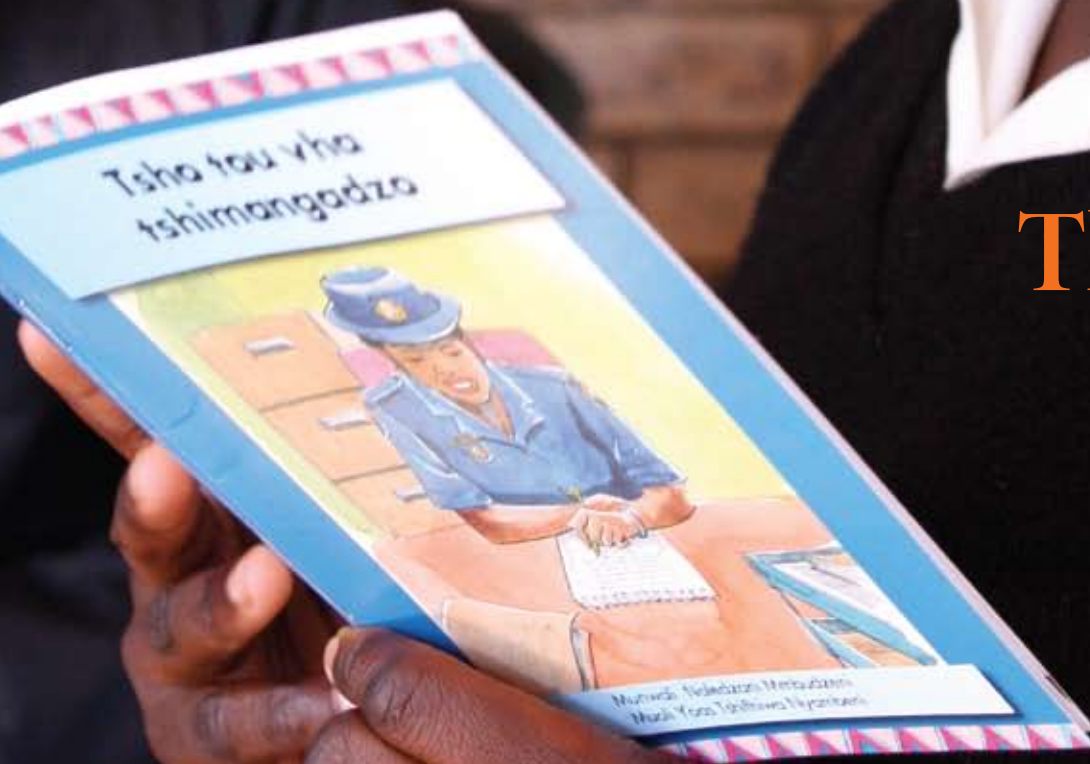


# Sombriila

The University of Texas at San Antonio MAGAZINE Summer 2008  
Vol. 24, No. 3



## The Language of Hope

Also in this issue:

ITC GHOST STORIES

UTSA ALUMNUS ANSWERS  
A HIGHER CALL





SUMMER 2008

# 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

### The (Virtually) Printed Word

I find that for a lot of things that happen in life there's a corresponding sitcom episode. So for this story, let's reference "Business School" from season three of *The Office*. Bumbling boss Michael is giving a talk to a business school class, and he is asked how Dunder Mifflin—a paper company—is poised to adapt itself in an increasingly paperless society.

"We can't overestimate the value of computers," he replies. "Yes, they are great for playing games and forwarding funny e-mails. But real business is done on paper, OK? Write that down."

The students furiously record Michael's words of wisdom ... on their laptops.

Like Michael, we love paper. We love its intimacy, its inherent interactivity. We love the smell, we love being able to doodle in the margins, we love that we can read it lying down, we love that we never have to remember to plug it in to recharge.

So several years ago when we were asked to develop a Web site for an online version of *Sombrilla*, we did so, but mostly to placate our bosses because we couldn't fathom why anyone would go online to read a magazine that comes out three times a year. The Web is where you go to get the latest news or to search for information, we reasoned. So the *Sombrilla* Web site went up and almost immediately became an afterthought. When the magazine went to the printer, we slapped the stories up on the Web site and called it a day.

But ever so gradually, we've come to understand how the Web offers us as storytellers additional tools that enhance our paper product. We started developing Web-only content such as slideshows and videos that complemented—but didn't compete with—the stories in the printed magazine. And as we began to make *Sombrilla Online* a priority rather than an afterthought, we realized very quickly that our little Web site wasn't especially user-friendly. Even more important, it wasn't cool enough for all the cool content we were putting on it.

So we're excited to debut with this issue a redesigned *Sombrilla Online* that's way more fun to surf, way better looking and, yes, way cooler than the previous incarnation. **So please go to the new URL, [www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla), check it out and let us know what you think.** In addition to a brand-new look, you'll also find more Web-only content than we've ever had before.

Curious to know what songs students are listening to in History and Styles of Rock? Read the story on page 14, then go to *Sombrilla Online* to take a peek at the playlist for the class. Want to know more about how the Ithuba project is benefiting the students of South Africa? Read the story on page 16, then go to *Sombrilla Online* to see video interviews with some of the South African teachers participating in the project. Want to know what paranormal investigators found when they searched UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures? Read the story on page 22, then go to *Sombrilla Online* to hear the spooky electronic voice phenomena they collected during their investigation. Been thinking about coming back to UTSA to get your class ring? Learn more about this growing tradition at UTSA on page 26, then go to *Sombrilla Online* to watch footage from this spring's ring ceremony.

We're very excited about the new Web site, but, like Michael, we also still love our paper. But if you're farther along than we are in your transition to a paperless society and would prefer to receive only *Sombrilla Online* instead of the printed magazine, drop us a note at [sombrilla@utsa.edu](mailto:sombrilla@utsa.edu). We'll take your name off the magazine mailing list and add it to the *Sombrilla Online* e-mail distribution list ... and save a little paper for the next generation.

—Rebecca Luther

# in the LOOP

## 100-YEAR-OLD BOTTLE OF BEER ON THE WALL ...



CAR staff archaeologist Jon Dowling inspects a purported 100-year-old beer bottle as Collin Lindsay and his mother, Paula Lindsay, look on. The intact bottle was found during recent excavations for the San Antonio River Walk

In May 2008, the Center for Archaeological Research's Legacy Program hosted eighth-grader Collin Lindsay for Career Shadow Day. Collin spent the day touring the CAR lab, watching the archaeologists work, and handling and washing artifacts to experience what a career in archaeology is all about.

Collin was intrigued by an old bottle that had recently been brought into the lab by project archaeologist Jon Dowling. Dowling had been monitoring crews excavating in the San Antonio River channel as part of improvements to the city's famed River Walk. In the riverbank near

the San Antonio Museum of Art, a large cluster of old bottles, mostly broken, was unearthed. Among the smashed fragments was an intact bottle, stopped up tight and full of a yellow liquid.

Collin went home that evening and went online to research William Esser, the name embossed on the bottle. He found that Esser owned his own brewery from 1875 to 1884, then became the proprietor of Lone Star Bottling Works, a position he held until at least 1891.

Further study at the lab indicated that bottles of that type usually contained soda or mineral water. However, this mold style was frequently used



for bottling beer, as well. It has an applied "blob"-style lip and a Hutchinson Spring Stopper, a device patented in 1879. Because of complaints about leaking, the stopper was gradually replaced by the crown cap, invented in 1892.

As for the bottle's contents? Preliminary testing for organics and bacteria is under way by UTSA. So far, researchers say the liquid has a pH value consistent with beer and a strong smell of yeast and vinegar.





## Lyric Theatre stages magical opera

UTSA's Lyric Theatre, a student-driven musical ensemble directed by William McCrary, performed Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in April. The presentation sold out the Downtown Campus' Buena Vista Theater on its opening night.

*The Magic Flute*, or *Die Zauberflöte*, is a whimsical tale of Prince Tamino's quest to rescue Princess Pamina from the sorcerer Sarastro. The lovers' journey is one of many challenges and tests of faith. The script lists the setting as merely "once upon a time," emphasizing the timelessness of classical opera and a wealth of musical talent across the centuries.

*The Magic Flute* was Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's final staged production in 1791; it was also the first full-length opera to be presented by UTSA's music department. Rafael Moras played the role of Prince Tamino. Moras is a 20-year-old, award-winning tenor who has trained with some of the industry's major players, including American soprano Sharon Sweet. Jillian Cox played Pamina's mother, the Queen of the Night, notably one of Mozart's most difficult roles. Among the most famous arias is the Queen of the Night's "Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen" ("The vengeance of hell boils in my heart"), recognized for its high-pitch range.

—Amanda Jackson

## ROADRUNNERS LOVE A PARADE

UTSA won two prizes in this year's Battle of Flowers parade—the first time the university has had entries in the venerable parade, the signature event of the annual Fiesta San Antonio celebration. The UTSA College of Business Briefcase Brigade won first place in the Amusements category, and the UTSA float won third place in the Patriotic and Educational category.

The Briefcase Brigade, composed of business faculty, staff and students, performed a dance routine to the song "Shake Ya Tail Feather" in tribute to the UTSA Roadrunners. The group was led by Jemina Brown, an undergraduate adviser in the College of Business and a Spurs Silver Dancer.

