

Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Winter 2006
Vol. 22, No. 1

FIVE TO WATCH

Five artists, five styles worth watching

Also in this issue:

Helping provisional
students make the grade

UTSA builds a new
campus hangout







WINTER 2006

Sombrilla

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Write back!

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

U.nited T.reasure S.eekers A.nonymous



The box held, at one time or another over the course of two years, myriad knickknacks: a car wash token, a glitter pen, a carabiner, trading cards, a Las Vegas keychain, a golf ball, a plastic frog, antiseptic wipes and bandages, a set of fake teeth, a Ford car alarm control, wooden nickels, a Pez dispenser and a two-piece metal puzzle.

In the spring of 2003, alumna and retired educator Jana Iannello climbed up Rattlesnake Hill behind the baseball and softball fields on the 1604 Campus and secreted a small plastic storage container in the hollow of a tree trunk. Then she went home and posted the location of the box on the Internet.

Iannello, who earned a master's in education from UTSA in 1975, is a geocacher. Going by the user name Cybercat, she has hidden more than 200 geocaches around south central Texas and has found more than 2,000 caches hidden around the world by fellow enthusiasts.

Geocaching is nothing more than a high-tech treasure hunt. GPS users download coordinates of caches from Web sites to their GPS units and then follow the virtual arrow to find the hidden treasures. Once they do, they usually sign a logbook, take an item from the cache, replace it with one they've brought, and, finally, log their find online.

It's not as easy as it sounds. John Collins, a junior electrical engineering student, got a little scratched up trying to navigate through the thick brush to find the U.nited T.reasure S.eekers A.nonymous cache (the name, Cybercat says, was a clue to the cache's location). Collins, who was living on campus at Chaparral Village, had gone geocaching a few times and invited a friend to go along with him. When his GPS unit showed that they were within 50 feet of the cache's coordinates, Collins told his friend to start looking. "Try to look for a cool place to hide something and it's probably in that spot." After 10 minutes of searching, they spotted the tree trunk and found the cache.

Keith Becvar concurs that the U.T.S.A. cache was not an easy find. Becvar is enrolled in the College of Sciences' GIS (geographic information science) certification program and was required to use GPS receivers to find and log geocaches when he took the graduate GPS mapping course last spring. He and a friend took along their kids when they went looking for the Rattlesnake Hill cache, and he says using a 6-year-old's point of view helped him find what they were looking for. "That gave me a better view around, and only then could I see potential hiding spots. Only one stood out: a tree stump with a hollow spot at the base"—and Becvar had logged another find.

Another student, sophomore James Stevens, who became familiar with GPS technology as a merchant marine and took up geocaching with his wife to spend more time outdoors, has taken half a dozen UTSA students to the cache. Every time he talked to a classmate who seemed interested in geocaching, Stevens offered to walk over to Rattlesnake Hill and help the newbie find that first cache.

But the last time Stevens went looking for the cache, he confirmed something he already suspected: the cache was gone. For that matter, the tree was gone, too, and so was the "aggressive vegetation" that many of the cache finders had noted in their online logs. This summer, the U.T.S.A. geocache was displaced—along with a chunk of Rattlesnake Hill—by construction on new recreational fields for the university. If the cache had been another 30 feet or so to the south, Stevens says, the bulldozers might have spared it.

Geocachers take such disappointments in stride. "As trees go down and fields and buildings go up, it gets harder to find hiding spots," Becvar said. But "as long as college campuses have some undeveloped areas, I think there will be a cache to find."

Iannello, likewise, is undeterred and, after hearing that her cache was gone, planned to come back to campus to find a new hiding spot. "I will be placing another one there somewhere," Cybercat said. "U.nited T.reasure S.eekers A.nonymous will return soon!"

—Rebecca Luther

Community outreach Early Childhood Center to serve San Antonio's West Side

UTSA has teamed with the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to level the playing field among preschool-age children.

The three groups have combined funding and expertise to build the Navarro Early Childhood Center, which will open January 2006 in downtown San Antonio. The early childhood center caters to San Antonio's West Side community, including families in public housing and the San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries shelter, teen parents in SAISD and UTSA Downtown Campus students with low to moderate income.

Built on the historic grounds of the SAISD's Navarro Academy, an alternative school with many teen mothers, the center can accept as many as 90 children and is free to those living in the school district.

"This center is for chronically underprivileged families," says Tamara Casso, a community education and research specialist at UTSA. "We're providing them the resources to learn more about engaging in literacy activities with their kids, learn more about owning their own homes."

Harriett Romo, an associate professor of sociology at UTSA, obtained a \$584,972 grant from HUD nearly three years ago to develop the project, which earned accolades from HUD as the top proposal in the nation. SAISD doubled the HUD grant with \$1 million in bond money and will retain day-to-day responsibility for running the center.

The collaborative effort will implement curricula based on the latest research findings in early childhood development and help develop plans for best assisting the West Side's largely Hispanic population. Meanwhile, the center will serve as a lab school where UTSA students studying early childhood education will observe classroom situations from the Downtown Campus through distance-learning technology. The group hopes to develop a doctoral program in early childhood education that will employ graduate students at the center.

A second component offers a community center with a reading laboratory for children with poor reading skills, parenting classes, and instruction on home ownership and small business development. Romo, who serves as the project coordinator for UTSA, hopes parents who come to the center with their children will

take more of an interest in all of the center's programs, strengthening each child's support system beyond the center's walls.

The community center offers presentations for parents on things such as the importance of education for them and their children, abuse, safety, saving money, budgeting, health, hygiene and nutrition, as well as fair housing practices.

The group hopes the combination of offerings strengthens the historically underserved community, offering quality education at no cost and promoting self-sufficiency, while respecting its patrons' roots.

"What's cool is that it's a bilingual early childhood program," says Casso. "It's culturally relevant to the population it serves. Their early educational experiences will be consistent with community values and norms."

— Leigh Anne Gullett

Early Childhood Center team from left to right: Manuelita Ruiz, SAISD; Carolyn Castillo, SAISD; Christy Granata, UTSA; Joseph Zatarain, SAISD; Mercy Reyes, SAISD; Margaret Freeman, SAISD; Maria Quezada, UTSA; Veronica Kraft, SAISD; Sophia Ortiz, UTSA; Tamara Casso, UTSA; Harriett Romo, UTSA.



Students from the College of Architecture submitted designs for the Early Childhood Center playground. Looking at one of the models are Monique Diaz and Sophia Ortiz.



First Edition

Recent faculty publications

WRITER'S BLOCK

Jewish immigrant Henry Roth led a secluded and tormented life full of secrets, incest and Communist Party involvement—much of it hinted at in an FBI file.

But the scandals aren't what convinced **Steven Kellman**, a professor of literature at UTSA since 1976, to pen Roth's only biography, *Redemption: The Life of Henry Roth* (W.W. Norton & Company, 2005).

"If nothing else," Kellman says, "he holds the record for the longest writer's block of any major figure in American literary history—60 years."

For the biography, Kellman researched the papers and diaries that Roth left behind in more than 80 cartons and interviewed people who knew Roth, including one of his two sons.

"I plunged into it. It's a fascinating story," said Kellman, who spent five years on the book. "The thing with a biography, you always have the feeling that it's never finished."

BUILDING POETRY

A writing job for an architectural firm in Chicago laid the foundation for **Catherine Kasper's** first published full-length collection of poems, *Field Stone* (Winnow Press, 2004).

manner, you know, from pieces of archaeological sites that you find and having to piece things together, to buildings and the way they are put together. It's all very fragmentary. There are lots of fragments in the poetry."

Field Stone is the winner of the Winnow Press First Book Award and is used as a tool in writing programs at the University of Houston, Eastern Michigan University and the University of Illinois–Chicago.

"I do quite a lot of research for my creative work, which may or may not be typical depending on the kind of work people do," Kasper said. "I believe that it takes serious, responsible research to do my creative work."



First published in 1934, Roth's *Call It Sleep*—now considered a major work of American Jewish fiction—tells the story of a Jewish family's immigration to New York through the eyes of a young boy. But book sales were poor in the midst of the Great Depression.

"Roth's publisher went out of business. Roth lost heart, gave up writing and moved to Maine," Kellman says. "The world lost track of *Call It Sleep* and Henry Roth."

But in 1964 *Call It Sleep* was reprinted after a book editor stumbled upon a copy in the New York Public Library. It received an astoundingly positive review on the front page of the *New York Times*—launching its fame in the literary world. Roth's second novel, *A Star Shines Over Mt. Morris Park*, wasn't published until 1994, a year before his death.

"I did that job for six years before working on my graduate degrees," says Kasper, who teaches creative writing and literature at UTSA. "It had a lot of influence in my research and writing."

Kasper earned her master's degree from the University of Illinois–Chicago and her Ph.D. from the University of Denver. It was her studies in Denver that inspired her to put pen to paper—writing most of the poems in *Field Stone* during her last year of graduate school.

Kasper said the overall connection between each poem is visual art—in both content and design. All of the poems dissect artistic issues related to archaeology and architecture.

She has "a preoccupation with art objects through time, and how we come to understand ourselves," Kasper says. "That knowledge is all presented to us in a fragmentary

TEXAS FACES

Phyllis McKenzie is putting a face on Texas. McKenzie, an education specialist for the Institute of Texan Cultures, is the author of *The Mexican Texans* (Texas A&M University Press, 2004)—the final book in a series, *The Texans All*. The set replaces earlier booklets published about the ethnic makeup of Texas.

"Over the years we have published more than a dozen ethnic pamphlets about different groups that came to Texas, such as the Mexican Texans, the French Texans, the Chinese Texans," McKenzie says. "Most of our pamphlets were printed a number of years ago—20 or more. There of course has been a lot of research and scholarship done since then."

This time, the focus was on the interaction between the different ethnic groups, resulting in five publications identifying distinctive cultures that influenced Texas—*The African Texans*, *The Asian Texans*, *The European Texans*, *The Indian Texans* and *The Mexican Texans*. *The Mexican Texans* includes stories of individuals throughout history and dozens of pictures from the ITC photo collection.

"The hope was that this series could be used in seventh-grade Texas history classes, but would also be appropriate for older students as well as adults as an introduction to the subject," McKenzie says.

The Texans All recently received the Texas Reference Source Award from the Reference Round Table Association for outstanding reference tool in Texas history.

—Lori Burling Alves

Snapshot, Texas

From the photographic archives of the Institute of Texan Cultures

BELGIAN BOY BAND

Several years ago some of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures staff visited San Antonio's Edgewood School District to assist in a mural project. Researchers were helping students explore their history by interviewing long-term residents of the area, once known as "Belgian Gardens" because many Belgian families farmed there. Photoarchivist Tom Shelton had selected photographs from the institute's collection to stir the memories of the elderly neighbors and inspire them to tell about places and people they'd known in their younger years.

Resident Yvonne Verstuyft immediately recognized one of the Belgian Gardens photographs, which had been labeled "The Bauwens Family Farm Band." She identified the men sitting on a tractor holding instruments as her father and uncles, and a stern-looking woman, hands on hips, as her grandmother.

Then Shelton asked, "Now, what was this band?"

"Oh, I'll tell you," Verstuyft said, pointing at things in the picture. "That instrument belonged to Jules DeWinne, but this fella came around to take photos, and ... They really weren't a band, they just wanted to ... for the picture!"

ITC has recaptioned the photograph "Bauwens Brothers pretend to play instruments they borrowed from Jules DeWinne, c. 1907."

They say you can't rewrite history. Perhaps that is true, but you can surely find out later that what you wrote the first time was wrong.

— Mary Grace Ketner

ITC Photo 72-702.

Courtesy Yvonne Verstuyft.



Now showing at ITC ...

**Animal Spirits and Warrior Kings:
Pre-Columbian Art from the
Mississippi Museum of Art
Through Feb. 5**

Exhibit Floor Gallery

Walk through time and discover ancient beliefs and rituals in stunning ceramics portraying colorful animal forms, the regalia of warrior kings, ballplayers, and intricate abstract designs that bring the creativity of pre-Columbian artisans to life. Exhibit includes programming and activities for children and families.

Bird-shape vessel
Late Nazca, Peru



Devidasa of Nurpur, Shiva and Parvati Playing Chaupar, 1694-1695; Collection The Metropolitan Museum of Art, gift of Dr. J.C. Burnett, 1957.

Asian Games: The Art of Contest

Feb. 3-March 10

Special Exhibit

Lower Gallery

Throughout history, people of all kinds have played games: kings and commoners, men and women, young and old. Using the paraphernalia of games and depictions of game-playing in paintings, prints and decorative arts, *Asian Games: The Art of Contest* explores the role of games as social and cultural activities in the diverse societies of pre-modern Asia. Highlighting the prominence of Asia as the source of many familiar games (e.g., chess, backgammon, Parcheesi, playing cards) and following their transmission to the West, this exhibition addresses important themes in Asian culture while illuminating new and unfamiliar aspects of our own culture.

A taste of New Orleans

UTSA opens its door to Katrina students

One October Sunday, little more than a month after Hurricane Katrina wiped out much of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a handful of students, faculty and staff chatted over shrimp creole and pralines at Jeanne Reesman's home.

In a scene resembling a post-funeral gathering, the former Louisiana residents mingled with plates of food in hand and the mournful strains of New Orleans soul playing in the background. Reesman, a North Louisiana native and UTSA English professor, hosted the party partly in homage to her home state's most famous city and partly as therapy for its still-grieving citizens.



Debates over which Big Easy bakery sold the best King Cake mixed with stories of lost homes, dual rent payments, insurance company battles and missing pets. The faculty and staff in Reesman's home were voluntary Texans, but the students represented a cross-section of the more than 60 displaced college students UTSA accepted from seven New Orleans universities and colleges shut down by the hurricane.

