inc. in San Antonio. Rob is married to attorney Melissa Castro Killen.

**Karen White Lawhead**, B.B.A. in accounting, has been promoted to staff accountant for Tsakopoulos Brown Schott & Anchors in San Antonio.

**Christiana Perry Robinson**, B.S. in biology, received her M.A. in biology from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, where she is an adjunct professor. Christiana and her husband, Matthew, announce the birth of son Patrick Q. Robinson on March 24, 2005.

**Connie Stafford Sherman**, M.B.A. in business, is vice president for administrative services for Maricopa County Community College District in Phoenix, Ariz.

**Martha Trevino**, B.A. in communication, appeared on the Living Show with Leslie Bohl Jones in San Antonio to promote her new Web site: MyPetsNetwork.com. The Web site is a place where San Antonians can go to adopt or sell a pet, place an ad or post pet-related items for sale.

**98 Cynthia Evelyn Powers Lugo**, B.S. in civil engineering, M.S. in civil engineering '04, is a staff engineer at Chiang, Patel and Yerby Inc. in San Antonio.

**Anne Turner Meyer**, B.A. in psychology, has completed her Ph.D. in counseling psychology and is in a postdoctoral position at the Student Health Center at the University of Missouri.

**Brian Woods**, M.A. in education, has been chosen to be the new assistant superintendent for administration for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio.

**99 Eduardo Magaloni**, B.A. in political science, was named director of development and training at the Texas Association of Community Development Corporations in Austin. Eduardo is pursuing his master’s in public administration at the UTSA Downtown Campus.

**Russell Reyes**, B.B.A. in accounting and finance, is the owner of Pericos Restaurant in San Antonio. Menus and more information on Pericos can be found at [www.pericosgrill.com](http://www.pericosgrill.com).

**00 Jeffrey Leigh Bureman**, B.B.A. in general business, is an associate property and casualty underwriter for USAA in San Antonio. Jeffrey is pursuing an M.B.A. at Our Lady of the Lake University.

**Loretta Davies**, M.A. in counseling, is a professional nurse, counselor

and entrepreneur for Black Knight Resources in San Antonio.

**Sylvia De La Hoya**, B.B.A. in human resource management, is employed at C.H. Guenther & Son Inc. in San Antonio. Sylvia and her husband, Rich, announce the birth of daughter Angelica Danielle on Oct. 19, 2005.

**Claudia M. Carranza Garduño**, B.S. in kinesiology and health, and her husband, David, announce the birth of daughter Audrey Rae in July 2005.

**Mark A. Hester**, B.S. in electrical engineering, is chief electrical engineer at Alderson and Associates in San Antonio.

**Vinh Thiec Tu**, B.B.A. in management, is a life and annuity sales representative for USAA in San Antonio.

**01 Randall Baldwin**, B.A. in communication, married Julie Reasonover on Dec. 3, 2005.

**Gregory A. Dobie**, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, has been named to the advisory committee of the National Diversity Education Program at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy in Los Angeles.

**Shawna Stevens Guile**, B.A. in English, and her husband, John, reside in the state of Washington, where she is a stay-at-home mom with son James.

**Jennifer Barnett Holmquist**, B.A. in political science, and her husband, Kris, announce the birth of son Hayden on Oct. 11, 2005.

**Jose Lopez**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a security specialist with Initial Security in San Antonio.

**02 Jason S. Jinks**, B.A. in political science, is an insurance agent with Catto & Catto LLP in San Antonio. **Tunetha Wren**, B.S. in kinesiology and health, is pursuing her physical therapist certification. She is a personal trainer at Spectrum in San Antonio.

**03 Deyanira Campos**, B.B.A. in marketing and management, is a corporate relationship manager at Compass Bank in San Antonio. **Steve DaLuz**, B.F.A. in art, was awarded his first international award, the 1 Online Global Art Annual Real-Time honorable mention award for his piece "A Walk in Tikrit." The exhibit is an international juried art exhibition including 750 works by artists from 87 countries. Steve's work will also be represented by the Monticello Gallery in Fort Worth. **Sonia Grover**, B.A. in communication, is a project management/Web project engineer for Exxon Mobil in Houston.

## Shane Foley '02

A frat life

Shane Foley didn't get a corner office with a window after graduating from UTSA in 2002. But he did get his own room in fraternity houses across North America.

"When I say I work for a fraternity, people ask me if I'm teaching kids how to tap a keg," laughs Foley, who works for Lambda Chi Alpha's national headquarters in Indianapolis. "That's *not* what I do, but it is a fun job."

While at UTSA, Foley was involved in numerous student organizations, including the social Greek fraternity

Lambda Chi Alpha. Joining Lambda Chi as a college freshman, Shane served as president, vice president, treasurer and fraternity educator, but never imagined these experiences could lead to a career. As a senior, Foley was asked by Lambda Chi directors to work as a traveling consultant for a year—visiting chapters throughout the United States and Canada, acting as an adviser to students. In that year, Foley traveled for eight months, meeting fraternity brothers on 30 different campuses.