"We are excited that we could represent UTSA in this historic parade," said Lynda de la Viña, dean of the College of Business. "I've wanted the college to participate in the parade for several years now. It was a wonderful



opportunity for faculty, staff and students to bond and to do their part to spread the mission of the College of Business and UTSA."

Mr. and Ms. UTSA, Daniel Bernal Jr. and Jessica Beamer, rode the float, along with members of UTSA Mariachi Los Paisanos.

"I am so excited about entering the float in the parade, and I definitely want to do it next year," said Barry McKinney, UTSA director of student activities. "Barely five minutes after the parade began, a little girl asked to have her picture taken with Ms. UTSA. She said it was

fun to have her picture taken with a princess. That moment made it worth it."

To view video clips of the Briefcase Brigade and UTSA float from the 2008 Battle of Flowers parade, go to [www.utsa.edu/today/2008/05/videonews.cfm](http://www.utsa.edu/today/2008/05/videonews.cfm).

## UTSA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Seeking to combine the traditional college experience with this generation's Web 2.0 lifestyle, UTSA recently launched its own YouTube channel, Get Rowdy TV. UTSA joins a growing number of universities that have partnered with the popular video-sharing site, including UCLA, Ohio State, Carnegie Mellon, UC Berkeley, MIT and Stanford.

The site is available at [www.youtube.com/utsagetrowdytv](http://www.youtube.com/utsagetrowdytv).

"We expect UTSA Get Rowdy TV to capture the energy of our student life and promote school spirit here at UTSA," said Marianne Lewis, director of the Office of Public Affairs. "More and more universities are looking at social media as another means to engage their students and alumni, although we believe we are the first school in the UT System to establish an official presence on YouTube."

Get Rowdy TV features videos about student life at UTSA, with

particular focus on longstanding university traditions such as the BestFest carnival every fall, the springtime Fiesta UTSA celebration, and Roadrunner Days, which kick off the new school year.

Most of the videos are being filmed and produced by UTSA student Christopher Davis. Davis, a junior majoring in marketing, already had been posting his own personal videos on YouTube for two years before being hired in June by the Office of Public Affairs to help launch Get Rowdy TV. His videos have amassed more than 260,000 hits on YouTube; his dance instructional video on how to glide has been viewed more than 108,000 times alone.

Davis was excited to be discovered on YouTube and given the opportunity to create videos for the university. "I'm doing exactly what I love," he said. "I'm getting paid to do what I really want to do."



Student Christopher Davis interviews a student for UTSA Get Rowdy TVs.

## REAL-WORLD SCIENCE

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCES welcomed 25 of the state's brightest high school students to campus to participate in the first Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy July 27–Aug. 1. The five-day



residential summer camp brought together the first- and second-place finishers in the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair (EMTSEF), which took place in April at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

Designed for participants to experience real-world science applications across the state, the academy featured daily field trips to various destinations in San Antonio as well as visits to Natural Bridge Caverns in New Braunfels, Aquarena Springs in San Marcos and ExxonMobil in Houston. To arrive at their destinations, the students used global positioning systems to map their routes.

The theme of this year's academy focused on fluids in the Earth's crust and emphasized oil and gas and water resources. The students also had the opportunity to witness how geoscientists work.

In addition to the field trips, participants also worked on robotics projects using Lego Mindstorm Kits. The kits allowed students to assemble a robot, program a series of commands and use it to complete a variety of tasks including moving objects to target locations. The final days of the academy featured a competition showcasing the robots the students designed and built.

"This academy aligns with the UTSA College of Sciences' mission to establish a scientifically literate community through education and research," said George Perry, dean of the College of Sciences.

Organizers included Stuart Birnbaum, EMTSEF director and associate professor of geological sciences; Alan Dutton, Department of Geology chair; Pam Colby, College of Engineering program manager; and Tony Rivera and Kai Kamaka, College of Sciences.



## PRESIDENT'S DINNER IS OCT. 28

When it began, President's Dinner was a free event, a way for UTSA President Ricardo Romo to say thank you to the university's supporters. But then a simple question was asked: Why not charge admission to the event and make it a fundraiser?

The UTSA President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner has now evolved into the university's largest fundraising event for scholarships and academic programs, raising more than \$11.3 million to date.

It was John T. Montford, senior vice president of AT&T, who first made the suggestion to charge for the dinner. "I told [Romo] 'These same supporters, these same people you are wanting to thank will be there, and you can charge them for it because they believe in what you're doing. They believe in the mission of the university,'" he said.

The first fundraising dinner raised less than \$500,000; the second year tripled that, and each year since has earned record-breaking amounts for the university.

"We are so grateful to our many friends who have made this fundraiser so successful," Romo said. "As state appropriations for higher education decreases, private philanthropy is even more crucial to UTSA's goal to become a premier public research institution. Such generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students and in the life of this growing university."

This year's dinner is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. on Oct. 28 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. Individual tickets are ??? Tables for 10 are available at various levels of sponsorship. For information, go to [www.utsa.edu/presidentsdinner](http://www.utsa.edu/presidentsdinner) or call (210) 458-4129.

## iBRAVO!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

Engineering professor **Sos Agaian** was elected a fellow of the Society of Photo-optical Instrumentation Engineers for his contributions to "image processing, target detection and recognition, and multimedia security"; **C. Mauli Agrawal**, dean of the College of Engineering, was awarded the 2007 Healthcare Hero Award by the *San Antonio Business Journal* for his research in biomedical engineering and his efforts to translate new findings into products for patients through startup companies; **Bruce Barnett**, professor of educational leadership and policy studies in the College of Education and Human Development, was appointed associate director of international affairs of the University Council for Educational Administration; **Karen L. Daas**, assistant professor of communication, received the B. Aubrey Fisher Outstanding Article Award at the 2008 Western States Communication Association Convention for her co-authored article "Negotiating heteronormativity dialectically: Lesbian couples' display of symbols in culture," which appeared in the January 2007 issue of *Western Journal of Communication*; **Rupali Datta**, assistant professor of environmental science, was awarded the 2007 Early Career Award in Research by the southern branch of the American Society of Agronomy for her accomplishments in agronomic research, including studying ways to remove lead from soils in the San Antonio area by 2010, a goal set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; under the direction of assistant professor of mathematics **Eduardo Dueñez**, undergraduate students **Wenlong Zheng**, **Dang Nguyen**, **John Fuini**, **Nguyen Nguyen**, **Denton Massey**, **William Frees**,

**Ernesto Ramirez** and **John Escamilla** participated in the 67th annual William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition, and the performance of team members Zheng, D. Nguyen and Fuini earned UTSA its first top-150 ranking in a field of 516 schools; **Karl Eschbach**, associate professor of demography and organization studies, was named state demographer by Gov. Rick Perry and will serve as director of the Texas State Data Center, which is housed at UTSA and which distributes census information for the state, as well as Texas population estimates and projections; the International Association for Addictions and Offender Counseling awarded **Professor Gerald Juhnke**, director of the counselor education and supervision Ph.D. program, the 2008 Addictions/Offender Educator Excellence Award, which is conferred to a graduate faculty member who "exemplifies outstanding teaching in the area of addictions/offender issues and demonstrates commitment to the education of professional counselors"; the **reading preparation program** in the College of Education and Human Development is the first recipient of the International Reading Association's Certificate of Distinction, which honors outstanding reading preparation of elementary and secondary teachers. Also, **Susan Keehn**, associate professor of interdisciplinary learning and teaching, is the recipient of the IRA's Jerry Johns Outstanding Teacher Educator in Reading Award; associate professor **Randy Manteufel** was elected as a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a distinction held by only 3 percent of ASME members; associate

professor **Nancy Membrez**, who teaches both Spanish literature and digital video production, received six nominations for her digital feature film *Portrait in Sepia Tone* at the International Filmmaker Festival in Kent, England. The film won Best Picture and Best Soundtrack; IEEE Robotics Team members **Kevin Messenhimer**, **John Collins**, **Philip So**, **Jose Gamboa**, **Richard Mackie**, **Chris Brucks**, **Tyler Schmidt** and **Daniel Seller** placed second at the IEEE Region 5 competition in which teams were charged with designing an autonomous robot capable of following lines, detecting weight and color, and placing bins of differing weights in different locations based on color; **Harry Millwater**, associate professor of mechanical engineering, was inducted into Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society for his commitment to teaching and research and his dedication to students; **Dibyendu (Dibs) Sarkar**, associate professor of environmental geochemistry, was awarded the 2007 Environmental Geosciences Teaching Award by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists for excellence in the field of teaching environmental geology and related subjects; music professor **John Silantien** was selected to serve as a lead researcher and chief editor by the Library of Congress and the American Choral Directors Association for a project that will digitize American choral music of the 19th and early 20th centuries; electrical and computer engineering faculty members **Jianqiu (Michelle) Zhang** and **Yufei Huang** won the 2007 Signal Processing Magazine Best Paper Award from the IEEE Signal Processing Society for their paper "Particle Filtering."

## IN MEMORIAM



When Writing Center Director **Judith Gardner** left her office May 12, she had completed more than simply a day's work; she had completed her life's work. Diagnosed with cancer two years ago, Gardner had been preparing for her planned medical leave this summer. She died May 22.