In the days immediately following the storm, schools across the nation began arranging to take in those forced to flee the Gulf Coast. Barely one week into the fall semester, UTSA announced it would reopen enrollment for students affected by Katrina. Admissions and financial aid counselors met with the students one-on-one to help take care of any issues or concerns.

Meanwhile, the university posted a hurricane relief Web site that detailed resources for evacuees, as well as opportunities for those wishing to get involved with the relief effort. The site also offered a message board for people to post their Katrina stories. Students, faculty and staff joined the relief efforts, volunteering their time and collecting money, food, clothes and school supplies.

Monique LaSalle, one of Reesman's party guests, had been a little more than a year shy of graduating from Southern University in New Orleans. Less than 24 hours before Katrina made land-fall in Buras, La., LaSalle packed up her 7-month-old twins and fled to San Antonio with her fiancé. That week she saw a news report announcing UTSA had reopened enrollment for hurricane-displaced students, and she enrolled the next day.

LaSalle expects it will be at least March before their East New Orleans home is livable again. They were able to return to New Orleans once to retrieve the three of their four pet dogs that survived the storm. LaSalle says she'll eventually rebuild her home in New Orleans.

Many of the displaced Tulane students at UTSA planned to return as early as January, as the university has mandated they return for the spring semester. Tulane also will temporarily admit Dillard University students during the spring.

Some students like Kelly Luna and Michaelah Van de Ruit, who both attended classes at the University of New Orleans, don't plan to return. Van de Ruit, an international student from Zimbabwe, was bowled over by the welcome she received at UTSA. She has been living at Chaparral Village, and says she met more people in a few weeks at UTSA than she had in an entire year at UNO.

Van de Ruit and Luna didn't know each other as UNO students, but met in a history class at UTSA. At Reesman's party the two found even more classmates with familiar stories. Like LaSalle, Luna found her refrigerator on top of her stove following the storm. Reesman planned the party for exactly this reason—to give UTSA's Katrina foster students a place to talk, to enjoy familiar food and to hear familiar accents.

"I wanted to keep some of that good, warm spirit alive," says Reesman, speaking of the good humor and resilience inherent in South Louisiana. "When you taste the food, you hear the music, I think it's reassuring."

— Leigh Anne Gullett



Guests enjoyed food and fellowship at a get-together for New Orleans students who enrolled at UTSA following Hurricane Katrina.

Gifts and gratitude

Dinner raises nearly \$2 million

UTSA's 2005 President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner raised a record \$1.9 million for scholarships and other academic programs.

More than 900 guests attended the dinner held Oct. 11 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. Richard S. Liu, an international businessman, and Mrs. John B. Connally, the former first lady of Texas, were honored for their commitment to higher education and UTSA.

Liu received the 2005 Tom C. Frost Award, a recognition awarded annually by the university to an outstanding citizen who has provided exceptional leadership to important business and community endeavors. Previous award winners are former Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe and Ed Whitacre Jr., chairman of the board and chief executive officer of AT&T Inc. (formerly SBC Communications).

"Richard Liu is an international leader in business who is responsible for creating some of the most productive and innovative educational partnerships between the U.S. and China, a global economic partner with our country," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

The Liu's Family Foundation U.S.-China Business Education Initiative at UTSA is a

program that has supported the exchange of more than 100 students and scholars with five partner universities in China.

Liu surprised the university with a gift of \$1 million, which will fund an endowed chair in the College of Business. The gift will complement the \$3 million given previously by Liu to the College of Business's international program.

Mrs. John B. Connally (Nellie) received the UTSA Gold Star Award, a recognition presented annually to an individual or organization that has forged extensive partnerships with the university and has supported UTSA's students and faculty in extraordinary ways. The only previous recipient of the Gold Star award is USAA and The USAA Foundation, a Charitable Trust.

The fundraising gala was hosted by UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Dr. Harriett Romo, and co-chaired by Kenny Wilson, president of Bank of America-San Antonio, and Jack Guenther, chairman of V.H. McNutt Memorial Foundation.

Top: Richard Liu and Jack Guenther
Bottom: Nellie Connally



Table talk

Great Conversation! set for Feb. 16

The 2006 Great Conversation! La Sobremesa will be held Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Great Conversation! is a signature UTSA event benefiting the Honors College. The event brings together prominent community leaders and UTSA faculty to host conversations on topics in politics, business, science, health and medicine, education, the arts, food, sports and religion. The event also increases public awareness about the important cultural and intellectual role that the university plays in San Antonio.

Almost 400 guests attended the fifth annual Great Conversation! in February 2005, which raised more than \$140,000 for scholarships.

The evening is arranged much like a dinner party with stimulating conversation as its focus. Tables are set to seat 10, and a different conversational topic is assigned to each table in advance. Each table has a leader, either a UTSA professor or a business or civic leader in the community, with special expertise on the topic.

This year's event will feature 58 table conversations, on topics as diverse as toll roads, no-limit Texas Hold'em poker, the 2006 Mexican presidential election, youth sports and travel writing. Table leaders include former Texas governor Dolph Briscoe, author Sandra Cisneros, San Antonio Archbishop Emeritus Patrick Flores, former Texas Parks and Wildlife commissioner Mark Watson Jr., marketing and political consultant Lionel Sosa, U.S. District Judge Royal Furgeson, *San Antonio Express-News* editor Robert Rivard '96 and many others.

Individual tickets are \$75 and include a buffet dinner; tickets are \$50 for recent alumni, 2000-2005. Table sponsorships begin at \$1,000.

Co-hosts for this year's event are Cristina and Eddie Aldrete, Tova Rubin and Robbie Greenblum, Debbie and John T. Montford, Andi and Rick Rodriguez, and Tracy and Nelson Wolff. Harriett and Ricardo Romo are honorary chairs. This year's presenting sponsors are Judy and Jim Adams, Andrea Hall '00 and Natalie Hall '00,

and Jean and Steven Lee. Andrea and Natalie Hall, who are graduates of the Honors College, recently endowed a \$10,000 Honors College scholarship in honor of their parents, Rev. Eddy and Mary Hall.

The UTSA Honors College was established in fall 2002. It offers an interdisciplinary four-year curriculum of special classes, supervised research and ongoing faculty advisement, designed to challenge qualified students to question, think and excel. Admission is competitive and based on GPA, ACT or SAT scores, an essay and recommendations. More than 600 students are enrolled in the Honors College.

For more information on Great Conversation!, contact Maxine Farrimond, Special Projects Office, at (210) 458-4129, or visit the event Web site at <http://www.utsa.edu/greatconversation/>. For information on the Honors College, go to <http://www.utsa.edu/honors/>.

¡Bravo!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

The **College of Engineering** was awarded the 2005 Presidential Award for Diversity from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for success in attracting and graduating minority students. In the 2002–2003 academic year, the college conferred 160 bachelor's degrees in engineering, of which nearly half were awarded to minority students; **Lynda Y. de la Viña**, dean of the UTSA College of Business, was named one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business* magazine in its October 2005 edition; Undergraduate engineering students **Jeanette DeLeon**, **Phillip Preston**, **Lee Ann Vargas** and **Alfred Vitela** were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Alamo chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers; Undergraduate **Steven Faulk** was awarded the Gilman International Scholarship and the Freeman-Asia Award to help fund his participation in a one-year study abroad program at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies in Japan. The Gilman International Scholarship was established by the International Academic Opportunity Act of 2000 and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Freeman-Asia Award is funded through the Freeman Foundation; **Jason Polendo**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was selected to participate in the NASA Harriett G. Jenkins Pre-doctoral Fellowship Program. Polendo is studying advanced manipulation of nonlinear dynamic systems; **Harriett Romo**, UTSA associate professor of sociology, was awarded the 2005 San Antonio ATHENA International Award at the 16th annual Enterprising Women's Conference hosted by the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Romo was recognized for her work in education and early childhood development, and for mentoring women; **UTSA employees** raised \$209,484 for United Way's State Employee Charitable Campaign. Fifty-five percent of employees participated in the month-long campaign; Communication student **Pablo Veliz's** film *La Tragedia de Macario* was accepted by the Sundance Film Festival in the Spectrum category for new independent filmmakers.

New leadership

College of Sciences names new dean

After a nationwide search, UTSA President Ricardo Romo has named George Perry, former professor of pathology and neurosciences at Case Western Reserve University, the new dean of the UTSA College of Sciences. Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the top 20 private research universities in the nation. Perry began his new role at UTSA in January 2006.

"Members of the UTSA community are delighted that Dr. Perry has agreed to serve in this very important role at the university as we move toward premier research university status," said Romo. "Dr. Perry brings to the College of Sciences a well established record of achievement as a scientist, researcher and administrator. He also understands the role that universities play in society, as centers of education and research, and as partners in economic development."

Perry has directed Case Western's Department of Pathology and 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 as a fellow by the American

Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society.

"I am honored to join efforts to move UTSA to major research university status," said Perry. "I have never seen such broad-based enthusiasm and commitment to increasing excellence



in scholarship and educational opportunities. I also look forward to embracing the San Antonio community in these goals and working to promote development in South Texas."

Perry received his doctoral degree in marine biology from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California at San Diego. He also served as a postdoctoral fellow in cell biology at Baylor College of Medicine and earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Perry replaces William Baker, a professor of chemistry who served as interim dean while the university conducted its search. Baker, whose career includes 22 years as an administrator and educator at the University of Texas at Arlington, recently had a chemistry building at UT Arlington renamed in his honor.

Over the past two years, the UTSA College of Sciences implemented five new programs including doctoral degree programs in physics and chemistry, a master's degree in applied mathematics and a bachelor's degree in environmental science. Since 2001, enrollment has increased by nearly 30 percent with more than 5,000 students enrolled in 24 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Campus construction BSE Building opens for spring semester

Dedication for the new Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building on the 1604 Campus is set for Feb. 10 at 10 a.m., marking the culmination of a two-and-a-half-year, \$83.7 million construction project. The 227,000-plus-square-foot facility is the largest building at UTSA and one of the largest research facilities in the UT System.

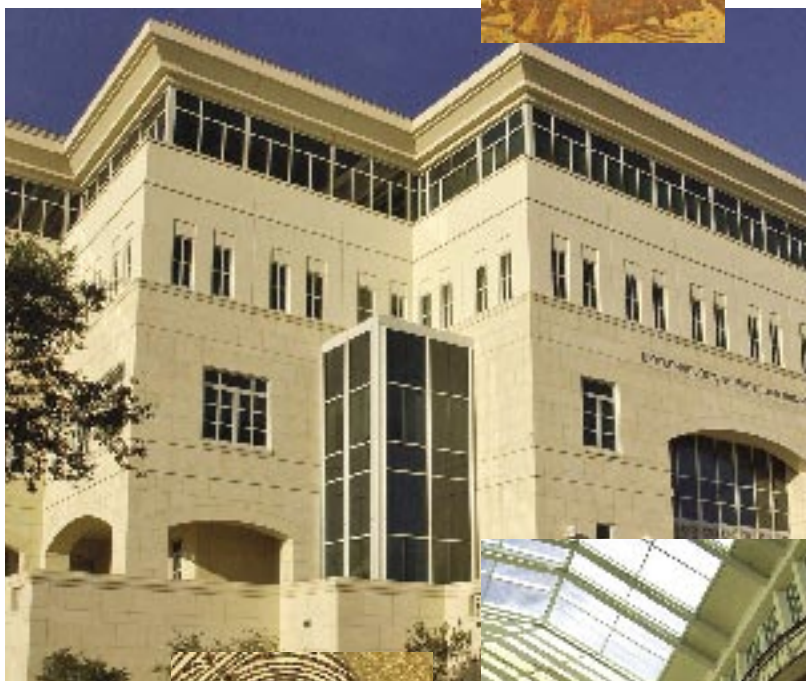
The five-story atrium building is designed to foster interdisciplinary research and collaboration among various science and engineering programs, including biotechnology, biology, biomedical engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering and chemistry. It was designed from the ground up to support the vision of a top-tier research university characterized by collaboration, innovation and openness to new ways of thinking.

The ground floor or sublevel of the BSE Building features engineering research labs. Departmental faculty offices occupy the first floor of the BSE. The second floor houses research laboratories with a multipurpose room and office suites for the College of Engineering and the College of Sciences. The third level houses biology research laboratories and a vivarium for small animals, and the fourth floor houses chemistry research laboratories.

The building design, which includes arched openings, modular windows, arcades and a galleria atrium, is compatible with the architectural style and character of other planned campus facilities. The facility is designed to accommodate future construction as well as the development of an upper level of paseos and courtyards surrounded by buildings that will form a science and engineering building complex.

The building was designed by FKP Architects of Houston and built by J.T. Vaughn Construction of San Antonio. Construction began in summer 2003.

The Texas Legislature approved \$23 million in funding and the UT System Board of Regents allocated \$54 million for the project. The remaining \$6.75 million was raised through gifts and grants, including a \$1.5 million grant from the Economic Development Administration, a \$1 million contribution from the City of San Antonio and a \$500,000 donation from AT&T Foundation.



Opening doors for COE students College of Engineering names interim dean

C. Mauli Agrawal has been named interim dean of the College of Engineering. Agrawal will continue to serve dual roles as director of the Joint Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program at UTSA and as professor of orthopedics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

"I appreciate the trust placed in me by the UTSA administration and COE faculty," said Agrawal, who holds the Peter Flawn Endowed Professorship in Biomedical Engineering at UTSA. "I will do



my best to provide strong and dynamic leadership for the COE as UTSA moves towards tier-one status, keeping in mind that both research and teaching are going to be important constituents of success."

One of Agrawal's goals for UTSA is to help industry in San Antonio grow by providing experienced faculty and equipment as resources for small, start-up companies with limited resources.