"I found it really rewarding. I met so many people and really felt like I was motivating these students," says Foley, who earned bachelor degrees in both criminal justice and political science. "I was really impressed by what these chapters were doing all over the country and I was a part of it."

Social Greek fraternities are corporations based on service and social ideas, Foley says. Not only is Greek life a way for college students to make lifelong friends and connections, but it is also a way to teach people at a young age to become involved in giving back to their communities. Each of the more than 100 social Greek fraternities and sororities across the country supports a local or national philanthropy. One of Lambda Chi's main focuses is food banks near each of its chapters.

"To give you an idea of what these students are doing," Foley says, "in the last year, the UTSA Lambda Chi chapter [collected] over 150,000 pounds of food for the San Antonio Food Bank. That amount put them in the top five of the 200 Lambda Chi chapters nationally and internationally."

After a year of traveling as a consultant, Foley was offered a job working at Lambda Chi headquarters as risk manager. Again, his position required traveling to different chapters, this time to discuss insurance and hazing policies. It also required disciplining chapters who broke Lambda Chi or university policies.

"I was really planning to go to law school but I had such a great time as a consultant, I decided to take a break from school and pursue this position. It was definitely the right decision," says Foley, who was a former Greek Man of the Year and Student Government Association president at UTSA.

Within a year, Foley was promoted to manager of field operations, a position in which he oversaw the traveling consultants. Later, he was appointed to his current position as associate director of business affairs, where he works in legal affairs and insurance.

"If someone brings a lawsuit against Lambda Chi, I'm the guy they talk to. If someone wants to use our letters, I'm the guy that makes sure the trademarks are being used properly," Foley says. "I spend more of my time in the office now, dealing with attorneys rather than students. I do miss that and the traveling. A highlight of this career was meeting so many different people."

Foley is currently working on his master's degree in public affairs with a concentration in criminal justice at Indiana University–Purdue University at Indianapolis, but says law school is still an option.

"At some point I would like to get back to Houston [his hometown], but for now, I like being a part of something so rewarding. It's worth the low pay and being away from home."

— Lori Burling Alves





**David Gueldner**, B.S. in multidisciplinary science, is a science teacher at Holmes High School in San Antonio. **Major Hayden**, B.S. in biology, is vice president of operations for XRamp Technologies Inc. in San Antonio.

**Ryan Henry**, B.S. in electrical engineering, is a wireless transport engineer at Alltel Communications in Little Rock, Ark. Ryan earned his M.A. in engineering management from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in May 2005.

**Paulina Hinojosa**, B.A. in communication, earned her M.A. in communication studies from Texas State University in December 2005 and is employed at USAA in San Antonio.

**Sonia M. Quirino**, B.A. in communication, is a news and information officer with Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

**Maria M. Ramirez**, M.S. in information technology, is an IT security analyst at USAA in San Antonio.

**Melissa Pipkin Thomas**, B.A. in communication, received her juris doctorate degree from the University of Texas School of Law, with a certificate in dispute resolution as a certified mediator, in December 2005. Melissa and her husband, Jonathan, were married Dec. 29, 2005. Melissa is program coordinator for Graduate Student Learning Assistance at the Tomás Rivera Center at UTSA. Jonathan is a software engineer.

**Alvaro J. Via**, B.B.A. in management,

is a member service representative at World Bank Federal Credit Union in Washington, D.C., where he lives with his wife, Cecilia, and daughter Nicolette.

**Daniel S. Villarreal**, M.A. in education, placed second in the male Katame No Kata Division of the Texas State Senior Judo Championships in February 2005 at the Hurst Recreation Center in Dallas.

**Jimmy Villarreal**, B.S. in kinesiology and health, is a physical education teacher and coach at Shekinah Radiance Academy in San Antonio.

**04 Angela Alvarado**, B.B.A. in accounting, is the controller at Documation in San Antonio.

**Matthew Berry**, B.B.A. in marketing, is a field engineer at M.A. Mortenson in Minneapolis.

**Julie Louise Trevino Flores**, B.S. in biology, and **Eloy Flores**, B.S. in biology '01, were married July 16, 2005.

**Morgan Garton**, B.S. in architecture, is a project designer in the Healthcare Studio of Marmon Mok LLP in San Antonio.

**Nicole Garcia Guillemette**, B.B.A. in management, is a manager with Sprint PCS in San Antonio.

**Anna M. Hernandez**, M.A. in education, is a part-time reading instructor at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio. Anna

was named to the Fall 2006 Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

**Ethel Arreola Kruse**, B.B.A. in management, is an associate adjuster I at USAA in San Antonio.

**Dominique Longoria**, B.B.A. in marketing, is a sales counselor at Ryland Homes in San Antonio.

**John Anthony Lugo II**, B.M. in music, is a team leader at Harcourt Assessment Inc. in San Antonio.

**Kelly Perez**, B.A. in English, is an executive assistant with Santikos Theatres in San Antonio.

**Brenda Gail Robbins Sanders**, B.B.A. in general business, is a financial service representative with First Investors Corporation in San Antonio. The firm's headquarters are on Wall Street in New York.