Gardner joined the Department of English, Classics and Philosophy faculty in 1980. She was the first recipient of the President's Excellence in Teaching award for non-tenure-track faculty. Other awards include the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation award, University Honors Program Faculty of the Year and most recently the Outstanding Educator Award from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Colleagues remember Gardner as the consummate educator. "I could ask her anything, and she would know the answer," said Hortencia Saucedo, Gardner's senior administrative associate. "Her knowledge about UTSA was not just about academics; it was about the students."

Gardner, who often worked 12-hour days, played key roles in the Learning Communities program and the Writing Across the Curriculum program, but she also supported all aspects of the university community. She raised money for the Women's Walk for Athletics, helped collect food and funds for the campus' feral cats, sponsored student organizations, including Golden Key, and even had a bit part in a Bargain Basement Players production.



**Bess Hieronymus**, professor emeritus in the Department of Music, died March 22. Born June 22, 1922, in Temple, Texas, Hieronymus was the first woman appointed to full professor at UTSA, where she developed and spearheaded the organ studies program.

Hieronymus began playing at age three and took her first job as a church organist at age 12. She earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and a master of arts in music degree from Smith College, and was the first person to receive a doctor of musical arts degree in organ performance and musicology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Hieronymus helped UTSA's organ program achieve national recognition and mentored many students who went on to distinguished careers. She supervised the installation of the 1982 Casavant organ in the UTSA recital hall on the 1604 Campus; in 2004, the university named the organ in her honor. For 17 years, she organized the William C. Hall Organ Competition for undergraduate and graduate students in Texas. She was the first American and first woman awarded membership in the prestigious National Russian Musical Society. Additionally, the Texas House of Representatives passed a resolution thanking Hieronymus for her musical contributions to Texas.

To donate to the Bess Hieronymus Endowed Faculty Fellowship

in Music, visit [www.utsa.edu/development](http://www.utsa.edu/development). On the online donation form in the space labeled "Designation," please specify the Bess Hieronymus Endowed Faculty Fellowship in Music.



Former UTSA Police Chief **George Powers** lost his battle with cancer on June 11. He was 61 years old. Powers was the university's third chief of police, serving from 1999 to 2005.

Powers served in the Houston Police Department for 22 years, retiring as a sergeant, and was loss-prevention manager at Ultramar Diamond Shamrock Corp. (now Valero) for eight years before coming to UTSA.

Under Powers, the UTSA Police Department grew by nearly 40 percent. He helped establish the Office of Emergency Preparedness, now the Office of Business Continuity and Emergency Management. He also founded the UTSA honor guard and established the criminal background check process for new hires. Powers was responsible for developing the department's first Web site and creating the Special Threat Operations Plan after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

It became a tradition for "Santa Powers" to attend the annual holiday party for the Business Affairs office. Santa Powers would entertain guests by giving out candy canes and bellowing "Ho, ho, ho!" In that role, Powers also visited local children's hospitals to hand out presents to those too sick or injured to spend the holidays at home and to children whose parents couldn't afford gifts.



Department of Mathematics faculty member **Rama M. Mantripragada** died June 7. He was born in Andhra Pradesh, India, and came to the United States in 1965 as a postdoctoral student at the University of Southern California. For four decades, he served as faculty member and researcher at various places throughout the United States and at the Indian Institute

of Technology Kanpur in India. In 1992, he joined the UTSA Department of Mathematics faculty.

Mantripragada published nearly 60 research articles, primarily in the area of partial differential equations, and in 1975 was elected to India's National Academy of Sciences. He received the UTSA President's Teaching Excellence Award in 1998.

Mantripragada was known for his willingness to help those having trouble in his class. One former student wrote on RateMyProfessors.com, "I would definitely recommend Dr. Rama; he really cares about his students and wants them to do well. ... He allows a formula cheat sheet on tests, goes over topics if you're having trouble with them, and is a pretty funny guy, even though a lot of his jokes get lost in translation, which makes them even more hilarious."

Said another: "I HATE MATH but LOVED his class."



# The Energy Equation

University launches institute to explore alternative energy sources

Worldwide energy consumption is projected to increase by more than 50 percent in the next 25 years, propelling the world into an energy crisis, said President Ricardo Romo at the North American Energy Summit, held at UTSA's Downtown Campus May 1-2.

The summit brought together 128 professionals and leaders in the field to discuss fossil fuels, renewable energy, nuclear energy and green business practices. Speakers from throughout the nation, Canada and Mexico led panels on a range of topics, including environmental concerns, the economics of energy and transportation, public policy, regulations that influence industry practices and energy education.

"The university is not going to solve the energy crisis; government isn't going to solve it," Romo told summit participants. "It's going to take collaboration."

To jumpstart this process, the university has created the Institute for Conventional Alternative and Renewable Energy. ICARE brings together representatives from industry, government and academia to explore alternative energy sources. It will also look into new policies and best practices for the energy industry at the state, regional and global levels.

The center will involve every college at UTSA, which is a first for the university, said Dean of Engineering Mauli Agrawal.

"Energy is something that affects all of us," he said. "We're trying to create a niche for ourselves, which is a holistic look at energy rather than a very limited look. We felt that if you look at energy, there are so many facets to the energy equation that you have to consider multiple variables. That's the idea behind the institute."

The institute is still in the planning stages, but the summit was the first step in the university's effort to identify the major issues, Agrawal said. "A meeting like [the energy summit] can be very enthusiastic and encouraging, but so many times we see that nothing goes forward," said Robert Gracy, vice president for research at UTSA.



Illustration by Michelle Friesenhan

"That's why we created ICARE. We want it to be a catalyst to move things forward."

ICARE will position the university as a prime player in helping the country and the world with energy issues, Agrawal added.

"The energy shortage issue isn't going to go away, at least in my lifetime," he said. "At some point we will transition over and say 'back then there was a problem.' We'll figure this out; we'll come at it in a different way, maybe something we haven't even thought about. But it's not going to go away anytime soon."

Industry leaders, politicians and educators must not lose the momentum created through the summit, the researchers said. UTSA is already taking the lead in forming a county-wide alliance of government, academia and industry to address energy research and policy.

"We will not let this be one of those things where the results will sit on the shelves," Gracy said. "We are moving things forward."

—Lety Laurel

## Strong Women Making Healthy Choices

Research shows that from a social perspective, women face an increasing risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. But science delivers its own blow: anatomically, the shape and formation of the female reproductive anatomy and the amount of HIV levels in semen versus vaginal secretions also increase women's chances of becoming infected.

It's those realities that the Somos Fuertes: Strong Women Making Healthy Choices project aims to teach women campuswide. The voluntary, six-session curriculum for female students delves into sexuality, empowerment issues and sexual health. The program also funds coeducational events to encourage HIV/AIDS prevention.

Program organizers also gather data through online surveys of UTSA students to track sexual trends on campus.

"There is science and research behind all [the information] that we are giving females

that says not only in the physical aspect are you at greater risk, but also from a social aspect," said Tammy Wyatt, assistant professor of health education in the Department of Health and Kinesiology. Wyatt believes gender expectations that suggest women should be submissive make them vulnerable, as does the fact that typically women don't make as much money as men, but serve as the primary caretakers of their families. That can lead to women neglecting their own health needs, she said.

The project, primarily geared toward Latinas, was initially funded in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office for Women's Health. It has received annual funding of about \$84,000 since, and is expected to continue through 2010.

"Our objectives are, first of all, to help women define themselves as sexual beings," Wyatt said. Then the curriculum examines influences on sexuality, including culture. Communication is a main topic.

"We do role plays and practice communication skills on how you would convince a partner to wear a condom, tell a partner you didn't want to engage in sexual intercourse or tell a partner that you did."

In Texas, which has the highest number of teen births in the nation, sexuality education is not mandatory in public schools. Federal dollars fund abstinence-only programs, so most public schools follow that curriculum, Wyatt says. Abstinence-only education discusses contraceptives, but stresses their failure rates. Since many UTSA students attended public schools in Texas, they have not had comprehensive sex education, Wyatt said.

"It was so apparent from interactions with students, including juniors and seniors, that many of them had not been exposed to accurate and useable information," she said. "So there is a need for giving women information to help them make healthy sexual choices and be comfortable with their sexuality."

—Lety Laurel

## Questions of Interpretation

Depending on your point of view, Pancho Villa was either a villain or a hero. And after Sept. 11, the actions of the U.S. government either infringed on civil liberties or effectively protected the nation against terrorism.

When Mexican police fired on protesters in Tlatelolco in 1968, they either killed 31 violent terrorists in an attempt to defend themselves or slew up to 2,000 innocent people in an act of brutal authoritarianism.

How all these events are understood depends on memory and emotion, and who's telling the story. That's the message three graduate students from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts conveyed during the college's Spring Research Conference on April 11.

During the session "Terrorists and Terrorisms: The State Against the Subjects," Braden Beebe presented his research paper, "Pancho Villa: Bandit, Warrior, Legend"; Molly Cox discussed "The Terror State: Fear Politics and the War on Terror"; and Jennifer Holt Dille presented "Remember the Tlatelolco Massacre: How the 1968 Student Movement Changed Mexican Identity."

Norma Cantu, professor of English, said that even though the papers tackled seemingly disparate topics, they all shared one common link—terrorism. While Beebe and Dille specifically targeted Mexican history, Cox's work was a contemporary look at the U.S. response to terrorism.

"Each student approached the topic differently and the papers reflected mostly a historical take," she said.