"We want to assist the local economy by contracting with both start-up and established companies and providing product testing and expertise from our engineering faculty," said Agrawal. "Additionally, our students will receive real world experience and the possibility of advancing in their careers through future internships and job openings."

Agrawal has authored more than 225 scientific publications and 17 patents and has been elected as the 2006 president of the U.S. Society for Biomaterials. He also is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering—an honor reserved for those representing the top two percent of the profession. In 1997, he co-founded Xilas Medical Inc., a San Antonio-based medical device company working in the area of diabetic foot problems.

Agrawal replaces Zorica Pantic-Tanner, who was named president of the Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, Mass.

— Kris Rodriguez

Technology improves reading skills

Mentoring teachers to make students better readers

If someone asked you to name the defenders of the Alamo, could you? If not, do you know how to find the answer? Most likely, you would turn to the Internet or the local library, cross-reference “The Alamo” with “people,” and scan the resulting text for an answer. Tasks such as this tiny bit of research seem simple to many of us, but can be overwhelming for a struggling reader.

The National Center for Education Statistics’ 2005 Nation’s Report Card rated 38 percent of the country’s fourth graders at “below basic” reading level and 33 percent at a “basic” level. Only 23 percent of the fourth-grade population earned a “proficient” rating and seven percent rated “advanced” status. The same study showed 56 percent of the Hispanic population fell behind with “below basic” reading skills compared to other fourth graders. Black students fared even worse with 59 percent “below basic.”

UTSA Assistant Professor Misty Sailors is leading a team of researchers working to improve reading instruction for children in grades 2-8. Sailors and her team received a \$1.26 million grant from the Institute of Education Science for a project focusing on working with classroom teachers in reading, science and social studies to help them teach children better reading skills.

The researchers selected teachers from Harlandale, Judson and Del Valle school districts for the program, specifically focusing on school districts that include a large number of minority families. A three-year project, the program divides the teachers into two groups with the researchers’ full attention going to each of the groups in alternate years. The third year of the grant focuses on working through the findings from the two years in classrooms. Teachers participating in the program receive both intensive mentoring and the traditional in-service workshops typically offered to teachers. A unique component of the program sends mentors into the classroom to work with teachers while the teachers are working with their students.

“The heart of it is mentoring,” says Sailors. “We want to be smarter about how students

learn to read so we do a better job with educating pre-service teachers.”

To aid teachers in the classroom, Lucretia Fraga, an educational specialist in UTSA’s interdisciplinary and learning instruction department, created WebQuests based on topics and TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) provided by the teachers. WebQuests, invented by San Diego State professor Bernie Dodge in 1995, are, according to Dodge’s paper on the subject, “an inquiry-oriented activity in which some or all of the information that learners interact with

and a role to play, they are divided into groups to work through the WebQuest, usually a four- or five-day process. In the hurricane WebQuest, students choose to be junior botanists or zoologists. Students are given several tasks to complete, all of which challenge their research and critical reading abilities. The tasks are followed by a process, which involves several steps the students must complete, followed by a conclusion to the story. Finally, there is a teacher page included with each WebQuest to give the instructor a step-by-step plan of what must be done to make the WebQuest successful.

“Generally, it’s the same [as a text book],” says Fraga. “You’re reading and you’re answering something, but it’s put in such a different and interesting way the students become engaged and want to do more.”

One WebQuest Fraga created for third graders piqued the students’ interest so much, the teacher finally had to force the class to move on to a new subject. The students were advancing past a third-grade level understanding of the material because the WebQuest hooked them enough to continue asking questions.

“There is tons and tons of research that shows kids are used to fast-paced, instant moving media,” says Fraga. “TV, video games ... they’re constantly inundated with this fast movement, and all of a sudden you have someone standing up there who’s talking to them very slowly and basically giving them what we call the ‘spray and pray’—you’re throwing all this information out there and hoping they get it.

“Kids are so much more involved and used to being interactive with whatever they’re doing. We have to meet their needs in the way they are used to being met.”

By bringing the WebQuests and mentors into more classrooms, the researchers expect not only to capture children’s interest, but to improve teacher practices and give all students a chance to develop critical thinking abilities and technological savvy.

“We’re making kids better readers and we’re equalizing education,” says Sailors. “We think. We hope. We try.”

— Leigh Anne Gullett



Illustration by Mark A. Rue

comes from resources on the Internet, optionally supplemented with videoconferencing.”

The WebQuests are divided into seven parts, beginning with a scenario, fact or fiction, which draws the students into a story. For example, a second grade WebQuest Fraga created focuses on identifying living/nonliving things and plants/animals. The WebQuest explains in basic terms the effect Hurricane Katrina had on Louisiana’s wetlands. The quest claims many new, mysterious plants and animals have been uncovered by the hurricane and scientists need help identifying the new plants and animals. In order to help the scientists in Louisiana, the students must first learn how to discriminate between living and nonliving things, as well as know the difference between plants and animals. Once they master these skills, the students will be certified “junior scientists” and can help the scientists in Louisiana.

Once the students have a storyline to follow

Which broker is best?



Ron Rutherford, the Elmo J. Burke Jr. Endowed Chair in Building/Development in the College of Business, has completed preliminary research that found that homeowners fare better listing their homes with a limited-service broker as opposed to a full-commission broker. His findings were published in the July 2005 issue of *Money* magazine.

Analyzing 55,000 home sales in the Dallas-Forth Worth area in 2002, he discovered that houses listed by limited-service brokers sold for 1.7 percent less than similar properties listed by traditional brokers, and the homes stayed 14 days longer on the market.

While the houses ultimately sold for less, the home-

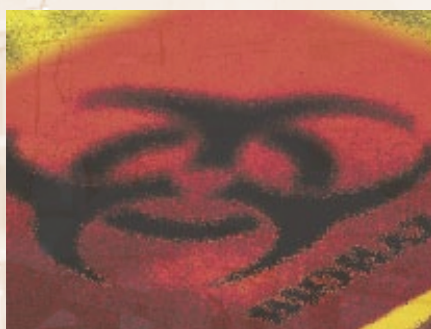
owners came out ahead because they paid less in real estate commissions.

Rutherford attributes the differences to either less effort by the limited-service broker or boycotting by traditional brokers of these types of properties. "Since the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission are determined to increase competition in the real estate arena, I believe that we will see an increase in limited-service brokers in the future, even though the percentage of listings currently is small," said Rutherford, who is currently studying the impact of range pricing on home market transaction prices.

— Wendy Frost

Researchers focus on biodefense, infectious diseases

In 2005, UTSA faculty researchers Karl Klose, Bernard Arulanandam and Judy Teale, along with Michael Berton of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, were awarded a total of \$8 million in grant funding to identify and create a vaccine to combat tularemia. A potential bio-weapon when aerosolized, tularemia is caused primarily by bites or scratches from rabbits, rodents and hares; it is considered to be a life-threatening bioterrorism agent by the Centers for Disease Control. The funding includes a multi-investigator program grant from the National Institutes of Health, the first in the university's 36-year history.



In September, Klose was chosen to head the new South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, which comprises 15 UTSA faculty members in the study of infectious diseases. The center focuses on assembled research laboratories in the critical area of human health research. Among the diseases to be researched are anthrax, cholera, Lyme disease, desert valley

fever and other parasitic and fungal diseases affecting humans. The new center includes faculty members Jilauni Chaudry, Thomas Forsthuber, Garry Cole, Jose Lopez-Ribot, Floyd Wormley, Tao Wei, Yufeng Wang, Neal Guentzel, James Chambers, Janakiram

Seshu, Hans Heidner and Garry Sunter, along with Klose, Arulanandam and Teale.

A key component in the center is the new \$10.6 million Margaret Batts Tobin Laboratory Building, located on West Campus. The 22,000 square-foot

facility houses a biosafety level three (BSL-3) laboratory and is designed and equipped to accommodate a team of researchers. UTSA faculty and graduate students working in the secure, access-controlled facility are required to have CDC certification and government security personnel clearances. The new BSL-3 laboratory complements a smaller, similar facility that opened in 2004.

— Kris Rodriguez

Helping Hispanic farmers

The UTSA Culture and Policy Institute's Hispanic Leadership Program in Agriculture and Natural Resources (HLPANR) has received \$510,682 for its fourth year of funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service.

The three-year-old leadership program aims to develop leaders in food and agricultural sciences to work on issues of concern to Hispanic American communities. The program is co-directed by Raymond Garza, UTSA professor of psychology; Ruben Martinez, UTSA professor of public administration; and Manuel Pina, Texas A&M University assistant vice chancellor for agricultural education.



The grant can support as many as 25 research fellows pursuing master's and doctoral degrees from various disciplines. Students in the program work on research in agriculture and advance knowledge relating to environment, health and community issues.

Professional leadership development activities also are funded to prepare people for research leadership roles relating to Hispanic American issues in food and agricultural sciences. Agricultural and natural resources research involves such issues as water policy, agricultural policy, federal loans, farm insurance, the effects of NAFTA and CAFTA, and developing the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

— Kareem El Dabah

By Rick Nixon

25 Events that Shaped UTSA Athletics

The sports programs grow by leaps and bounds.

THE YEAR WAS 1981.

Ronald Reagan took oath as the 40th president of the United States. The Boston Celtics won the NBA title and the Los Angeles Dodgers were No. 1 in Major League Baseball. MTV was launched, and a young Harrison Ford starred as Indiana Jones in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

It was also the year that UTSA Athletics was born. Christened the Roadrunners after that name won by a scant margin over the Armadillos in a student election, UTSA fielded teams in men's and women's basketball, cross country, and track and field that first year.

Twenty-five years later, UTSA has 16 sports teams competing in the Southland Conference (SLC), and many Roadrunners have reached significant landmarks. In keeping with the Silver Anniversary celebration of the UTSA Athletic Department, here's a look at the 25 events that have helped shape UTSA Athletics.

UTSA Athletics is born. In 1981 UTSA began its athletics program, competing as an NCAA Division I affiliate. "Participation in intercollegiate athletics gives the university and the San Antonio community an interest which complements UTSA's academic programs," said then-President James W. Wagener. Rudy Davalos was hired as athletic director.



Sharon Wilson (1985–1989) ranks as UTSA's No. 7 all-time scorer with 1,172 points.

Women compete in basketball. In 1981, women's basketball opened its inaugural season with a resounding 89-69 win over Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos on Nov. 23. Margaret Martinovich, who still holds numerous UTSA records, led the Roadrunners with 25 points and 12 rebounds.

Men's basketball takes the court. The men's basketball team played its first game against the Arkansas Razorbacks on Nov. 30, 1981, at the downtown HemisFair Arena. Mike Pickens led the Roadrunners, coached by Don Eddy, with 10 points, but the team lost 71-42.

First UTSA player earns All-American. Starlite Williams, who also ranks as the No. 1 all-time scorer in basketball, earned the honor at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the triple jump in 1985.

Men's basketball heads to March Madness. UTSA competed in March Madness for the first time in 1988, earning a first-round matchup with Illinois at the Riverfront Coliseum in Cincinnati. The Fighting Illini scored a hard-fought 81-72 win over the Roadrunners.

Women's cross country/track and field earns triple crown. From the 1991 cross country season through the 1994 outdoor track and field season,

UTSA reigned supreme in the SLC—winning nine straight championships in cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field.

Relay team earns All-American honors.

In 1992, the 4x400-meter relay team of Tammy Booker, Portia Matthews, Rosalyn King and Lisa Addison blazed around the track with a time of 3:42.05 to earn All-American honors at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Austin.

Leslie Dodson plays at Olympic Festival.

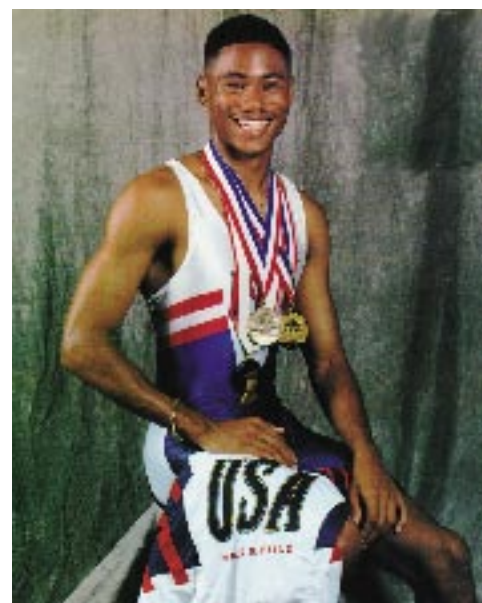
A former volleyball SLC Player of the Year, Dodson received the honor of playing for the South team at the 1993 Olympic Festival held at the Convocation Center.

Baseball's 1994 season of magic. Established in 1992, UTSA baseball played and practiced its first season at Boerne High School while a field was being built on the 1604 Campus. Three seasons later, the Roadrunners claimed the SLC championship with three consecutive wins at the SLC Tournament, including a 7-6 win over host Northwestern State.

No. 12 Arizona State falls. In one of the biggest upsets ever recorded by a UTSA team, the 1994-95 Roadrunners scored an 87-85 overtime win over the nationally ranked Sun Devils in Tempe, Ariz. Phil Chime's driving 12-foot bank shot with 12 seconds to play sealed UTSA's victory.

Tameka Roberts and Leonard Byrd go national in track and field. From 1994 through 1997, Roberts claimed seven NCAA All-American honors, while Byrd bagged three. Both competed at the 1996 U.S.

Leonard Byrd was a seven-time All-American in track and field.





Devin Brown is UTSA's all-time leading scorer in men's basketball with 1,922 points.

Olympic Trials in Atlanta, with Roberts as the only competitor to compete in three different events—the 100- and 200-meter running events and the long jump.