**Aaron C. Schol**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a seaman in the U.S. Coast Guard and graduated from the Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J.

**David N. Shaw**, B.S. in civil engineering, and his wife, Veronica, announce the birth of daughter Jessie Noreen on Feb. 23, 2005.

**Jennifer Glombik-Stoeckle**, B.A. in English, announces her marriage to Eric Stoeckle on March 13, 2006. Jennifer is a teacher with the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District and plans to attend St. Mary's University School of Law.

**Jaime Tamez**, B.S. in biology, is a regulatory affairs administrator

with U.S. Oncology Research Inc. in Dallas.

**Brandon Charles Teer**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a police officer with the Hondo, Texas, Police Department.

**Claudia Rubio Trevino**, B.F.A. in art, is self-employed as the director/curator of Studio for C-Art, an independent art studio in San Antonio.

**Stefanie Villalobos**, B.A. in communication, is a marketing consultant for Radio of Las Cruces in Las Cruces, N.M.

**05 Diego Jesus Peña**, M.A. in history, was elected director of the San Antonio Bar Association.

**Martin J. Schmid**, M.S. in management of technology, and his wife, Carrie, announce the birth of their first child, Jolie Miriam, on Dec. 26, 2005. Martin recently celebrated his one-year anniversary with Autodesk Consulting as an MEP (mechanical/electrical/plumbing) project consultant. Carrie is a genetics fellow at Harvard Medical School.

## 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

|   |                                  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Name (include maiden name)  | Degree/Class Year                |  |
| Spouse's Name (include maiden name)   | Degree/Class Year (if UTSA grad) |  |
| Home Address  |                                  |  |
| City, State and Zip Code  | Home Phone                       |  |
| Place of Employment   | Title                            |  |
| May we include your title and employer in Class Notes? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |                                  |  |
| Work Address  |                                  |  |
| City, State and Zip Code  |                                  |  |
| Work Phone  | Fax Number                       |  |
| Preferred E-mail Address (home or work)   |                                  |  |
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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.

## “There comes a time to give back for the welfare of your students.”

Mohammad “Mo” Jamshidi, who holds the Lutchter Brown Distinguished Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, joined the UTSA faculty in 2006.

During his first week on the UTSA campus, Jamshidi created the Mo Jamshidi Endowed Scholarship for graduate students pursuing an electrical engineering or computer engineering degree within the College of Engineering. The endowment will grow to \$12,000 over a five-year period. Jamshidi plans to increase the fund up to \$20,000 to \$25,000 and says giving a little bit of his monthly paycheck is the least he can do.

“Everyone should feel gratified if they’ve had a good career. You can’t take it with you; you have to give it back,” he says. “I hope this will be an activity that other members of the UTSA community will consider.”

And Jamshidi has worked hard for his good career. The professor has been published in more than 550 technical publications, including 55 books, and has been founding editor or editor-in-chief of six journals including Elsevier’s *International Journal of Computers and Electrical Engineering*. Over his 40-year career, Jamshidi has dedicated himself to helping students. He is the creator of the Autonomous Control Engineering Center (ACE), designed, in part, to increase the number of minorities earning advanced degrees in engineering. ACE was started while Jamshidi taught at the University of New Mexico, where more than 100 minority students earned their degrees through the program. He has since moved the center to UTSA.

“I chose to come to UTSA because of the challenge to become a premier research institution. I want to be part of the action. ... I want to raise the bar to uncharted territories.”

**As UTSA grows, generous gifts such as the endowed scholarship being established by faculty member Mo Jamshidi become even more important to the university and its students. To learn more about giving, contact UTSA’s Development Office at (210) 458-4131.**

#### ON THE WEB:

[www.utsa.edu/development](http://www.utsa.edu/development)







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## Looking back

### Senior Class

Trixy and Arthur Mathys exchange a glance and a smile during class in 1975. The couple were part of a group of 10 senior citizens who signed up for classes at UTSA in the fall of 1975, thanks to a new Texas law allowing residents 65 and older to audit classes at state universities free of charge. The Mathyses—who had been married 50 years but had never taken a class together—decided on an art history course, Renaissance to Modern Art.

Residents over 65 can still audit classes for free at UTSA. Auditors attend all class meetings and participate in discussions, but are excused from tests and assignments, as they receive no credit for taking the course.

In the 1975 issue of the UTSA Bulletin, Kenneth Ashworth, UTSA executive vice president, praised the first group of senior auditors, saying, “We all hope that in our later years we are physically vigorous. Why not mentally vigorous as well?”

UTSA is still attracting senior students. UTSA’s current student body of more than 27,000 includes 30 students who are 60 and older; of those, seven are 70 and older.

— *Andrea Archer*