There were 111 participants in the conference, which is now in its eighth year. Awards were given to undergraduates and graduate students in the categories of music, art, research posters, creative writing and research papers.

Any student in the college can participate in the event, said Christopher Wickham, associate dean of the college. The conference gives the students a forum to present their research and requires them to be knowledgeable enough about their work to answer questions.

"It does take quite a bit of work to put together an original research paper, which is what we expect. And some of them are very fine," he said. "I think our students, when they get their teeth into a good topic, really go to town on it."

—Lety Laurel



Illustration by Michelle Friesenhan





Photos by Jeff Huehn, UTSA Athletics

## Enjoying success on the diamond

By Brian Hernandez

In the last four years, UTSA's baseball team has reached heights never before seen in its 17-year history. This success has been due in large part to Sherman Corbett, who just wrapped up his eighth season as head coach of the Roadrunners.

The list of his recent accomplishments is extensive.

UTSA has won the last two Southland Conference Regular Season Championships—the first in school history—and won the 2005 SLC Tournament title to advance to NCAA regional play. The Roadrunners, who have posted a total of 250 victories in the last eight years (an average of 32 per season), set a school record with 38 regular season victories this past spring and tied the program mark with 39 overall. To top it off, Corbett has been named the league's Clay Gould Coach of the Year the last two seasons.

A San Antonio native, Corbett took over the reigns in 2001 after the Roadrunners finished the previous season with just 17 wins, the fewest in school history. He immediately expanded the program's recruiting base and instituted a four-step plan to success. The first

step was to instill a winning attitude in the players; the second was to teach them how to handle success. The third focused on winning championships, and the final step, which Corbett says the program is in now, is to sustain that championship success and advance in NCAA tournament play on a consistent basis.

"When we got here, Coach [Jason] Marshall and I mapped out a plan of what we needed to do to bring stability and consistency to the program," Corbett says. "Obviously that started with recruiting in order to find the best players possible. From there, we wanted to teach the players how to gain confidence and win games. The bottom line in program development is to have future players feel a sense of obligation and loyalty to uphold what those before them have built."

UTSA won 30 games in Corbett's first season, and after three middle-of-the-pack finishes in conference play, the Roadrunners rebounded from a 0–11 start in 2005 to win the league's automatic berth to the NCAA tournament, their first in 11 years and second ever.

All told, Corbett has coached a pair of All-Americans and 38 all-conference

players during his tenure, including eight first-teamers. He also has mentored 2001 SLC Pitcher of the Year Jared Howton, 2002 All-American and SLC Player and Hitter of the Year Mark Schramek, 2003 SLC Freshman of the Year Ryan Crew, 2007 SLC Newcomer of the Year Trent Lockwood, 2007 SLC Freshman of the Year Tim Palincsar, 2008 All-American and SLC Player of the Year Michael Rockett, in addition to three Freshman All-Americans—Crew (2003), Rockett (2006) and Palincsar (2007).

Another factor in the team's recent success has been stability within the program. Associate Head Coach Jason Marshall has been on Corbett's staff since he took over eight years ago, and the past two second-level assistant coaches, Jim Blair (2002–2006) and Mike Clement (2006–present), each served at least three years.

"The stability we've had in our coaching staff is one of the strongest things we've got going for us," Corbett says. "It is such an

**The first step was to instill a winning attitude in the players; the second was to teach them how to handle success.**

advantage when you don't have to repeatedly teach someone what your team philosophy is year after year. It definitely has been a major reason for our success."

In a sport where player turnover is somewhat higher than others because NCAA rules don't require players to sit out a year after transferring, the Roadrunners have been fortunate in that few players leave campus once they arrive. Corbett attributes that to the open and honest relationship he has with his players, as well as the dynamic and rapid growth of the university in the last decade.

"When you build a relationship of respect and fairness, that goes a long way in developing stability," he says. "San Antonio is a great place to be and it's been exciting to be part of the growth of this university. Dr. [Ricardo] Romo has a great vision and athletics obviously has been a part of that."

It also helps that Corbett, who played professionally from 1984 to 1993, brings four years of Major League Baseball experience to the job. His stint with the California Angels from 1988 to 1991 makes him one of just 13 NCAA Division I-A head coaches who are MLB alums.

"Not only is Coach Corbett a great coach, but he is an even better person," Marshall says. "The relationships he builds with his players go much further than when their [college] careers end. What he has been able to accomplish in a relatively short amount of time is just amazing and I'm fortunate to have been a part of it."

With seven positional starters and six pitchers returning and a strong recruiting class coming in this fall, the Roadrunners could be on their way to earning another title. That's just the way Sherman Corbett has planned it.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### UTSA captures SLC Cup, Men's All-Sports Trophy

UTSA in May captured its first-ever Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup and second Men's All-Sports Trophy in the past three years. The Roadrunners, who were second in the Commissioner's Cup race each of the past two seasons, scored 138 points to edge out Lamar (136.5) and snapped a three-year winning streak by Sam Houston State, which finished fifth (123.5). Texas State was third in the standings with 135 points; just three points separated the top three finishers. "We are very proud and excited about winning the Commissioner's Cup," UTSA Athletics Director Lynn Hickey said. "This is a goal of ours that we have talked about out loud for the past several years. To come so close the past two years and to win it this year is a great feeling. It's not an easy award to win, as you can see by how close the final standings were." UTSA won four SLC championships during the 2007–2008 academic year:

baseball regular season, women's basketball tournament, and men's indoor and outdoor track and field. It's the most championship wins the university has had in one year since also capturing four in 2003–2004.

### Roadrunners earn All-America accolades

Junior Michael Rockett (baseball) and sophomore Teddy Williams (men's track and field) earned All-America honors this past spring. Rockett, the SLC Player of the Year, was a second-team selection by the National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association and a third-team pick by Collegiate Baseball. Meanwhile, Williams collected his honor by virtue of his seventh-place finish in the 100 meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

### Roadrunners named to SLC Honor Roll

Sixty-one UTSA student-athletes were named to the Spring 2008 SLC Commissioner's Honor Roll

for recording a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

**Baseball**—Seniors Bradley Chovanec and Mark Ruffin; juniors Andy Benedict, J.T. Mackey, Aaron Powell, Michael Rockett and Kris Ruepke; sophomores Zach Calhoon, Kevin Clarke, Tim Palincsar, Ryan Proudfoot and Ryan Rummel; and freshman Jason Walls  
**Men's Basketball**—Junior Joey Shank; and freshmen Cody Dotson-Lara and Devin Gibson  
**Women's Basketball**—Senior Tia Bogan; juniors Andrea Garcia, Kara McKay and Reba Pawlaczyk; sophomores Regan Burks and Courtney Laing; and freshman Whitney York  
**Men's Golf**—Seniors Sean Burch, Thomas Kearney and Philipp Krohn; and junior Kyle Collins  
**Women's Golf**—Senior Michelle Kowalick; junior Laeni Bendzik  
**Softball**—Senior Amanda Nikolenko; junior Leanne Risberg; sophomore Chelsey Chapman;

and freshman Whitney Balch  
**Men's Tennis**—Senior Adam Becker; juniors Robin Fernandes and Andre Moreira; sophomore Rodrigo Morgado; and freshmen Daniel Moreiras and Max Stratmann  
**Women's Tennis**—Senior Tanya Hasking; juniors Monika Drabkova, Karen Scida, Eva Silvester and Nathalie Wallin; sophomore Holly Phillips; and freshman Caroline Dederling  
**Men's Track and Field**—Senior Luke Johnson; sophomores Johnathan Whittaker and Jun Yang; and freshmen Dillard Glass, Al Johnson, Terence Watson and Dominick Zucconi  
**Women's Track and Field**—Seniors Rikki Gray and Kari Michalik; sophomores Faith Barlow, Rebekah Hill, Jessica Jones and Dana Mecke; and freshmen Jaclyn Bobmanuel and Aimee Jonas

### What's the latest?

Go to [www.goutsa.com](http://www.goutsa.com) for the latest Roadrunners sports



**Above:** Seniors Mark Ruffin (15) and Steven Vasquez give head coach Sherman Corbett the traditional Gatorade bath following the Roadrunners' second consecutive SLC championship in May. **Top left:** head coach Sherman Corbett talks with pitcher Kris Ruepke and catcher Zach Etheredge. **Top right:** Sherman Corbett, the winningest head coach in UTSA Athletics history (250 wins), led the Roadrunners to a school record-tying 39 victories last spring.



# School of Rock

By Analisa Nazareno

**“I love listening to Carlos Santana recordings. You know why?” Eugene Dowdy, the classically trained chairman of the music department and conductor of the UTSA orchestra, asks his students during one of the first History and Styles of Rock classes this summer.**

Silence. None of the approximately 100 students in the class utters a word. So Dowdy provides his own answer.

“I can hear him turn it up. You can hear that on the recordings. He plays two notes and you hear the volume jump up because he reached out and turned up the guitar.”

The students look on in amusement as Dowdy turns up the volume on the air guitar he has made with his arms and hands. Most hadn’t been born—in fact, many of their parents were still in high school—when Santana became a Latin rock and roll phenomenon during the 1970s with his renditions of “Black Magic Woman” and “Evil Ways.”

The rock and roll class is a core curriculum course that students may take to fulfill fine arts requirements for their majors. The music department offers similar courses on more esoteric genres such as jazz, the classical traditions and Latin American music, but because rock and roll is more widely familiar, Dowdy’s class is popular with students who have never taken music classes and don’t play musical instruments.