Women's cross country hits the big time.

The 1996 women's cross country team qualified for the NCAA Championships by winning the district championship for the only time in school history. "I've waited 16 years to do this," said coach Shawn Flanagan. UTSA finished 19th at the championships.

Men's cross country follows suit a year later.

UTSA has claimed seven men's cross country conference championships, with none more special than the 1997 season. UTSA



Tamara Luckemeyer helped the volleyball team to its only NCAA Tournament appearance in 2000.

advanced to the NCAA Cross Country Championships for the first and only time as a team. The Roadrunners, behind SLC Athlete of the Year Ryan Taylor, finished 20th at the championship meet

Magnus Dohlvik tees off with NCAA.

UTSA hosted the 1998 NCAA Golf Central Regional played at the Oak Hills Country Club. Dohlvik qualified for the field and ended 75th with a three-day total of 223.

UTSA hosts 1998 Final Four. UTSA began a history of hosting NCAA championship

events by hosting the 1997 Midwest Regional Men's Basketball Championship, followed by the 1998 Men's Final Four at the Alamodome. The university has gone on to host a total of three Final Fours and three Regionals.

Men's basketball's 1999 NCAA Tournament.

UTSA lost the regular season championship on the final day of the season to Southwest Texas State before a standing room-only crowd at the Convocation Center. But they won the title with an ironic twist—beating Southwest Texas in the SLC Tournament final 71-63. UTSA lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament to eventual national champion Connecticut.

Volleyball's 2000 NCAA Tourney quest.

With Head Coach Katrinka Jo Crawford losing a battle with cancer, the volleyball team pushed even harder to win 24 matches—claiming its first SLC Tournament championship and sole NCAA Tournament appearance behind the play of two-time conference Player of the Year Tamara Luckemeyer.

Men's track and field wins conference title.

After years of coming close, UTSA men's track claimed the 2001 SLC Outdoor Track and Field Championship held in Arlington, Texas.

Devin Brown sets UTSA scoring record.

A men's basketball scoring record of 1,691 points set by Derrick Gervin stood for 17 years before San Antonio's own Devin Brown broke the mark against Texas-Arlington on Jan. 24, 2002. Brown, who now plays in the NBA with the Utah Jazz, ended his career at UTSA with 1,922 points.

2002's fight to the finish. Men's tennis enjoyed their best season to date in the spring of 2002, advancing to the NCAA Championships for the first and only time in school history. After a 6-0 regular season championship run, the men won the SLC Tournament title by defeating Texas-Arlington 4-3 in the championship match played at the UTSA Tennis Center. With the match tied at three each, senior Justin Work clinched the title with a singles victory.

Women's tennis goes to the NCAA.

Finishing second during the 2002 regular season didn't stop UTSA's women in the SLC Tournament, as the Roadrunners rode the strong play of senior Svenja Fuhrig to win the title with a 4-1 win over Texas-Arlington.

Women's basketball wins championship.

In 2003, Rae Rippetoe-Blair's Roadrunners made history by winning their first and only SLC regular season championship—after the team lost its first eight games of the season. UTSA rallied to win 18 games, finishing with a 17-3 conference record.

UTSA heads to March Madness again.

On March 12, 2004—during a nationally televised game on ESPN—UTSA beat Stephen F. Austin 74-70 in the SLC



The softball team celebrates its 2004 championship season.

Tournament championship game, propelling them to their third NCAA Tournament appearance. Senior LeRoy "Duke" Hurd led UTSA with 23 points and was named Tournament Most Valuable Player.

Softball wins it all in 2004. After coming close to winning the SLC championship numerous times, the UTSA softball team broke through in 2004 as the team won both the regular season and tournament championships. Behind standouts Christy Brownlee and Jessica Rogers, the Roadrunners led the nation in home runs and set an NCAA record with 10 home runs in one game.

Baseball's unlikely road to the NCAA.

After starting the season 0-11, no one could have predicted that UTSA would come back to claim the SLC Tournament title and earn a spot at the 2005 NCAA Tournament—but that is exactly what happened. UTSA cruised to the title at the SLC Tournament in Natchitoches, La.

Rick Nixon, former assistant athletic director for media relations, now is associate director of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.



MAKING THE GRADE

UNIVERSITY MAKES EXTRA EFFORT TO HELP PROVISIONAL STUDENTS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL

By Rebecca Luther

On the first test he took in college, Michael McNeil got a D. And it was a low D, at that, he emphasizes. “Pretty much flunked it, I guess you could say.”

It was a history class, and McNeil had had trouble keeping up with the professor’s classroom lectures. “He was a good professor. It’s just that he talked really, really fast and he didn’t write anything on the board. I remember the first day of class; he walked in, wrote his name on the board, and just started lecturing. I was like, ‘What’s this?’ You know, the first day is normally the easy day,” he says. “He started lecturing and I couldn’t keep up. It was horrible, and I was stressed out.”

McNeil says he had made good grades in high school but initially had trouble making the transition to college. Because he had been admitted to UTSA in the summer of 1998 as a provisional student due to his low SAT and ACT scores, he was required to take EDP 1703, College Success Seminar. The course teaches study skills and other strategies to help participants do well in college. McNeil talked to his EDP instructor about the D on his history test and together they came up with a plan for passing history. “I took a tape recorder to class and I just listened to the entire lecture; I didn’t try to write anything down,” he says. “Then immediately after class, I went and played the tape back and I took notes off the tape.”

McNeil’s EDP instructor also introduced him to the Supplemental Instruction leader for history. UTSA offers Supplementation Instruction, more commonly referred to as SI, for historically difficult freshman-level courses. SI is taught by students who’ve already passed the class.

Between attending SI sessions regularly and recording the class lectures, McNeil ended up with a B in history. He graduated from UTSA with a degree in communications with a concentration in electronic media in 2004 after taking a year off to go to technical school to study recording

industry practices. He now lives in New Jersey and works for the NBA’s entertainment division, editing feed from arenas for live game broadcasts. “They pay me to watch basketball,” he says, calling from his cell phone during his late afternoon lunch break. “I can’t get over that.”

Helping provisional students succeed in college has become an even greater priority for UTSA as the university works to manage an enrollment that has ballooned since Michael McNeil came to UTSA. When McNeil registered in 1998, the university’s enrollment was around 18,000 and had grown by only a few thousand since 1990. By fall 2005, enrollment had grown to 27,291, making it the second-largest institution in the University of Texas System, behind UT Austin. UTSA’s growing enrollment is a sure reflection of the university’s commitment to the State of Texas’ Closing the Gaps campaign, which seeks to increase enrollment in Texas colleges and universities and to provide access to students who may not otherwise pursue higher education.

In Texas, where bigger is better, UTSA’s ever-growing enrollment is a point of pride for the university. But administrators acknowledge that it’s also cause for some concern. “We’re excited that UTSA is increasingly becoming the first choice for students,” says Rosalie Ambrosino, vice president for student affairs and interim provost and executive vice president for UTSA. “But, then again, you want to have the students who come here be successful. If we have so many students that we can’t meet their needs, we’re not helping them and we’re not helping us, either.”

So, while UTSA is committed to being a university of access, Ambrosino says, that access has to be coupled with support for students who aren’t as well prepared for college.

MANAGING ENROLLMENT

While college admissions officers in some states with static population growth are fighting for students to keep their enrollments up, the opposite is true in Texas. As the state experiences booming population growth, the UT System is working to meet a growing demand from students.

"The challenges that we have are not how are we going to get enough students," says George Norton, assistant vice president for admissions. "The challenges we have are how are we going to streamline our processes enough and make our system work well enough so that we can actually serve all the people who are wanting to come here."

This fall, Norton got a question from a student he never imagined he'd hear. He received an e-mail from a high school student who's in the top 10 percent of his class. "Is it going to be hard for me to get into UTSA?" the student asked. Norton's answer was a simple one: If you meet our criteria and apply by deadline, you're in.

While UTSA has not capped and does not plan to cap its enrollment, the university did make a couple of changes in its admissions policies this academic year in an effort to manage its rising enrollment.

In accordance with UTSA's mission of access, all students who meet the university's published admission criteria and application deadline are offered regular admission to the university, "without exception," Norton says. "We have admitted and will admit every single person who meets the admissions criteria. ... That will continue to be the case next semester and every semester in the future."

While UTSA has not capped and does not plan to cap its enrollment, the university did make a couple of changes in its admissions policies this academic year in an effort to manage its rising enrollment. Norton says those changes do not affect students who are admitted regularly to the university, only those students who are admitted provisionally or deferred. First, in years past provisional students were admitted to UTSA on a first-come, first-served basis. But beginning with the fall 2005 semester, provisional admission was offered only to the most highly qualified of those students who fell below the admissions criteria.

Second, students who were not offered regular or provisional admission used to be deferred until the spring; that is, any student who was denied admission for the fall was offered admission for the spring semester. This year, Norton says, students who were not offered regular or provisional admission were deferred until they have 30 college credit hours to transfer back to UTSA. The university already has in place transfer articulation agreements with many community colleges in the state, and Norton wants to work with local community colleges to establish a coordinated admissions program for students deferred from UTSA.

"For the students who were deferred, I want to provide a clearly defined pathway back to UTSA, because UTSA does want them back as transfer students," Norton says.

Ambrosino agrees that community college often is the better choice for students who don't meet UTSA criteria because they'll get more support and the kind of college preparation they may not have gotten in high school. "Our community college students do really well once they get here," she says. "For many students, from a funding standpoint, going to a community college for two years often is less expensive for them and they would prefer to do that. Some students want the four-year college experience. So we're trying to look at multiple models, multiple paths—there are many paths to get a college degree."

SUCCESS STORY

Krystal Robinson never questioned whether or not she was college material. She made mostly B's in high school, with a few C's in her weaker

subjects, science and math. Her mother had gone to nursing school, her brother had graduated from UT Austin, and it simply was understood that Krystal would go to college, too. But low SAT and ACT scores put a kink in her plan. When Krystal, who graduated from Johnston High School in Austin, didn't get accepted into her first-choice school, Texas State University–San Marcos, she turned down offers for regular admission to two other schools—one in Texas and one out of state—to accept provisional admission to her second choice. Krystal had visited UTSA and liked the campus and the fact that it wasn't far from Austin. "I felt comfortable here," she says. "I knew that if Texas State said no that I wanted to come here, and I wouldn't have been able to if it hadn't been for the provisional program."

Krystal was one of a pilot group of 80 students who were admitted to the Academic Development Program (ADP) for the fall 2003 semester, the first time provisional students had been offered fall admission. The

program, which is operated by the university's Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success, has been around since 1996 but has changed in 10 years, says Cynthia Rodriguez, ADP associate director. ADP began as a summer program; ADP students were required to start school in July and complete an intensive summer program, including taking the College Success Seminar, before they could enroll for the fall semester.

But having ADP in the summer was problematic, Rodriguez says, because it was at the end of the fiscal year, which made it difficult for new students to get financial aid. So in 2003 the university asked the UT System for permission to admit provisional students in the fall semester and move the program to fall. For that first fall semester in 2003, Rodriguez said they wanted to start with a small group, 80 students, and they recruited the best of the provisional students for the program, including Krystal Robinson.

ADP students are required to complete 24 credit hours at UTSA with a minimum 2.0 GPA. They also meet with their TRC advisers on a monthly basis, and they must enroll in EDP 1703, College Success Seminar.

Even though she had been a pretty good student in high school, Krystal was very open to the ADP experience, particularly the College Success Seminar. "I figured, if I'm in this class, there's a reason why I need to be here. If there wasn't, I wouldn't even be in this program; I would be a regular freshman registering for whatever classes I wanted to take," she says. "So I knew there was something I needed to work on."

The course covers study strategies and test-taking skills and even time management. TRC adviser Sherry Castillo, who taught one of the more than 20 EDP sections this fall, makes her students complete a schedule to show when they go to class, when they study, when they eat, when they sleep and when they play. She takes her provisional students on tours of the library and even Student Health Services.

"We've found that students will go here for years never knowing that they can see a doctor at no charge," she says. "A lot of times they're just not aware of all the resources that are available to them. ... So we really try to provide that support and to show them where they can go for help—not just tell them where to go for help, but actually take them there and introduce them to people to try to help them make those connections."

Krystal Robinson says learning about resources available to all students made her freshman year a relatively easy one, but more important, the skills she learned in class helped her put her old study habits behind

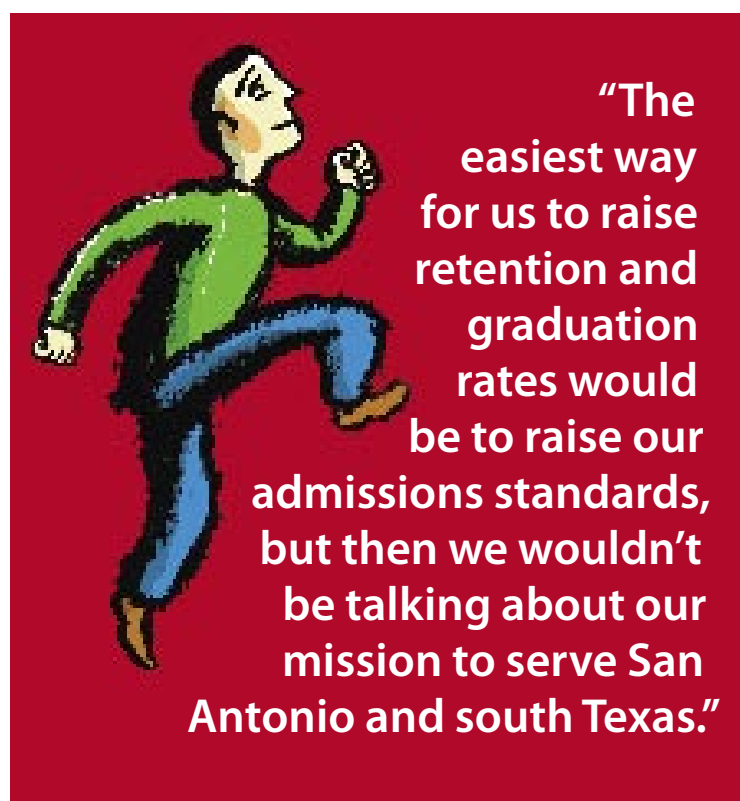
her. The class, she says, helped her with core curriculum courses but also courses for her major, psychology. "Being in the College Success Seminar prepared me not only to take those cores classes like history, but also something like abnormal psychology."

In addition to having their TRC adviser and EDP instructor to lean on, students in the College Success Seminar are also paired with a student mentor, often a graduate counseling student. Mentors meet with ADP students weekly to check on their progress.

"That was really helpful," Krystal says. "They even check your planner to see if you've been writing down assignments."

FINE TUNING

Krystal made it through her first semester in college with a 3.6 GPA. Now a junior, she works as a peer mentor in the university's Learning Communities program and is a UTSA Ambassador.



"In my EDP class, I just saw her excel. She was the best student I had in my class," Cynthia Rodriguez says of Krystal. "Those are the ones that tend to do well because they really want it, they really strive to achieve."

Associate Professor Michael Miller agrees that motivation is a key factor in whether a provisional student will make the grade or not. Miller, who teaches a number of provisional students in his introductory sociology class, says that a lot of freshmen—provisional and good-standing students—aren't adequately prepared for tough college courses such as his. "The ones who are not motivated are, from the beginning, pretty much doomed," he says. "The motivated students tend to do poorly at first, then somewhere along in the semester realize if they want to stay in college and succeed, they've got to straighten out, they've got to dig deeper."

As it turns out, Rodriguez says, a lot of the 80 ADP students who started at UTSA in the fall 2003 semester did stay in college.

"At the end of that year, our retention rate ended up being 67.5 percent, while the historical retention rate for provisional students is 29, so it blew everything out of the water," Rodriguez says. "With 67.5 percent, we surpassed the retention rate of the good-standing students."

Following on the success of the inaugural fall semester ADP in

2003, the university opened up ADP to 500 students for the fall 2004 semester, and all provisional students were required to participate in the program. But, because provisional students were still being admitted on a first-come, first-served basis rather than being ranked, Rodriguez says, "We saw a huge dip as far as their academic ability in the classroom. I'm a firm believer that everybody should have a chance, but there were students in the classroom who probably should not have been given admission. ... There's a group of students we will never reach because cognitively they are just not ready for college. Honestly we're doing them a disservice by taking their tuition money and expecting them to do well in the classroom."

The retention rate of the fall 2004 semester ADP cohort dipped to 58 percent. The fact that the fall 2004 ADP students did not perform as well as those of the previous year prompted the change this academic year to offer provisional admission to the best-qualified students. That will allow the advisers, instructors and mentors in the ADP to focus their efforts on the students who are most likely to do well in the program, Rodriguez says.

"It's good for us as far as being able to reach the students who can be helped," she says. "It's that whole middle group of provisional students that, through our assistance and our support, we actually are able to make a huge impact on."

Student Affairs VP Rosalie Ambrosino agrees that the policy change was important to allow UTSA to leverage its resources to take as many provisional students as it can properly support.

"This is our dilemma," she says. "We are considered by many in the state the poster child for Closing the Gaps. We've got great diversity. We're known for our access. ... But if we don't have all the resources in the world—which we don't—and if we have the highest space deficit—which we do—then if we are going to admit students, we want them to be successful. We don't want a revolving door."

FUTURE PERFECT

Ambrosino and George Norton of Admissions both say that there may come a time when the university does raise its admissions standards as a way to manage enrollment but that there are no current plans to do that. "If we raise the admissions criteria then we will probably always keep some kind of strong provisional program and maybe do more provisional programs," Ambrosino says. "The easiest way for us to raise retention and graduation rates would be to raise our admissions standards, but then we wouldn't be talking about our mission to serve San Antonio and south Texas. ... We don't want to raise our admissions standards so that we're leaving out huge numbers of students. The students that we serve are important to us."

So the university is looking at multiple ways to improve the retention and graduation rates of all of its students, Ambrosino says. The university is hiring more advisers and requiring the colleges to plan course schedules three years in advance so that advisers can help students come up with long-range degree plans. Ambrosino is adding more second-shift positions in Student Affairs offices to be able to offer evening and weekend services to students. The SI program is being expanded to offer not just supplemental instruction for core curriculum courses but for gateway courses for the academic majors, such as accounting, microbiology and organic chemistry. And Ambrosino wants to do more curriculum alignment with high schools to be able to give direct feedback to the schools about how their graduates are doing in particular subjects once they get to college. And the list goes on, Ambrosino says.

"If we had a perfect system today, in four years, that would be the first time that we'd really see an increase in our graduation rates. So whatever we do now is really important for the future." ★



UTSA has been adding classroom and residential space to keep pace with its growing enrollment. Now the university is starting a new construction project—building a better place for students to

HANG OUT.

FEATHERING THE NEST

BY LAURIE A. KAISER



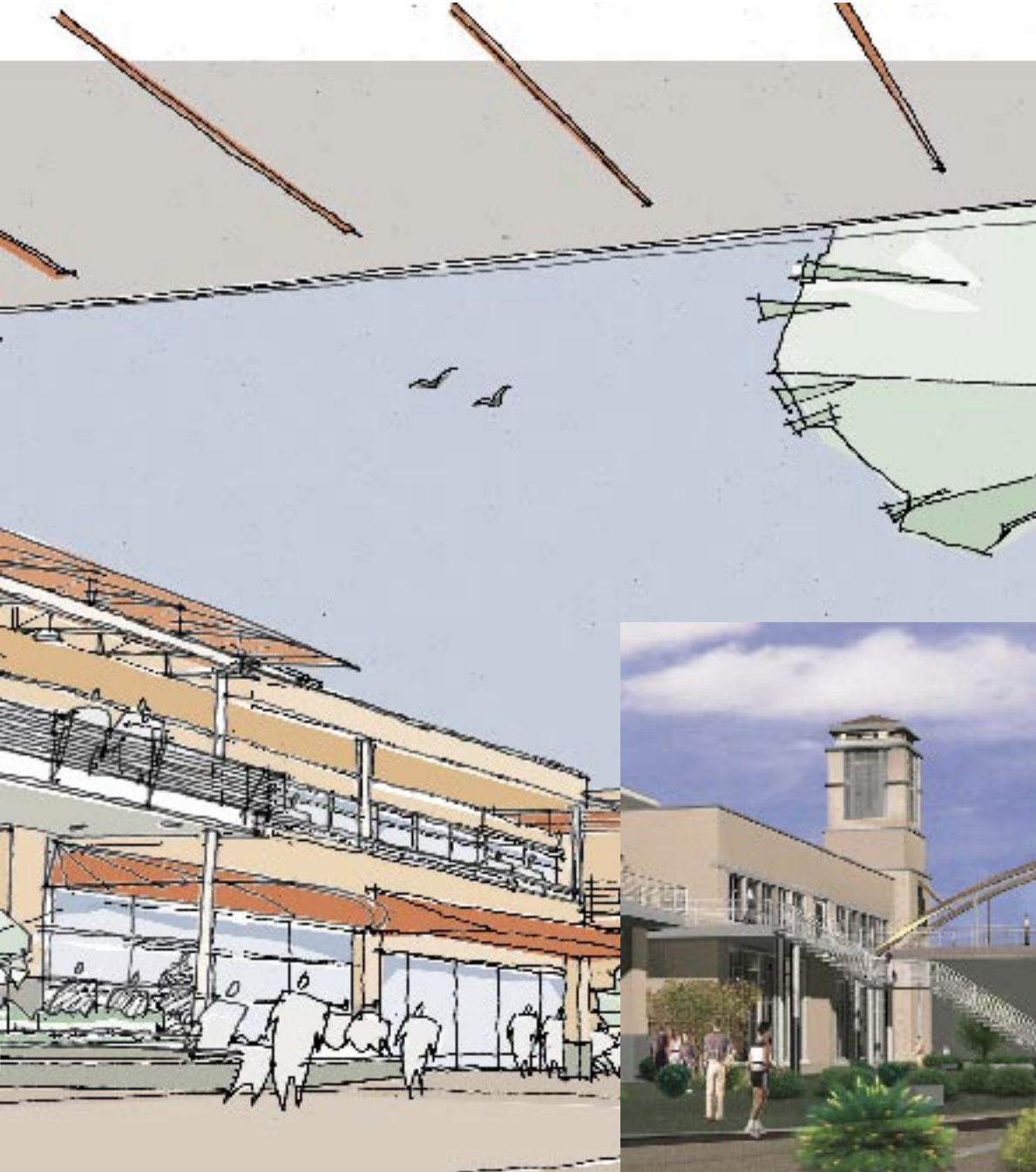
When John Kaulfus, executive director of the University Center and Student Activities, looks onto Parking Lot 9 on UTSA's 1604 Campus, he doesn't just see the rows of cars. He sees the future—one as cool and refreshing as a river.

In fall 2008, the parking lot will be replaced by the expanded University Center, which will include a paseo, or walkway, meant to reflect the San Antonio River. "If there's enough money in the budget," Kaulfus says with a smile, "we'll use blue bricks."

The expansion will connect to the existing UC, which has served as a place of study and leisure since it opened in 1986. The current student facility includes a living room-like lounge (the Ski Lodge), a student activities complex, a banquet hall, a theater, a copy center, a bookstore, a dining hall, meeting rooms and a recreation room (the Roost).

Slated to break ground in the summer of 2006 and open in August of 2008, the expanded UC will offer a cohesive mix of organizations, recreational opportunities and retail offerings to keep pace with the growing population and changing needs of students pouring into UTSA.

"Ever since I've been here, the student population has been booming," says Kaulfus, who joined the university as its housing director in 2001. At that time, approximately 19,000 students were enrolled on UTSA's 1604 and Downtown campuses. By the fall of 2005, that number had swelled to 27,291. The majority of students—more than 24,500—take classes on the 1604 Campus.



Designed by the architectural firm Perkins & Will, the \$25 million UC expansion will be a microcosm of San Antonio's much-loved River Walk and include outdoor cafes and kiosks and even offer outdoor movies. The two-story, 55,000-square-foot facility will connect to the current UC via footbridges and reflect the Spanish influence of the city's missions. Trees and bushes will line the walkway between the two buildings. Students milling between classes can enjoy outdoor seating and a fountain on the plaza.

"It will be a welcoming, green environment," says Jeff Stebar, principal designer for Perkins & Will. "We envision alfresco dining, a 'screen on the green.' The outdoor programming flexibility it will offer will be fantastic."

Stebar says the reason he loves planning and designing student unions—he has almost 30 in his portfolio from schools as diverse as the University of Oxford to the University of Hawaii—is because they respond to people's needs.

"You go to student unions to have fun," Stebar says.

Perkins & Will, a 70-year-old national architectural firm, is a premier builder of student unions. This expansion, which is the third phase of the UC, marks the firm's first project for UTSA. The designers are known for custom-tailoring university centers to schools and their cities, and this design definitely will have the feel of San Antonio, incorporating limestone and stucco as well as clay-tiled roofs and outdoor offerings.

"No other university has a center like this," Kaulfus notes. "It's an original."

Expansion reflects demographic change

Along with simply growing in number, students enrolled in UTSA are changing in other ways, too. The median age for undergraduates has dropped to 24 from 28 just four years ago, and more of them want to live on campus. While the majority of undergraduates once came from South Texas, more are harkening from Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and Austin, according to Rosalie Ambrosino, UTSA vice president for student affairs and interim provost—and more are traditional students entering college immediately out of high school.

"They want a university that feels more like a traditional college campus," Ambrosino says. "They want to be able to stay to study and socialize and get involved in leadership programs."

"For years, UTSA has been considered a commuter school," Kaulfus says, but that is changing. While UTSA still serves a large number of commuters, more students are seeking a residential experience, and that is only expected to increase over time.

In the fall of 2005, UTSA housed 3,000 students, which is



its current capacity; another 750 beds are slated to open in the next two years. "We're looking at almost 4,000 students who need nighttime activities and places to go," Kaulfus says.

In the expanded UC, students can play pool or ping-pong, try their luck at video games or watch a televised football game over a burger in a new campus grill, which Kaulfus describes as a sports bar without the alcohol.

"For students to live on campus, there has to be something to do," notes Jason Palasota, president of the Student Government Association and a senior biology major. "I see tailgating events, more concert series, more speakers."

Along with meeting the needs of the growing residential population, UTSA also wants to offer more amenities for commuters. The expansion will include a commuter lounge where students can work on assignments at a bank of computers and make copies and collate papers, much like at a Kinko's. Lockers will also be available to them.

"This way everyone can have a

One student suggested the architects "make the University Center so good, students will want to skip class."

residential experience, even if they are not living on campus," Stebar says.

The top floor of the expanded university center will feature a large game room, meeting rooms and the commuter lounge.

"We want this to be a home away from home," Kaulfus says. Now, many students congregate in the Humanities and Social Sciences Building and the Sombrilla breezeway. "We want them to be over here, in one central place."

Essentially the idea is to create a hangout. Stebar has designed many of them and found his inspiration while pursuing one of this favorite hobbies—whitewater rafting. He focuses on the eddies, where the current turns back up river to create areas of calm.

"People like to hang out in the eddies, where there are lots of nooks and niches," he says. Whether curling up on couches or studying in carrels spread through-



out the union, students can feel a part of something larger without having to do anything else.