The lesson this day is a review of many of the basic elements of music—beat, meter, rhythm, timbre, pitch and melody. “Pitches in succession, how they’re organized, that’s your melody,” Dowdy says. “In fact, it’s one of the most important elemental components, because the melody is pretty much what we need to hear. It might have the lyrics. It might have the lead guitar solo.”

Never mind that at this point in the course, these basic musical terms may seem as foreign as Ancient Mesopotamia. Never mind that the students don’t know who King Crimson, Big Mama Thornton or Crosby Stills & Nash are. They will come to know these people and this vocabulary.

“I reassure them that the terminology that they’re hearing me use, I’m setting an expectation that by the end of the semester, they’re going to be able to use this terminology,” Dowdy says. “And I say, ‘Be patient, it’s going to take time. You didn’t learn algebra before you learned multiplication and addition.’”

The comparison with algebra is appropriate, because sometimes, when he’s explaining syncopation, rhythm and meter, it may seem like he’s talking about math.

“How many subdivisions in each beat? 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4,” Dowdy asks the class, when discussing compound meter and Led Zeppelin’s “Whole Lotta Love.” “And sometimes it might be hard to count that, but if you actually just let the beat wash over you a little bit, it will start to become clear to you.”

And little by little, the students say, as they learn to let the concepts wash over them, they begin to think more deeply and carefully about music.

“Before this class, I would listen for the melody unconsciously and the lyrics consciously and see if they were well thought out,” says Nathan Rubalcava, a 19-year-old junior biology major who plans to apply to medical school. His favorite band is the Arctic Monkeys. “I really could not hear the different, unique sounds of the piece, even if it was just the rhythm guitar or the bass guitar. Now, I find it easier to hear those instruments and more in the short time I’ve been attending Dowdy’s class.”

The students are required to maintain a journal in which they describe their personal responses to the music, using the terminology, analytical methods, and other ideas from the course. An annotated research assignment (which includes the option of attending and analyzing a rock concert) also helps students solidify what they’re learning. The main source of reading material for the course is a textbook written by former UTSA music professors Joe Stuessy and Scott D. Lipscomb, *Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development*.

Stuessy, the former chairman of the music department, had taught the rock and roll class for many years before he asked Dowdy to help with teaching the popular course 10 years ago. He and Lipscomb developed the foundation for the playlist that Dowdy modifies and uses.

Human resources major LeeAnn Jones says that when she does her homework for the class, she feels the urge to listen to the musicians she’s learning about, and to listen for meter, rhythm and pitch. So, she hops online.

“It’s a little bit challenging,” says Jones, a 21-year-old junior. “[The class] has parts where I’m going, ‘OK, what?’ because I’m not musically inclined and was never into music other than to just listen to it. All I ever noticed were the words, and now he’s telling me to break it down and try to listen to the different instruments. ... So it’s been interesting. But I’ve learned to listen to music differently.”

By the end of the semester, the students will have grasped the basic musical components, learned how the 12-bar blues and the peacetime prosperity of the 1950s contributed to the birth of rock and roll, and studied the way rock and roll splintered into various subgenres in the 1970s, Dowdy says.

“There are people who know so much more about rock music than I do. ... What I am really interested in doing is teaching about music through rock and roll,” says Dowdy, who will step down as chairman of the department this fall to make more time for teaching. “It’s not just a class about all the great rock music we can listen to and here’s how much money they made. We talk about all those things. But we talk a lot about music and musical form. That to me is what makes my course interesting to my students.”

When Dowdy reaches over to the computer to play snippets of music, or uses the electric keyboard in his classroom to explain major and minor chords, the students perk up.

“It sounds kind of cheesy, but if it sounds kind of happy it’s a major chord,” Dowdy tells them, illustrating his point on the piano’s white keys. “And if it sounds kind of unhappy it’s minor,” he says, including one of the black keys in the mix. He repeats the sounds. The students seem to be getting it.

## WEB EXTRA:

**Take a peek at the playlist Eugene Dowdy uses in History and Styles of Rock to see if your favorite tune made the list.**  
[www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla)





# THE LANGUAGES OF HOPE

With the goal of improving home language literacy, UTSA and South African educators unite in a groundbreaking educational initiative

By Lynn Gosnell

This is a story about a fifth-grade teacher in Soweto, South Africa. One day the teacher gave a lesson about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. One of her students, a young girl who had recently lost both parents to this merciless disease, listened intently. Then the girl wrote a note to the teacher about her family—how she had become the sole caretaker of two younger sisters and how they struggled for food. She slipped the note into the classroom message box, but did not sign her name. Instead, she signed the note with the number 1.

The teacher was sad to read about her student's struggle. She understood the situation clearly because HIV/AIDS had also affected her own family. The teacher knew that there was help available, but she first needed to gain the student's trust. So, she picked up a pen and wrote her reply. It began, "Dear 1 ...."

*Dear 1* is not only a true story, it's also one of more than a hundred story-based supplemental reading books created through a unique international literacy partnership based at UTSA. The project is called Ithuba, an acronym for "Innovative Texts in Home Languages Uniquely Based in Africa." The word *ithuba* also means *opportunity* in isiZulu, one of South Africa's nine indigenous or home languages.

And opportunity abounds in this cross-continental project, which leverages the resources of UTSA, two South African universities, two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national and provincial government offices to create books in home languages and strengthen teacher training. By next year, 2 million copies of these books and accompanying teachers' guides will be printed and distributed to rural and impoverished South African classrooms.



Photo by Ricardo Romo

Directed by UTSA education associate professor Misty Sailors, the Ithuba Writing Project is funded by a \$5 million United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cooperative agreement that began in 2005 and runs through next spring. It is part of the Textbooks and Learning Materials component of the \$600 million Africa Education Initiative initiated by President George W. Bush to increase access to education in more than 40 sub-Saharan African nations.

In addition to creating, printing and distributing books for children in home languages, Ithuba is also building the kind of institutional capacity that will sustain future literacy projects. To accomplish all these goals, Sailors has created a dynamic partnership of major players in South Africa's educational reform movement. These partners include the University of Pretoria, a century-old university with Afrikaner roots; the University of Limpopo, a historically black African college located in one of the country's poorest and most populous provinces; the READ Educational Trust, an NGO born out of the crisis of the 1976 Soweto uprising, which also creates books and conducts teacher training across South Africa; the Molteno Project, an NGO which specializes in second-language or home language instruction; and the South African Department of Education, the policy home of the country's educational reform movement. The DoE is the publisher for all the Ithuba books.

Supported by a small and dedicated staff at UTSA, Sailors oversees a project that she herself might describe, employing a favorite descriptor, as *amazingly* complex.

In addition, she has the support of fellow College of Education and Human Development faculty members Miriam Martinez, Roxanne Henkin, Jenifer Thornton and Elsa Ruiz, as well as Jim Hoffman and Deborah Horan of UT Austin. Also working on the project are other faculty associated with Johns Hopkins University, UC Berkeley, and the University of Boulder. Additionally, more than dozen classroom teachers in the San Antonio area also participate. "It's a challenge for us to organize and coordinate all the human resources that are involved in this project," says Sailors, who has made many a phone call at 2 a.m. in order to reach her South African colleagues at the beginning of their business day, not to mention logging well over a dozen overseas trips to date.

## 60 kids and one big book

A former elementary school teacher and newly tenured professor, Sailors brings the organizational talents of a classroom teacher and the intellectual rigor of an academician to Ithuba. When she speaks about her work in South Africa, Sailors exudes a heartfelt gratitude for the teachers who are educating a new generation of students free from apartheid.

"They are a country of absolute hope," she says.

She also brings a great deal of practical experience to the project, having worked early in her career with Jim Hoffman on a large-scale literacy project funded by the Business Trust, a South African corporate and government partnership. Sailors' eyes were opened to both the struggles and the determination of post-apartheid South Africa to meet the needs of its young learners.



UTSA education associate professor Misty Sailors meets with students in Soweto to discuss the kinds of books they'd like in their classrooms.