Students support upgrade in campus amenities

It was the students—the majority of whom will already have graduated by the time the expansion is completed—who voted for the changes to the UC through a referendum. Student fees are expected to rise by 100 percent to fund the expansion, from \$52.80 designated for the University Center in the fall of 2005 to \$120 in the fall of 2008, according to Ysabel Trinidad, associate vice president for student affairs.

"Most of the students I have talked to are very excited about [the upcoming] changes," SGA president Palasota says. Along with the UC expansion, students are looking forward to upgrades to the Recreation Center, such as a new swimming pool and lazy river.

The upgrades and expansion to the UC "had to be there," Palasota says. "There is no way to meet the needs of the massive population growth without it. There would be no room to hang out."

Since September of 2004, several focus groups composed of UTSA students and administrators have met with the architects to iron out details of the building project.

"We really wanted to represent all the students who have a need for a university center ... to provide better services to resident students while also being mindful of commuter students," says Richard Miller, a principal architect in charge of the UC project.

He recalls a few of the focus groups that started at eight in the morning and lasted well into the evening hours, with students brainstorming ways to make the UC more relevant and viable. One student suggested the architects "make the University Center so good, students will want to skip class."

"We jotted that one down," Miller says with a laugh.

In 1993, UTSA undertook its first expansion of the UC, known as Phase II, which added 100,000 square feet to the original structure and included a 350-seat theater, several meeting rooms and offices, a student



The first floor will provide access to storefront offices for the six main student organizations: SGA; the Campus Activities Board; VOICES, the university's volunteer group; the Honors Alliance; the University Ambassadors; and Greek life.

to storefront offices for the six main student organizations: SGA; the Campus Activities Board; VOICES, the university's volunteer group; the Honors Alliance; the University Ambassadors; and Greek life. It also will have greater signage heralding some of the 190-odd campus groups that provide student life outside the classroom.

"We want to get more involvement from students," says Christina Gomez, a sophomore and SGA member.

When students are plugged into organizations and campus activities, the university feels less like a commuter school, Gomez points out. "Even on such a large campus," she says, "it still has a smaller school feel."

She and Douglas Chan, a sophomore also involved with SGA, say that jumping into a large university can be shocking for freshmen. Their hope is that with the expansion and reconfiguration of clubs and organizations, students will find a comfortable niche. "We want freshmen to know that we are there to help them," Chan says.

activities complex, a copy center and a bookstore. Those amenities will stay, Kaulfus says, although the copy center and the Roost will move to the new building to make way for a sports grill in the original facility. All offices will either move or be renovated.

One of the signature pieces of the expansion will be an elegant ballroom that can seat 650 for dinner or up to 1,000 for a lecture. "This is something the campus badly needs," Kaulfus says.

To lure students not only into the center, but also into the greater folds of the university, the first floor will provide access

Whether students want help or not, they probably want to grab a cup of coffee or a sandwich at some point while on campus. A coffee house and Subway will provide a portal into the first floor in the expansion.

As students pass through the open air part of the center, they are more likely to step inside, especially with the coffee shop as a draw, Stebar points out. "It's a way to introduce them to [the center] and see the other activities open to them on campus, which hopefully will get them engaged," he says.

Another step toward tier one status

Along with serving as a hangout and place of inclusion, Kaulfus also views the new UC as a vehicle to help transform UTSA into a "tier one" university.

With increased athletics and on-campus housing, and ever-expanding academic offerings, student life has to be improved as well, Kaulfus says.

UTSA now offers more than 120 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, with more in the works. Its goal is to become a doctoral and research-intensive institution. On the athletic field, UTSA has qualified for 10 NCAA championship events in men and women's basketball, baseball, women's softball, men and women's cross-country championships and women's volleyball.

"We are definitely moving to tier-one status," Ambrosino says. "What the state needs is more research and graduate programs, while at the same time offering more for undergraduates, who are increasingly diverse. UTSA is positioned in a really good way [to accomplish this]."

She added that in the process of taking UTSA to the next level, student life gains in importance. "We want to provide a holistic feel for students and a sense of inclusion," she says.

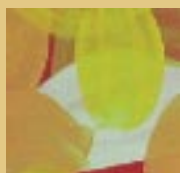
Over time, Kaulfus says, "I see UTSA as viable to compete with A&M, UT Austin and Texas Tech."

Architect Miller, who is a native Texan, concurs that this is an attainable goal. "UTSA is the rising star of Texas ... becoming a university for all students." Miller says. "We wanted to build something to embrace this." ★

Five *to* Watch

By Lori Burling Alves

FIVE EMERGING



ARTISTS



AND UTSA



GRADUATES



ON THE PATH



TO SUCCESS

A painting. A sculpture. A drawing.

Everyone sees art through their own eyes and that's no different for Nate Cassie, Pony Allen, Karen Mahaffy, Christopher Sauter and Michele Monseau. Each one of these emerging artists sees their art in a unique way, but all five have one commonality ... they earned their M.F.A. degrees from UTSA.

Ken Little, professor and graduate adviser for UTSA's Department of Art and Art History, has been working with student artists since 1988.

"Pursuing a graduate degree gives a student the chance to work in an active atmosphere with 25 other art students. It provides a synergy that is really inspiring and invigorating," he says.

The fine arts master's program at UTSA entails 60 hours of classroom and studio work, including 30 hours in one of the six concentrations offered—ceramics, drawing, painting, photography, printmaking and sculpture. More than 200 students have graduated from the program since its establishment in the mid-1970s—making it the oldest terminal degree program at UTSA.

"The San Antonio contemporary art scene is young and artist friendly. It's a very grass-roots community where young artists can begin their careers. The students here [at UTSA] have many opportunities to make an entry into that world," Little says.

And that's what our five alumni did.

Nate Cassie '95

Nate Cassie sees the beauty in a hurricane. Then he paints it.

"Watching a huge, massive system spin across an open water ... There is something very beautiful about that. Just knowing that there is a lot of force and power and destruction as a result of that beauty," says Cassie, 35, who graduated with an M.F.A. in sculpture in 1995.

After graduating from Hope College in Holland, Mich., he pursued his master's degree at UTSA. The New Jersey native has now been working in San Antonio's art industry for more than 10 years.

"I was hearing good things, not only about the university but also about what was happening in the community in terms of art," says Cassie, who also teaches art part time at Texas State University in San Marcos. "The point of graduate school, for me, was to become part of a community and make professional connections."

Cassie works in many different media—photography, sculpture, video and painting—and has shown nationally from Texas to Florida to Michigan. At a show this year in Miami, Cassie used industrial paint on canvas to depict the beauty, structure and destruction of hurricanes.

"Ironically, these paintings were all done before Katrina and Rita [hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast in 2005]. But both hurricanes are a perfect example of what inspires my work. There's even beauty in the aftermath of a hurricane. All of these people helping other people," he says.



"Beulah," enamel on panel, 30" x 30", 2005

For another source of inspiration, Cassie has found beauty in a somewhat violent sport.

"I think boxing functions on a similar level [as natural disasters]," he says. "People get hurt, but there is something amazing to watch about it. If it's done well, boxing is akin to dance."

Recently, Cassie's focus has been printmaking. In the printmaking process, Cassie carves a picture into a wooden block, pours paint into the carving and then transfers it to paper.

"I think as an artist you're always trying to do more. Art allows me to dabble and investigate in a lot of different areas. ... It's a great vessel to put all of these other disciplines in."





“The Face of Texas,” a recent exhibit designed by Allen, includes 43 portraits of well-known Texans, such as President George W. Bush and Willie Nelson, by Austin photographer Michael O’Brien.



Pony Allen '95

While working on his master’s degree at UTSA, Pony Allen worked for a museum where he discovered a new art.

“I realized that the museum world is a lot like theater. There is this whole world that goes on behind the scenes. There is a ton of energy and creativity that goes on—it’s fun and exciting. When an exhibit opens, it’s show time,” says Allen, 49, of Austin.

The epiphany led to a five-year stint as director of exhibits at the San Antonio Museum of Art, where he oversaw the construction and restoration of the Nelson A. Rockefeller Latin American Arts Center. He later joined the staff at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, where, as head of exhibits, he oversees 37,000 square feet of exhibit space documenting life in Texas.

“It may seem like my M.F.A. doesn’t correlate with the job that I do now—but it does. Everything I learned about form, line, structure and space influences how I design an exhibit,” he says.

Allen described his graduate work as a marriage between painting and sculpture. One of his primary interests was exploring the issue of how the frame of the painting defines where the art begins and where it ends. Allen’s paintbrush saw no borders.

“The frame took over the painting. It was a natural progression to simply paint on the frame. Eventually, most of the frames had an empty canvas. I was only painting on the frame,” the 1995 graduate says.

Allen continues to paint and sculpt, but his focus remains on the museum. “Producing these exhibits is my art these days. You learn all kinds of new things working in a field like this.”

Karen Mahaffy '96

Karen Mahaffy has gone digital.

"I think sculpture objects can capture the process of themselves being made, but they can't quite capture other things around us like ambient sound and the rhythms around us that kind of dictate our pace in life," the San Antonian says.

Mahaffy concentrated on sculpture and installation while she was a graduate student at UTSA—using materials such as wax, twine and burlap to create pieces related to the human body.

"I started sewing a lot using rich fabrics—lots of chiffon and spandexes," Mahaffy says. "I started making things that would surround the body like pillows or garments. I tried to make strange plays on things that are everyday in our surroundings and how they relate to us."

After graduating with an M.F.A. in sculpture in 1996, Mahaffy hit a creative wall and sought another outlet for her ideas. "I just didn't want to sew another object," she says. She found herself observing what was around her—specifically people and their daily routines or nervous habits.

"I found I could capture these things by using video," she says.

In her first show using video, Mahaffy recorded herself picking apart a man's dress shirt. In the second projection, Mahaffy mends the shirt using a needle and thread, showing the disassembly and reassembly of the



Stills from Mahaffy's digital video "Still life with fruit and Zhuang Zi"

garment. "I just picked and picked and picked at the thread until I was able to take it apart," Mahaffy says.

Two recent works that were shown at the Dallas Center for Contemporary Arts include still images, such as fruit or a glass of water, taped over a week's time. The videos capture a slow progression of change—the fruit decays and the water evaporates.

Mahaffy has immersed herself in this relatively new medium. Along with creating her own work, she teaches digital arts full time at Palo Alto College in San Antonio. But she hasn't forgotten her roots.

"Right now, I'm actually thinking about doing some quirky little still-life drawings."





*"The Nature of Culture"
from Domicile
Privé/Public
at Musée d'Art
Moderne, Saint-
Etienne, France*

Christopher Sauter '96

A piece of clay isn't enough for Christopher Sauter—he needs an entire wall ... or at least a few pieces of it.

Sauter, who earned his M.F.A. in sculpture in 1996, has been working consistently as an artist—nationally and internationally—since selling his first piece as an undergraduate at University of the Incarnate Word. He has shown in galleries across the United States including New York City and Los Angeles.

"I've been really fortunate. I've been showing a lot ever since I was at UTSA. I think it's a matter of being seen by the right people at the right shows," says 33-year-old Sauter, who also is an adjunct art professor for the Alamo Community College District in San Antonio.

Sauter's ideas often spring from the relationship between nature and man—taking him from art involving agriculture to activities such as bull riding. "I'm all over the place right now.

I work in every medium you can think of—sculpture, painting, drawing, video and photography. Usually my ideas can be manifested through sculpture or drawing, but I'll use any medium if it's appropriate for the idea," he says.

Some of Sauter's most recent work—which caught the attention of galleries in France and Ireland—involves a technique called graft. In graft, Sauter cuts pieces from a gallery wall, and then uses those pieces to create a sculpture on-site. In one installation, Sauter cut enough pieces of the wall to build a replica of his parents' dining room.

"I did all the furniture, the walls, the floor, all the cabinets. It was very detailed," he says.

Does Sauter replace the gallery's wall when the exhibit ends?

"It's actually cheaper to repair a wall than to ship a huge piece of artwork."



"Hum"
Southern Space Project,
San Antonio, 2005.
Currently on view in
Houston at Commerce
Street Artists Warehouse.

Michele Monseau '96

A photography veteran, Michele Monseau has turned her "snapshots" into videos.

"I'm just trying to give them a life—an animated life," Monseau says.

Monseau, an Ohio native, graduated from UTSA in 1999 with an M.F.A. in sculpture. Her undergraduate work focused on photography but while at UTSA she expanded her art to include sculpture and installation; six years later she finds herself working in video.

"I still work in photography. I still work in sculpture. But when I was at UTSA, clay just wasn't enough. It wasn't doing the job that I wanted it to do ... so I started using new materials and mixing clay elements with installation," she says. "That eventually led me to my work now."

Monseau's short videos—the longest is three minutes—focus on bringing life to an object she creates using both movement and sound. In one video, Monseau creates fuzz balls by shredding a piece of yarn and then uses wind to blow the fuzz in and out of frames.

"Before, I would reconstruct the fuzz into big fuzz pancakes and they would sit on a gallery floor. Now I'm just animating them in video without being too narrative about it. I call them snapshots," says Monseau who does three or four shows a year.

In addition to her own work, Monseau shares her studio space with new artists. In 1999, Monseau converted half of her studio space into gallery space, creating Three Walls Gallery, located in the Blue Star Arts Complex in downtown San Antonio. Monseau hosts about 10 shows a year featuring local, national and international artists.

"San Antonio is a good city for emerging artists who need to be taking risks and pushing the envelope with their work. I wanted to create a space where they could feel free to do that," says Monseau, who also teaches full time at Palo Alto College in San Antonio. "I just want the shows to move people in some way ... something that is evocative and communicates a clear vision. That's not always easy to find." ★

WEB EXTRA: To see more of the artists' work, go to Sombrilla Online, www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.



Diploma Dash 2006

The 22nd Annual Diploma Dash, sponsored by the UTSA Alumni Association, is scheduled for Feb. 11, 2006, on the 1604 Campus. This feature event of Homecoming Week also serves as San Antonio's annual 5K City Championship Race and 1.5K Fitness Walk. Local community sponsors and alumni support this worthwhile endeavor each year, raising scholarship money for both the association and the university's track and field programs. Last year, more than 800 participants and sponsors contributed \$24,000.

The running course is a certified 5K flat course around the 1604 Campus, and the fitness walk takes participants on a scenic 1.5-mile campus route. UTSA alumna and Olympic athlete Liza Hunter-Galvan '93 won her 10th city championship at the Diploma Dash. Roger Soler '85 is the event adviser and Dennis Blick '84 is the race

director. The presenting sponsor for Diploma Dash is the Argonaut Group, Inc., a San Antonio-based national specialty underwriter.

Participants receive a long-sleeved T-shirt, and medals and cash prizes are awarded to the top three men and women, along with running shoes from Roger Soler's Sports. Winners in master's men's and women's divisions, Clydesdale and Filly divisions and corporate teams will also receive prizes. Medals are awarded in 13 age categories. Families and individuals are welcome to run, walk or simply enjoy the music, free breakfast, activities and health fair.

On-site registration and check-in begins at 8 a.m.; the race starts at 9 a.m. Early registration is \$20; after Feb. 8 and on race day, registration is \$30. Corporate teams of five may register for \$250. Forms are available online at www.utsa.edu/alumni, or at local sports stores and sponsors.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jane F. Burton, director of Alumni Programs and executive director of the UTSA Alumni Association, at (210) 458-4133.



76 William K. "Bill" Borellis, B.B.A. in management, president of PredictableEESolutions, has moved the company from Los Angeles to San Antonio.

77 Rafael C. Castillo, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, received his Ph.D. in education/professional studies from Capella University in Minnesota. His dissertation was titled "Cultural Studies and the Borderlands: Hegemony, Pedagogy and Postcolonial Literature." His article "Cultural Studies in Texas Borderlands: Pedagogy and Postcolonial Theory" was published in the summer issue of *South Texas Studies*. Rafael is a professor of English at Palo Alto College and adjunct professor of English at Texas A&M University-Kingsville-Palo Alto Center.

78 Patricia Hendrickson Tschirhart, B.A. in early childhood education, M.A. in education '81, is an elementary counselor for the North East Independent School District in San Antonio.

80 Rose Zambrano, B.A. in psychology, received a Ph.D. in organizational leadership from the University of the Incarnate Word in December 2004. Rose is an associate professor at Palo Alto College in San Antonio.

82 Bradley F. Beshea, B.A. in criminal justice, was promoted to senior vice

president and compliance officer for the Financial Management Group at Frost National Bank. E-mail Bradley at bbeshea@yahoo.com.

83 Gary G. Abernathy, B.S. in biology, was promoted to mobile customer service center manager monitoring interstate commerce for the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and he moved to King George, Va. E-mail Gary at cowboy6@sprintmail.com. **Jose L. Parra**, B.A. in English, M.A. in English '89, is assistant superintendent for student services, human resources and operations at the Kerrville Independent School District. Jose received a doctor of education degree from Columbia University in 1996.

85 Daniel R. Castro, B.A. in English, had his motivational book, *Critical Choices that Change Lives*, published by Beartooth Press in Austin, Texas. Dan is a business litigation attorney and partner in the law firm of Castro & Baker in Austin. Visit www.dancastro.com.

87 Katherine Jeannine Paulk Dollard, B.B.A. in management, is a senior associate with the Lewin Group in Falls Church, Va. Jeannine is president of the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Alumni Association. For information on the chapter, visit the UTSA Alumni Association Web site at www.utsa.edu/alumni.

M. ReBeca Drury (Becky Tamez-La Lanne), B.S. in kinesiology, M.A. in education '97, is nearing the end of a doctorate in naturopathy program at Clayton College of Natural Health in Birmingham, Ala. ReBeca's son, Brandon, is a student and track athlete at Texas A&M University. ReBeca continues to perform as a singer/songwriter around San Antonio, having released a CD of original material in 1999, produced by her husband, Rick Drury, on his independent record label, Chili Records Inc.

88 Michael Labay, B.A. in humanities, would like to hear from anyone interested in forming a masters-level track and field club in San Antonio. If you are interested, contact him through his Web site, www.michaellabay.com.

89 Christopher E. Camargo, B.S. in electrical engineering, has been named director of avionics and support systems in the Aerospace Electronics and Information Technology Division at Southwest Research Institute. Christopher was previously manager of integrated diagnostics in the same division. **Angela Medina Discher**, B.B.A. in management, is a promotional apparel manager for Jose Cuervo International Inc. Angela and her 1-year-old daughter, Bianca, live in San Clemente, Calif.

90 Maria Cristina Besosa, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. in human resources '98, and her husband, Roland Quintanilla, have one son, Gavin Quintanilla, age 2. Maria is general manager at Residence Inn Alamo Plaza in San Antonio. **Gene Dowdy**, master of music, is the chair of the Department of Music at UTSA. His daughter, Jessica, is a freshman at UTSA.

91 Eric Mapes, B.B.A. in management, announces that his company—Alamo Stamp, Creative Ideas, One Day Signs & Banners—was named the second-fastest-growing company in San Antonio in 2004 by the *San Antonio Business Journal*. Sales and total number of employees places the group as the largest branding company in San Antonio and one of the largest in South Texas.

93 Linda N. Mendoza Cabrera, M.A. in education, and her husband, Reynaldo Cabrera, B.S. in kinesiology and health '94, have relocated to Beeville, Texas. Their daughter, Amanda Leigh Mendoza, plans to follow in her parents' footsteps by attending UTSA and becoming an educator. **Kevin Robert Mattson**, B.B.A. in management science, and his wife, Julie, announce the birth of their daughter, Allison Page, on Aug. 29, 2005.

94 Gregory J. Baker, B.A. in geography, is a planning projects coordinator with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Greg previously was a senior planner with the City of San Antonio Planning Department.

Allen K. Shelly, B.S. in chemical engineering, is a project engineer at Lundy & Franke Engineering in San Antonio. Allen and his wife, Lisa, have two children: son Jacob, age 6, and daughter Jordan, age 10.

95 Emmette Y. "Tuffy" Burton, M.A. in education, is a teacher at Texas Military Institute. Tuffy announces his marriage in July 2005 to Jane Findling, director of Alumni Programs at UTSA. **Michael William Harvey**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a special agent with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in El Centro, Calif. He and his wife, Juanita, have one daughter, Isabella, age 3.

Cindy Wallace, B.A. in humanities, became the first certified communications professional under the Association for Women in Communications (AWC) Matrix Foundation's certification program. Cindy has an M.A. in communication arts from the University of the Incarnate Word. She is on the AWC national board of directors and is active with the San Antonio chapter. She is a frequent contributor of feature stories for the *San Antonio Express-News*. Cindy has been employed with Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio for the past 23 years.

97 Ruth Herrera, B.A. interdisciplinary studies, is a teacher for the Department of Defense Education Activity at Sollars Elementary School in Dodea, Japan. **Kirk E. Smith**, M.S. in computer science, is director of embedded systems engineering at SecureLogix Corp. in San Antonio.

98 Jennifer Naples, B.S. in kinesiology and health, is a clinical dietician at the Methodist Hospital, Texas Medical Center, in Houston.

00 Maria Lozano DiGiulio, B.A. in political science, is a sales and marketing coordinator at Crockett International in Austin, Texas.

01 Barbara Dean Hendricks, M.S. in management of technology, is a scriptwriter for the simulation tour of the Edwards Aquifer at the Witte Museum's World of Water Exhibit. She is also a writer/producer of current commercials for Central Catholic High School in San Antonio and was part of a four-person FotoSeptiembre Exhibit, "Mirages," at Todos los Sabados Gallery. **Adrienne Villez Russell**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a parent adviser at Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children in San Antonio.

Jeff Thomas '82

Bag boy to vice president

Jeff Thomas started bagging groceries as a way to pick up some cash while attending San Antonio's Churchill High School. "Who knew?" he laughs 30 years later.

Now, as a senior vice president and the general manager of H-E-B's central Texas region, he directs operations at 65 stores from Waco to San Marcos.

"My initial plan was to go to law school," the 1982 UTSA graduate explains. "I was still working for H-E-B while I was at UTSA and I just fell in love with retailing. I love working with people and I love the variety of the job. The pay was good and the future looked good, so about halfway through my junior year I changed directions."

While Thomas, 46, was earning his B.B.A. in marketing and management he continued his career at the Texas supermarket giant. "I worked as a night manager while I was in school. Sometimes I'd work until midnight and then be in class at 8 a.m. During the summer I'd work the overnight stocking shifts. School and work were about all I did."

His dedication paid off. After graduation Thomas held numerous positions at a number of different stores. He attended the Food Industry Management program at the University of Southern California in 1986 and stayed in Los Angeles to earn his M.B.A.

In 1988, Thomas rose from store to corporate level at H-E-B when he became grocery manager for 32 locations in the north Texas division.

Progressing through district manager and vice president positions in San Antonio, Dallas and Corpus Christi, Thomas was named senior vice president and general manager of the south Texas region in 2002. He moved to Austin to take over the central Texas region in 2005.

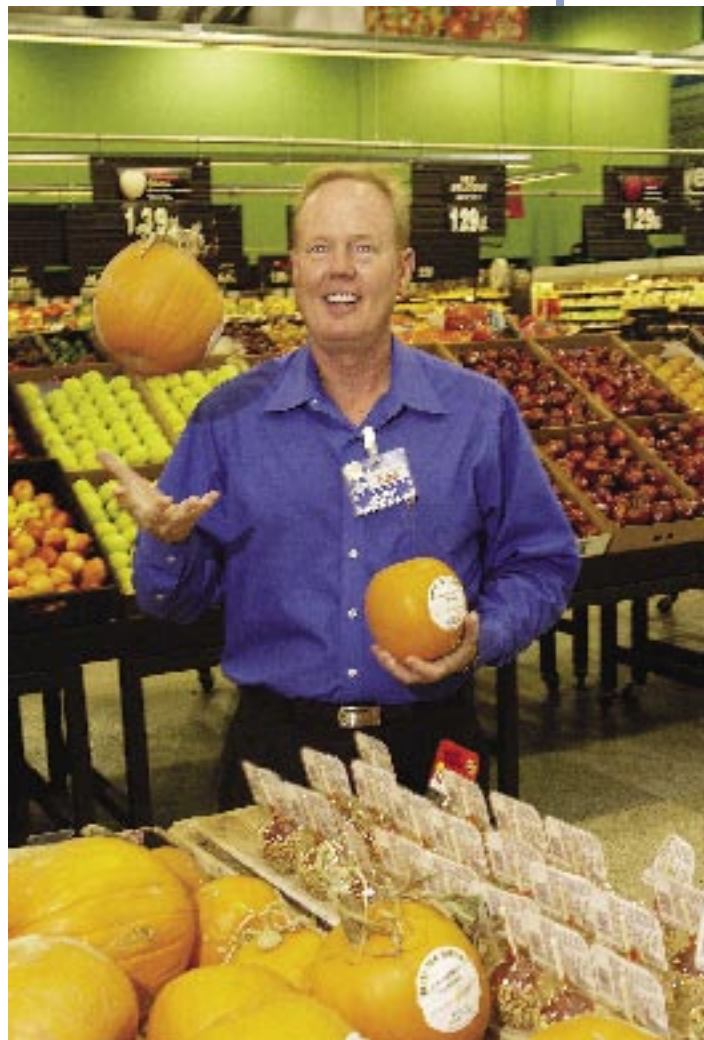
"I've always enjoyed working with people. It's exciting to me to be able to hire and promote people into positions that challenge them. I enjoy seeing them rise to that challenge and be successful," he says.

With \$11 billion in sales in 2003, H-E-B has more than 300 stores employing 56,000 people throughout Texas and Mexico. Thomas, an avid jogger and kayaker, now has responsibility for \$3 billion of those sales and 12,000 employees in his region. "One of the exciting things about my job is that I have the latitude and support to run my region like I'm the owner. I feel like I have one of the best jobs in the company. I love what I'm doing."

"The constant change also energizes me. Every day is something different: either opening new stores, new marketing programs, new products. There's always something changing. It's never boring."

Of his years at UTSA, Thomas says they broadened his perspective. "A lot of people grow up while they're in college. It's fair to say I did, too. I got to experience a lot of different cultures. I met people from different backgrounds and that helped me understand the world in a new way. I can see it happening to my daughter, too. She's a sophomore at UTSA now."

— Randy Lankford





Mona Echard '03

Salon offers a fresh start

Teen mothers. Addicts in recovery. Women returning to society after incarceration or moving from welfare to work. A nonprofit organization is giving these "forgotten women" a fresh start.

"Not many people want to deal with these women, but if you strengthen the weakest parts of our society, it will be that much better," says Mona Echard, who combined her gifts for encouraging others and for styling hair to create Fresh Start Salon & Spa Ministries, which opened in northwest San Antonio this summer.

The company's butterfly logo symbolizes the metamorphosis Echard hopes to facilitate for each of her clients through makeovers, grooming tips, clothing for job interviews and confidence training. But this is no trendy makeover show or quick fix. "What's important to me is what's on the inside," Echard says. "I'm an encourager."

Her family and her faith inspired her desire to help forgotten women. "I have a great compassion for women in need because I know women carry a lot on their shoulders," she says.

Her parents divorced when she was 6. Though Her mother struggled financially, she always helped others, Echard recalls.