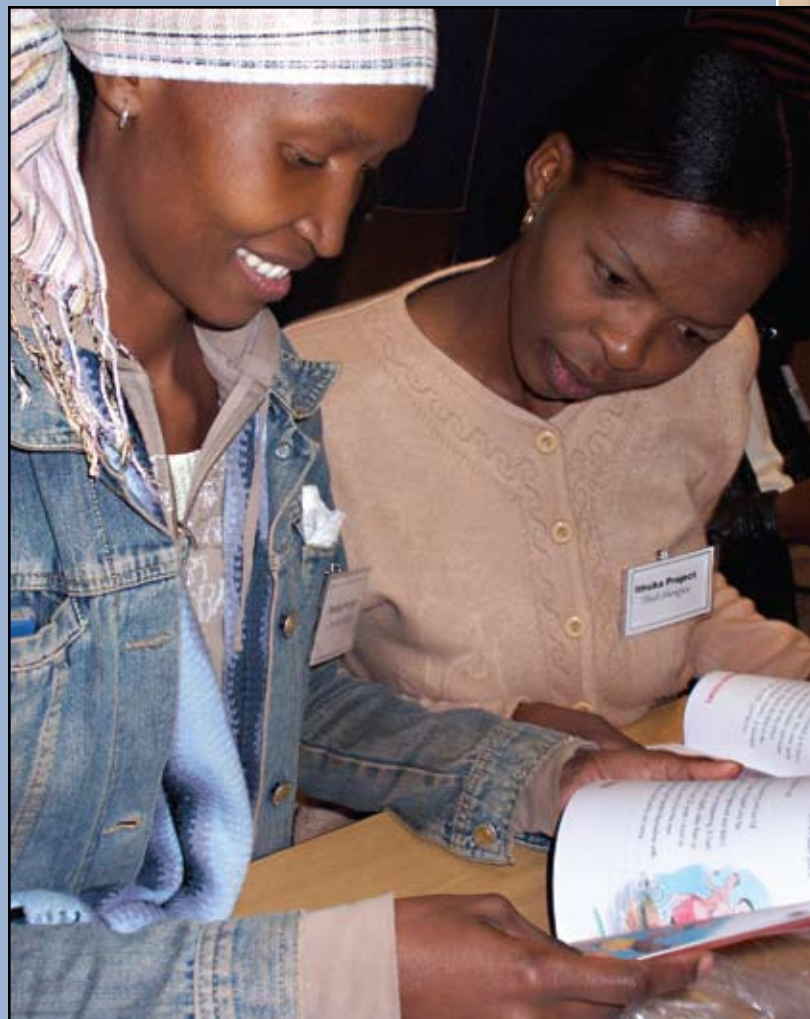
"When you found yourself in classrooms where there were books," she recalls, "(a), it didn't happen very often, or (b), it was one big book. There were 60 kids with a big book, and the kids never had a book in their hands. And when you did find books in classrooms, there were maybe 10 for the whole class to share."

Books of all kinds are rare in South Africa's schools, Sailors says. On one of her first trips to that country, she witnessed a ritual that dramatized both the value and the vulnerability of this scarce resource. A young boy was carrying a stack of books. As he was walking, "there were about 10 kids around him, who kind of looked like bodyguards," says Sailors. When she asked what the children were doing, she was told that those were the only books the school owned, and that they had to be locked up at night or they likely would be stolen and burned for cooking fires.

Sailors later learned that this situation was not unusual in many poor areas of South Africa. That was confirmed through her ongoing work in South Africa and by one of her own staff members, a UTSA student from South Africa named Teko nHalpho. While a student at San Antonio College, nHalpho had read about the Ithuba project in the newspaper. He sent an e-mail to Sailors commending her on her work and giving a personal testimony as to the project's importance.

"I attended a school built by the U.N. with no educational resources to use," he wrote. "A school with [a] dirt floor and a dim classroom without electricity, no pencils nor pens, no paper nor textbooks and a chalkboard with no chalk. I learned my lessons as lectures from a teacher with one book during my primary education. It wasn't till 1995 that I owned my first textbook."





**Left: Illustrators involved in the Ithuba Writing Project. Above: As part of the Ithuba Writing Project, students test-read books authored by teachers before the books were launched in October 2007.**



**Above and right: Students and teachers gather in a classroom in Venda, South Africa.**  
Photos by Ricardo Romo



The e-mail continued, “I’m a witness and agree with the article that books are a luxury or a talisman to South African children. In my school they were locked at the principal’s house every last Friday of the month and also during every school holiday.”

In a part of the world where too many resources are scarce—food, medicine, money—Sailors was overwhelmed that schoolchildren and teachers went to such lengths to protect books, a symbol of opportunity. When the request for proposals to participate in the textbook component of the Africa Education Initiative came through UTSA’s Office of Sponsored Programs in 2004, Sailors jumped at the chance to get back to South Africa and put her experience to work.

#### “I thought that I’m not a writer”

What’s unique about the Ithuba books is that they are being developed from the ground up by teachers who mine their personal histories, their students’ daily experiences and local oral traditions. The stories depict both the universal and the particular in contemporary South African life: baking bread, visiting grandparents, taking a train journey, resisting peer pressure, practicing forgiveness, overcoming prejudice, and living with HIV/AIDS.

Most existing home language books for South African schoolchildren have been translated from English or Afrikaans, Sailors says. Texts authored in home languages have several advantages over translated texts in the classroom. “You lose some control over language when you translate versus when you author in a home language. And it’s more representative of children’s culture. For example, the kind of idioms that we have in

English, they don’t necessarily translate to the home language, and vice versa,” she says.

“So children are able to be more successful at reading and recognize themselves in home language–authored texts.”

The books themselves are simply but attractively constructed. Each compact (approximately 5 by 7 inches) text has full-color ink and water-color illustrations. The stories lead to lessons in math, natural sciences and life skills appropriate for grades 4, 5 and 6. Accompanying teachers’ guides provide ideas, objectives and goals for book-based lessons.

Magdeline Modise, the author of *Dear I*, was among the first teachers to go through the extensive workshop process that Ithuba requires for story development. She has 15 years of experience as an English teacher at Bosuokuhle Primary School in the Mpumalanga Province.

Says Modise, “I wasn’t sure that I’d be able to write [the book] because I thought that I’m not a writer. Then they teach us the steps to follow.”

To create the books, all 140 educators working with Ithuba have completed a series of intensive writing and teacher training workshops in their home provinces. For example, in the rural provinces of Mpumalanga and Limpopo where the teachers live so far away, training takes place at the guesthouses where Sailors and her colleagues stay. In the Gauteng Province, the third area served by Ithuba, the trainers and teachers work out of READ offices.

“Two weekends in a row the teachers will come and we’ll write the whole entire weekend,” says Sailors. “It’s nice. It’s relaxing for them, and you get to know everyone on a personal level.”

An added bonus for the Ithuba teachers is that they receive 10 hours of continuing professional development credits from the University of

Pretoria, which they may use as credit toward degree programs. That’s a first, Sailors says, for teachers working on a USAID-sponsored project in South Africa.

“Ithuba has brought in teachers ... where they can talk about beliefs and issues that are locally inspiring and relevant,” says Leketi Makalela, chair of the Department of English at the University of Limpopo, and an Ithuba partner. “To have the teachers producing that kind of material—that, for me I think, is the magic of Ithuba,” he says.

#### A future for Ithuba

Since the ratification of the South African constitution in 1996, the government has promoted parity of indigenous languages with English and Afrikaans, the only two languages with official recognition during the apartheid era (1948–1994). The current policy promotes “mother tongue-based bilingual education” says Carole Bloch, an Ithuba collaborator and coordinator of the Early Literacy Unit of the Project for the Study of Alternative Education at the University of Cape Town in South Africa.

“The idea is that you teach children through their mother tongue for as long as possible—up to grades 6 or 7 in primary school—and you teach English well so they can start using it gradually in primary school and when they get to high school. But you do not expect them to drop their mother tongue. The best of both worlds is for children to learn both their mother tongue and English,” Bloch explains.

“There’s quite a dire need at the moment for materials development,” says Makalela, a linguist educated at Michigan State University who will complete an extensive internal evaluation of Ithuba once all the books

are in the classrooms. Makalela is also working on a proposal for smaller, locally based Ithuba Writing Centers around the country where training and production of books for both primary and secondary (high school) students can continue to take place.

“While millions of books are being produced, it would be a sad state of affairs if this exercise cannot be retained and repeated several years beyond the current funding cycle,” he says. “It is only through availability of materials that parents can have choices to have their children taught through the medium of an African language and have the illiteracy challenges reversed in the increasingly complex world,” he adds.

Sailors sees a bright future for the highly inclusive Ithuba model. “Jim Hoffman and I just went to Ethiopia for a USAID conference, and we showed our books and made a presentation of the project with our South African colleague, Ms. Jenny Kinnear. Namibia wants our books. Liberia wants our books. Uganda is interested in working with us. We’ve talked to some people in Ethiopia who do book-based learning. And in Tanzania,” Sailors says.

UTSA President Ricardo Romo has been following the project closely, traveling to Ghana for the official launch last year and planning another trip to South Africa this August. He sees Ithuba as building UTSA’s capacity for global outreach. “For us, it’s just another example of positioning ourselves globally, and making connections in our flat world,” he says. “In the spirit of preparing our students better, we have to be ever more prepared.”★

**WEB EXTRA:** Go to [www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla) to hear from some of the South African teachers participating in the Ithuba Writing Project.





# GIVING VOICE

Illustration by Ken Coffelt

## Researchers study ways to prevent occupational voice injuries

By Rudy Arispe

**A**s a children's music teacher at St. Thomas Episcopal School in San Antonio, Teresa Gray relies heavily on her voice. So it was a great challenge when last year she began to suffer from hoarseness and voice fatigue. As the problem worsened, she could sing for only 10 minutes before having to stop.

Her disorder was a result of a partial paralysis of one of her vocal cords, so she unknowingly compensated by overusing the other. The condition eventually required surgery. "I couldn't speak for three weeks," Gray says. "I wore a sign around my neck that said, 'Recent vocal cord surgery. I cannot talk,' so that people wouldn't think I was rude."

Gray is not alone in suffering a voice box injury. According to a 1997 study by the National Center for Voice and Speech, teachers in the United States make up 4.2 percent of the workforce, but account for 19.6 percent of patients seeking medical help for voice problems.

These statistics are one reason why John Nix, UTSA associate professor of voice, voice pedagogy and research, organized an international conference at UTSA on occupational voice injuries in 2007. It brought together about 50 of the world's leading vocal researchers to discuss their findings. Funding for the conference was provided by the National Institutes of Health.

UTSA will again provide a forum for this issue when voice researchers, including doctors, voice scientists, music teachers, choral directors and speech pathologists, convene in January 2009 to share their latest information at the 4th International Conference on the Physiology and Acoustics of Singing.

The economic impact of voice injuries in teachers is significant. Because voice-related difficulties result in lost workdays, payments to substitute teachers, voice therapy/rehabilitation fees, early retirements and job retraining expenses, the estimated cost is \$2.5 billion annually, according to the study "How Much Do Teachers Talk? Do They Ever Get a Break?"

“A good therapist can help a person find an appropriate pitch to speak at, or help a person who is overly aggressive with words that start with vowels to use words like ‘happy Halloween’ or ‘hello’ to get them to learn to start speaking out more easily.”

Voice problems arise because teachers must speak frequently and often loudly, which puts them at risk, says Nix. Like Gray, some may begin to overuse one vocal cord to compensate for weakness in the other. Others develop pathologies on the vocal cords, such as cysts or polyps, which are like fluid-filled blisters. The result is fatigue, hoarseness and loss of one's voice. Those who shout or scream can even develop vocal cord hemorrhages. Worst-case scenarios may require surgery.

"In the case of a cyst or a vocal cord polyp, there's usually a period of being on anti-inflammatory drugs," Nix says. "You would be on complete vocal rest for 10 days with absolutely no talking. After the rest period, you would begin regular voice therapy sessions and begin slowly building your voice back up by only adding 5 to 10 minutes of voicing per day.

"It's not career ending, but it can be devastating to someone whose occupation requires the expressive, healthy function of his or her voice."

While someone with polyps might require surgery, a nodule, which is like a callous on the vocal cords, can usually be resolved by changing a person's habits, Nix says.

Actors, singers, lawyers, broadcasters, telemarketers, counselors, ministers and politicians also are at risk of voice injury, Nix says. For those who require treatment, vocal therapy is recommended.

"Many types of vocal therapy used today involve making sounds with your mouth partially or totally closed, like humming, or vocalizing into a straw," he says. "Therapy can reduce compensatory tensions and can also modify the way your vocal cords function, creating a more efficient production."

Bad habits need to be identified, Nix adds, to prevent voice injury in the first place or, if injury has already occurred, to prevent further harm.

"Speaking too loudly or too low is also a risk factor," he says. "A good therapist can help a person find an appropriate pitch to speak at, or help a person who is overly aggressive with words that start with vowels to use words like 'happy Halloween' or 'hello' to get them to learn to start speaking out more easily." Nix explains that forcefully pronouncing words that begin with vowels is the result of taking a breath of air and holding it back with the vocal cords closed too firmly, irritating them when air is expelled.

"It's about behavior modification," he adds. "Surgery is usually the last option, but what good is surgery if you haven't changed the bad habits that got the person there in the first place?"

It is also important to identify possible risk factors, including how much and how loudly a person talks, the pitch range being used and even exposure to pollutants, such as dust and fumes. Current research involves examining the causes of voice injury and identifying at-risk populations, as well as developing devices that monitor voice use.

"There is also research looking at whether it is beneficial to give someone an amplifier like an aerobics instructor wears," he says. "There's evidence that suggests that people who are genetically predisposed to having

problems are helped by amplification. But a person who has bad habits needs therapy in addition to giving them an amplifier."

UTSA collaborates with the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, headed by Randy Otto and Blake Simpson. Oftentimes, Nix will refer UTSA music students with voice problems to Simpson's office. In return, Simpson sends singers from the community to Nix if they require help relating what they are learning in speech therapy to their singing.

Although Nix is not a speech pathologist, he worked in Denver at the National Center for Voice and Speech as part of a professional voice care team made up of a laryngologist, speech pathologist and singing teacher before coming to San Antonio.

"Prior to John's arrival, there were limited resources for the 'sick singer' when it came to vocal pedagogy," Simpson says. He praises Nix's expertise in working with singers who have vocal cord pathology.

Simpson advocates what he calls good vocal hygiene so that patients keep their voices in peak condition. For example, drinking six to eight glasses of water a day helps produce a thin mucus that coats the vocal cords, keeping them moist and less prone to irritation. Not smoking, treating acid reflux and getting proper sleep also help.

When Gray began to experience severe hoarseness, she used a harmonica to get her students' attention so as not to raise her voice. When her condition worsened, she sought the help of Simpson, who eventually removed a polyp from her vocal cord.

After surgery, the music teacher worked with Nix, who taught her to speak in a higher pitch and to form words differently. He also assisted her in what she calls voice aerobics, which "involves doing vocal exercises to stretch your vocal cords," she says.

Nix also instructs choral students. Because they are studying to become singing teachers, the professor prepares them to be able to assist individuals with voice problems.

"Choral directors are voice experts for the vast majority of the population. They are on the front lines, so they need to have accurate information," he says. "We discuss what healthy voice production is, and what a voice teacher can do to help versus knowing when there is a problem beyond their expertise and to refer them to a specialist."★

*To read more stories about ongoing research at UTSA, go to [www.utsa.edu/discovery](http://www.utsa.edu/discovery).*

*To view abstracts or videos from the 2007 Occupational Voice Conference, go to <http://projects.dlc.utsa.edu/OVC/Index.html>.*



# PHANTOM FOLKLIFE

By Rebecca Luther

**For 40 years, UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures has been telling the stories of the people of Texas. Not surprisingly, some of them happen to be ghost stories.**

**N**ow, ITC has a few spooky tales of its own to share. Earlier this year, the museum was investigated by a Schertz, Texas-based group, Everyday Paranormal, who say they found evidence of paranormal activity around two popular ITC exhibits: the Castroville hearse and the Caddo Indian cave. The group presented its findings to the public at the Texas Folklife Festival in June.

“What do ghosts have to do with folklife? Well, just about everything,” says Everyday Paranormal co-founder Brad Klinge.

ITC researcher Rhett Rushing agrees, and says that while ITC isn’t interested in trying to confirm or deny the existence of ghosts, he is interested in the fact that many people do believe in ghosts and also in the ways that different cultures use ghost stories. “As a folklorist, I deal with human beings and their stories,” he says. “Every culture that’s ever come to Texas has a place in their folklore for ghosts.”

The most widely known ITC ghost story is the Castroville hearse, which has been a center of speculation for years. Security guards have reported closing the heavy doors of the horse-drawn carriage that were mysteriously open, only to find them open again later. Others have claimed to hear voices coming from inside the hearse. Several years ago, the History Channel filmed a documentary on the Castroville hearse, and whenever the show re-airs, Rushing says, “my phone lights up like a Christmas tree the next day.”

It was the hearse that interested Brad Klinge and his brother, UTSA alumnus Barry Klinge ’06. A teacher of developmentally disabled young adults, Barry Klinge was on a field trip at ITC when he met Rushing and asked about conducting an investigation of the hearse and the museum.

The museum has probably been investigated a half-dozen times in its 40-year history, although Rushing says he fields countless requests, which he usually turns down. He says that in the past, he’s been disappointed by scam artists and self-proclaimed psychics who use Ouija boards and dowsing rods in their work. What impressed him about Everyday Paranormal was that the brothers employ a more scientific method and use high-tech

equipment such as thermal imaging cameras, infrared thermometers, electromagnetic field detectors and digital recorders. Their techniques, Rushing and Brad Klinge both say, are similar to those employed by the stars of the popular Sci-Fi Channel show *Ghosthunters*.

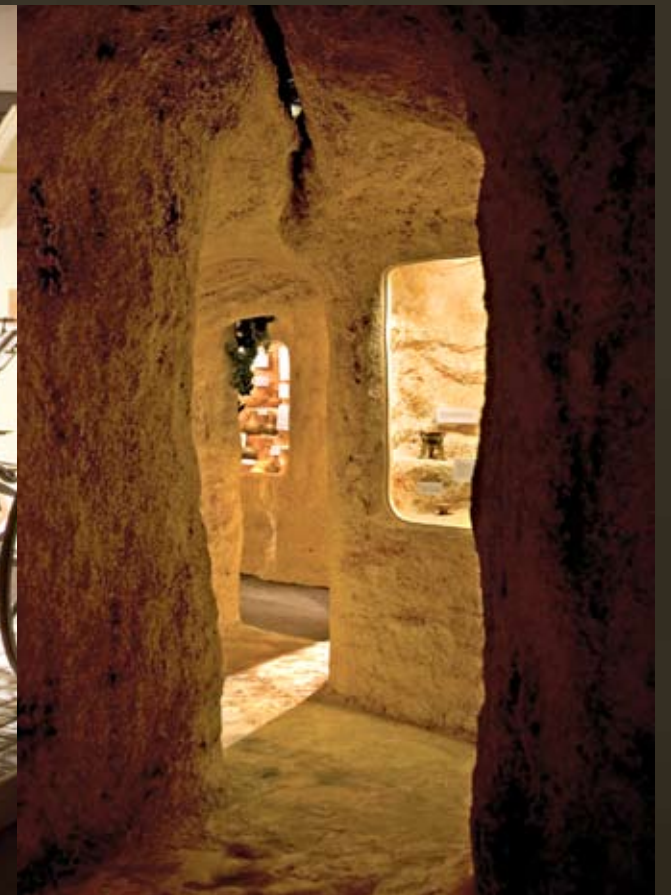
“They don’t tell you your place is haunted; they try to disprove it. They come in with a skeptic’s mentality,” Rushing says.