Twenty years ago, Echard seemed to be on the path to becoming a client, rather than the founder, of such an organization. "With a couple turns of events, it could have been me," she says.

In 1985, she graduated from Judson High School,

married and had a daughter, all before she was 18. She didn't think college was for her. "I was always the one who was doing hair," Echard says. "I was late for my own prom because I was doing everyone else's hair."

Her husband, Melvin Echard, enlisted in the Air Force, and they transferred from California to Greece to Austin. Their son was born in Greece. She worked as a secretary while her husband, now an assistant principal at a local high school, completed a master's degree.

Back in San Antonio in 1994, she enrolled in cosmetology school. The next year, the Echards reached the 10-year mark in their marriage. It was time for their own transformation, of sorts.

"What we did as teenagers and into our early 20s wouldn't work anymore," she recalls. "We felt like we needed to start over." They renewed their marriage vows. She enrolled at UTSA and worked at a local salon while pursuing her degree. "We refocused on our marriage and on what we wanted to do. We bought our first house."

She completed her communications degree in 2003. It has served her well in pursuing grants and donations and communicating about Fresh Start, which she calls her biggest undertaking since getting married.

"This is my way of really thanking God for the gifts I have and really giving back," she says. "Plus, it's something that I really love to do."

The salon also offers services to the public. Tax-deductible donations made beyond the cost of the service help fund the nonprofit's efforts. For information, e-mail freshstartsalon@gtvc.com.

— Cathy Smith

Joanna L. Simmons, B.M. in music, is a financial consultant at Smith Barney in Houston.

Daniel T. Zimmerman, B.S. in mechanical engineering, and his wife, April, announce the birth of a son, Ethan Daniel, on Sept. 28, 2005.

02 Jennifer Barrera, B.B.A. in management, was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in May 2005. Jennifer is an assistant district attorney for Nueces County in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Tom Broughton, M.B.A. in business, joined the faculty of St. Thomas High School, a Catholic college preparatory school for boys in Houston, where he teaches Spanish and serves as the assistant director of student activities.

William Oliver Moore, B.B.A. in information systems, announces his marriage to Liza Alexandra Sperry Moore on March 18, 2005.

03 Ellen Barshop-Ollervidez, B.B.A. in marketing, works in business development at Icon Design Studio in San Antonio. She and her husband, Ricardo, were married in August 2004.

Carolyn A. Marks, B.S. in biology, had her article "Effects of Sleep Disruption on Rat Dentate Granule Cell LTP in Vivo" published in the May edition of the *Brain Research Bulletin*.

Jaime A. Martinez, B.B.A. in management, is vice president of international private banking for the San Antonio branch of Falcon International Bank. Jaime was previously with Frost National Bank as vice president of international private banking. Jaime completed the Alexander E. Briseno Leadership Program of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the 2004 Leadership San Antonio Program of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as a member of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Free Trade Alliance San Antonio.

Harvey Moy, B.S. in electrical engineering, announces his marriage to Maribel Lai on Sept. 17, 2005. Harvey is a project manager at Leak Location Services Inc. in San Antonio.

Georgia Tambasis, M.F.A. in art, is an adjunct instructor and artist at Southwest School of Art and St. Philip's College in San Antonio. She was awarded the ANA 34 Jurors' Award at the Holter Museum of Art in Helena, Mont.

Victoria Vega, B.S. in biology, is chair of the Science Department-Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP) at Southside Independent School District in San Antonio. She was also named Rookie of the Year for DAEP.

04 Philip Benjamin Caldwell, B.S. in biology, is section chief of Commanders Support Staff at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, N.M.

Michael Tidwell '77

First-class president

Being the first SGA president at UTSA was a job that came with little glory, says Michael Tidwell. One of the few perks of office was presiding over the first beer bust on campus.

"I got to tap the first keg," says Tidwell, who now is an attorney for the United States Postal Service.

A graduate of Sam Houston High School, Tidwell transferred from San Antonio College to UTSA in 1975 when the university opened its doors to undergraduates. At the time, UTSA was very much a commuter school, Tidwell says: "There were faculty; there were classrooms; and that was it, for the most part."

Tidwell, who had helped organize the Black Student Caucus, was recruited to help draft a student government constitution. After a student referendum approved the constitution and laid the groundwork for an election, Tidwell's mentor, political science associate professor Richard Gambitta, encouraged him to run for president. At the time, Tidwell was taking 15 semester hours and working 20 hours a week as a janitor cleaning office buildings at Fort Sam, but he also felt a call to public service.

"We knew what student life could be if you had all the requisite organizations and structures and funding, and it was just a matter of taking all the baby steps," he says.

After earning a political science degree and then graduating from UT Law School with his mind set on working in Washington, Tidwell joined the Postal Service in 1980. He's one of some 80 attorneys who work at the D.C. office. "I love it," he says. "There's just a variety of ways that the Postal



Photo by Stephen Spurlana

Service intersects with people's lives that we've got to advise managers on how to deal with.

"When you think about 700,000 employees, 40,000 post offices, 200,000 vehicles on the road every day, we have real estate issues to deal with, environmental issues on fuel storage, copyright issues related to stamp images," and the list goes on, he says.

Tidwell's own specialty is rate-making—determining how much a first-class stamp is going to cost, as well as how much it's going to cost magazine publishers, parcel shippers, advertising mailers and everyone else who uses the Postal Service.

"I'm one of the attorneys who helps litigate our cases that result in the changes in the price of postage," he says. "It's about trying to properly align economic forecasts and costs forecasts. ... I like to say it's a clean area of law. There are no mangled plaintiffs; there is no he said/she said; there are no Neverland allegations; there are no

crime scene photos. It involves a fairly narrow area of public policy and helping the process come to some fair resolution that helps generate the revenue that allows the Postal Service to operate."

Tidwell remains connected to the university. He's involved with the alumni chapter in D.C., and he has established the Diana Lynn Tidwell Endowed Scholarship in memory of his sister for UTSA students interested in special education. "My heart is here at UTSA," he says. "It's my school. It's where I cut my teeth."

—Rebecca Luther

Paul Davila, B.S. in electrical engineering, is an electrical engineer with Marmon Mok LLP in San Antonio. Paul is a registered master electrician and was vice president of production at Davila Electric Company Inc. for 13 years before joining Marmon Mok. He also serves as vice chairman for the City of San Antonio Electrical Supervising and Examining Board and as chairman of the review committee for the 2005 National Electrical Code.

Frances Martinez, B.S. in civil engineering, is an engineer-in-training I at Civil Engineering Consultants in San Antonio.

Matthew V. Peters, B.S. in electrical engineering, announces his marriage to Sara Darilek on April 2, 2005.

Rosanna F. Sanchez, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is an elementary school teacher for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio. She was named 2004–2005 First Year Educator of the Year.

Joshua C. Speed, B.B.A. in management, is a retail guest service manager for Walt Disney Company in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Charles Stephen Warnock, B.A. in political science, is an instructor of the Army Officer Basic Course for the U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

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Hospitality begins with dinner

By Susanne B. Kimball



When I was in college, a very wise professor said that one could learn a lot about a nation or culture by the way it rears its children, the way it cares for the aged, the way it honors the dead and the way it treats guests—especially if they are strangers.

I was privileged to have been invited to visit Turkey last May for 11 days, a visit sponsored by a group of Turkish graduate students at UTSA who represent the Institute for Interfaith Dialogue. This group's function is exactly what the name implies: it is a meeting of people interested in learning more about the major

religions of the world in order to promote tolerance and appreciation for each other.

Turkey consists of multiple layers of culture, beginning with the Hittites at the dawn of civilization. Urfa is the birth place of Abraham of the Old Testament. Later the Greeks and the Romans came, leaving their theaters and libraries. It was to Izmir that John took Christ's mother to live out their lives. Still later Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor, took his soldiers to Turkey and established his dominion in the city now known as Istanbul. Here began the Byzantine Empire. Later, the Ottoman Empire under Suleiman rivaled the splendor of France under Louis XIV.

It is small wonder that this culture, whose people traveled widely all over Africa, Europe and Asia since ancient times, is open minded, embraces scholarship from all parts of the world and practices a tradition of hospitality so generous that it caused us some mild embarrassment. I suppose it goes back to the time of the pilgrims making caravan treks to Mecca, needing shelter and food along the way. Hospitality to strangers is one of the five pillars of Islamic faith and a law of the desert as well.

Muhammed Cetin, one of our guides, introduced each new site with the proverbial "Today we shall visit Ephesus (Konya, Izmir, Pergamon, the Hagia Sophia). But first, we eat!" It is but the echo of the repeated formula in *The Iliad*, "They put their hands to the good things . . .," another source to which the laws of Turkish hospitality can be traced: the Homeric tradition. The Trojan War was fought on Turkish soil. Homer awards eating and drinking its rightful place even in the most intense moment of fighting. The whole of human activity is fed by the vital source that lies deep in the bowels of nature, a process recurring as regularly as day and night, whereby our lives are harnessed and renewed for continued subsistence. When the Aechean delegates come to Achilles, they are first treated to dinner: chins of mutton, goat or lamb put on spits, carved, salted and roasted. After sacrificing to the gods, "they put their hands to the good things . . ." It is significant that Achilles, when he is confronted by Priam, king of the Trojans, asking for the return of his son Hector, who was slain by Achilles, first bids the older, grieving king to dinner.

There are altogether 32 mentions of feasting in *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*; the ritual begins with the greeting, the seating, the hand washing and the serving of the food, which is accompanied by music and storytelling. The guests and hosts are summoned to recline on couches with pillows to support their backs. They are lined up against two opposing walls and face the center of the hall, a place reserved for the minstrel. While the company dines, he tells stories, accompanied by the proverbial lyre, of great heroes. Then, the gifts: the guest is presented with finely wrought jewelry, swords and hand-woven cloaks. This is followed by games, to which all members are invited—Greeks were athletes.

I saw vestiges of this ancient tradition during the many dinners we shared in Turkey. One evening we had to invade a street wedding on our way to our host's house. Lights were strung across the street, there was music, dancing and eating. We had to cross. Were they annoyed? No! They were smiling and waving. I was tempted to get off the bus and join them.

Our host that night, the father of one of our guides, greeted us in traditional Kurdish attire. Imagine this: he and his five sons and their wives prepared a six-course dinner for 30 Americans. It followed the same ancient code of hospitality: dinner was served Turkish style, guests were seated on gorgeous kilim rugs and pillows arranged on the floor along two walls of the dining room. In the middle was a carpet runner the whole length of the room on which the dishes were arranged. Suddenly, the tradition of taking off your shoes made sense. The roasted shish kebabs and gorgeous vegetables and fruit kept coming and coming. There were at least four kinds of dessert, followed by coffee and more sweets. All the time the musicians were playing folk music on traditional instruments.

Sooner or later someone started dancing, someone else joined, and before long we were all engaged in some improvised dance similar to the Jewish hora, with much laughing and handclapping.

But wait, there's more! The gifts! You are not going to leave your host without flower bouquets, hand-painted china and chocolates.

How do you understand a culture? Certainly by its language, dress code, religious rites and art. But the most reliable means might very well be the tradition of sharing food—a most fundamental human activity.

Susanne B. Kimball, Ph.D., is a lecturer in the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching.

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



**“Curiosity—
that’s the main reason
for my research.”**

NO ONE HAS WRITTEN MORE ABOUT FINANCE THAN DONALD DA-HSIANG LIEN. Lien, who holds the Richard S. Liu Distinguished Chair in Business and is associate dean for international affairs in UTSA’s College of Business, has been recognized as the most published person in his field of finance. That’s according to international financial services research company SIRCA, which tracks publications in academic journals. With more than 160 published articles in his career, Lien is ranked No. 1 from 2000 to 2005, appearing in publications such as the *Journal of Future Markets* and *Journal of International Money and Finance*.

LEARNING MORE

A doctoral graduate from the California Institute of Technology, Lien says he was urged early on in his academic career to do research.

“We rarely used a textbook at Caltech. Write, write, write—that’s what we were taught,” he says. “So I did, and now I tell my students at UTSA to read, research and write.”

Lien believes there is always more to learn about a subject.

“It’s like a movie. They are only going to show the best cut, maybe it was the 20th cut. What about the other 19 cuts?” he asks. “It’s the same way with research. I want to see all the cuts.”

RESEARCH ABROAD

Lien, a native of Taiwan, is also the director of International Business Programs and East Asian Studies at UTSA. These programs allow UTSA

business students to study abroad, while providing the opportunity for students from Taiwan, China and Mexico to study at UTSA. The partnerships enable UTSA professors and students to gain hands-on experience in international business.

“The trilateral trade between the United States, Mexico and China is increasing. The more we can learn, the better,” Lien says.

As UTSA moves toward premier research university status, endowed faculty positions such as the Richard S. Liu Distinguished Chair in Business are essential in the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty. The distinguished chair held by Lien was funded by a \$1 million gift from Hong Kong businessman and philanthropist Richard S. Liu. To learn more about giving to UTSA, contact the Development Office at (210) 458-5162.

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Looking back

Pool pointers

In this photo, which ran in the February 1979 issue of the *UTSA Bulletin*, UTSA President James Wagener and Dora Grossenbacher, dean of students, watch as student Sandy Pantalion plays her first game of pool in the university's new student union. The temporary facility was located in the Science-Education Building and, in addition to the pool table, was equipped with foosball machines, video games, snack machines, a TV and a study area.

In 2006, students have a lot more in the way of diversions from their classes. The university is scheduled to break ground this year on a \$25 million expansion of the University Center (see story, page 20). The new building will feature outdoor dining and films, a commuter lounge with computers and copiers, a ballroom and meeting rooms, student activities offices and a game-room with video games, ping-pong and, yes, pool tables. Some things never change.