But rather than disproving theories about ghosts in the ITC, Everyday Paranormal’s investigations in February and March turned up some unusual activity. While they didn’t obtain any video or photographic evidence, the Klinge brothers and their team of volunteer investigators did collect a number of audio recordings, which they refer to as electronic voice phenomena or EVP. Klinge likens the EVP to dog whistles; they don’t usually hear them when they’re on site but pick them up later on the recordings.

A digital recorder placed inside the hearse revealed a whisper, heard over the voices of the investigators talking in the background, that seems to say “not dead.” On another recording, an investigator trying to speak to ghosts in French (the Alsatians who settled Castroville spoke French or a mixture of French and German) is answered brusquely by a voice that she believed said, “J’ai appris frère est ici,” a crude translation of “I understand your brother is here.” The Klinge brothers think that might be a reference to them, but admit that they’re not certain about what they’re hearing.

“A lot of times, you have to guess what it might be saying,” Brad Klinge says. “The fact that it’s a disembodied voice—yeah, that’s 100 percent. What it’s trying to say? Eh, that’s not always so simple.”

The team was especially challenged in their attempt to translate one EVP that was recorded in the ITC’s Caddo Indian exhibit, which opened in 2003 and contains pottery and other relics from the east Texas tribe. In one recording from the exhibit, known as the shaman’s cave, a voice says what sounds like “koo-aah-aaht.” The team entered the phonetic spelling into Web search engines and eventually found a site that listed it as a Caddo greeting meaning “welcome.”



The Castroville hearse (above left) at UTSA’s Institute of Texan Cultures has long been suspected of being haunted. Paranormal investigators say they also found evidence of paranormal activity in the Creation and Cosmos exhibit (above right), which features Native American pottery and artifacts.

Also in the shaman’s cave, recordings turned up sounds of flute music, chanting and another voice that seems to say “buffalo.” But it is the “koo-aah-aaht” that Brad Klinge finds the most compelling evidence of paranormal activity at ITC. “It’s the clearest, loudest EVP I’ve ever heard in my life,” he says.

Rushing thinks the EVP collected from the hearse and the shaman’s cave are compelling, but he isn’t quite ready to proclaim the ITC haunted.

“Do I believe in ghosts? Absolutely not—yet,” he jokes. “Nobody’s ever walked up to me and said, ‘Hi, I’m a ghost.’

“But I’ve had some really weird stuff happen to me, and I have interviewed literally probably a thousand people who absolutely swear to it.”★

## WEB EXTRA:

Is ITC haunted? You be the judge.

Go to [www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla)

to hear findings collected by Everyday Paranormal during their investigations.

## SOMETHING IN THE AIR

Many people have heard about the Castroville hearse at the Institute of Texan Cultures and how the horse-drawn carriage’s doors mysteriously have been found open after being closed. Not as well known but every bit as peculiar is the story of Henderson Shuffler and his cherry-flavored pipe tobacco.

Shuffler, the institute’s first director, lived in an apartment on the top floor of the museum and was known for using cherry tobacco in his pipe. A number of people have reported smelling the scent in and around the conference room where his apartment used to be. ITC researcher and folklorist Rhett Rushing says he’s smelled the pipe tobacco himself on several occasions. Two years ago, he brought his sons, 8 and 12, to the office one weekend, and, because they had never heard about Henderson Shuffler and his cherry pipe tobacco, Rushing was stunned when his sons alerted their dad that they smelled “burning fruit” in the building.

Members of Everyday Paranormal also smelled cherry pipe tobacco during a couple of their trips to ITC. Founder Brad Klinge says he doubts that Henderson Shuffler’s ghost is roaming the halls of ITC. Instead, he believes the recurring smell of pipe tobacco is a residual haunting—a playback recording of a past event.

“Our second director also occupied that apartment for awhile, and he also smoked a pipe,” Rushing says. “If the smoke smell is a residual haunting, we may never know which of the first two directors is responsible.”



# ANSWERING A HIGHER CALL

BY REBECCA LUTHER

Tony Vilano '90  
leads historic  
San Antonio  
cathedral



When he was a student at UTSA, Tony Vilano's job at a local law firm meant he spent a lot of time downtown. In between running errands and filing papers at the courthouse, he would stop in at the nearby San Fernando Cathedral to attend mass or "sometimes just to sit and be quiet," he says.

"After the day was over at Groce, Locke & Hebdon, I would go over there and just sit down, just sit in the pew and pray before I went home. It was a place that brought me peace when I was working."

Twenty years later, Vilano now is leading that church. Earlier this year, Archbishop Jose Gomez appointed Vilano, 42, as rector at San Fernando. Vilano began his new assignment in June, replacing Father David Garcia, who had served there for 14 years.

The oldest of four children, Vilano was born in Germany and lived in New Jersey, Florida and Mexico before his father retired from the Air Force and the family settled in San Antonio when he was about 10 years old. Even then, Vilano told whoever asked him that he wanted to become a priest.

But the path to priesthood, and even his conviction, weren't always solid. After graduating from Judson High School, Vilano worked at a Diamond Shamrock store to earn money for college. He enrolled at San Antonio College, then transferred to UTSA, where he majored in political science. He hadn't forgotten his childhood dream. But he also was inspired by the lawyers at Groce, Locke & Hebdon, which was one of the city's largest civil law practices and where he sometimes attended the firm's Bible study group. "They were using their gifts as lawyers as a ministry," Vilano says.

After graduating in 1990, Vilano was torn between law school and seminary. His pastor put him in touch with David Garcia, who was then the diocese's vocational director. In Vilano, Garcia says, "I saw a very positive-type guy. I saw a great personality. I saw a person who seemed like he wanted to help others. I think he was [interested in] entering the legal profession not to make millions off lawsuits but to really try to be of service."

Still undecided, Vilano joined Garcia's vocational support group. With the LSAT test date approaching, he forced himself to choose. "God's call was just a little bit stronger," he says. "Before I knew it, I was in seminary, filling out papers and taking my psychological tests. [Father David] was a big influence on me coming into the seminary."

Vilano says his undergraduate studies—particularly courses with Thomas Bellows and Richard Gambitta, who required a lot of reading and writing—well prepared him for the seminary. Yet he retained his interest in the law, at one point even taking a leave of absence to work in another law firm for six months. His time away from his religious studies allowed him to "put a lot of things back into perspective" and he re-entered the seminary refreshed and, this time, fully committed.

Since then, Vilano says, he has indulged his interest in the law by

reading John Grisham novels and watching crime shows.

Vilano completed his studies at Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. Since his ordainment in 1996, he has served parishes in the Texas cities of Kerrville, Charlotte, Tilden, Fredericksburg, and La Vernia.

"The Fredericksburg one was the one that really impressed me the most because he was a Hispanic priest going into a principally old-style German town," Garcia says. "Tony was able to handle it very well and be a great leader, and everybody loved him."

The archbishop must also have been impressed, because Vilano was soon tapped to serve as director of clergy, working directly for the archbishop at the chancery (a position he continues to hold). When the time came to find a new rector, Garcia recognized his former protégé's accomplishments and included Vilano's name in a short list of candidates. But even with his and the archbishop's votes of confidence, Garcia says,

Vilano will find challenges at San Fernando—which the archdiocese claims as the oldest cathedral sanctuary in the U.S.—unlike anywhere else he has served.

"The cathedral is very, very complicated. It's multidimensional," says Garcia, citing its activities with the downtown civic and business community, including blessings for community leaders, and its outreach efforts that include health clinics for the uninsured. The cathedral hosts more than 900 baptisms, 100 weddings and 100 funerals each year. San Fernando also produces a televised mass that's broadcast throughout the U.S. and Latin America; every weekend, Garcia says, he met tourists who said they came to San Antonio to meet the priest they'd seen on TV. Finally, because of the cathedral's prominence, Garcia was regularly called on by local media to speak, not just about church issues, but also about hot-button topics in the city.

"[San Fernando] is not a normal type of place," Garcia concludes. "So it requires a priest that can do multidimensional ministry and leadership. Tony's going to grow into that. He's got all

the raw characteristics for it."

Vilano says he's excited by these new challenges. And while he's committed to growing in his new role as a community leader, he believes that the main attribute he brings to the position is his genuine love of serving people.

"We can get tied up, as priests, with all the administration. We can get tied up with a lot of meetings ... And sometimes we can forget what my vocation is all about," he says. "It's about being there for the people and caring for them and reaching out. Being with them when their loved one dies or going to the hospital immediately when there's a sick person. Celebrating the *quinceañeras* when their kids turn 15 years old. Celebrating the funerals and weddings and baptisms."

For example, he says, when he was pastor at St. Mary's in Fredericksburg, he tried to attend every athletic event at the parish school.

"Just seeing the kids and hearing them yell, 'Hey, Father Tony!' That kind of thing gives me a lot of strength and reminds me this is why I'm doing this."★

**“We can get tied up, as priests, with all the administration. We can get tied up with a lot of meetings ... And sometimes we can forget what my vocation is all about. It's about being there for the people and caring for them and reaching out.”**



# RING LEADERS

Symbol embodies tradition, spirit, pride and memories

**A**long with growth and new ideas, tradition and spirit have a strong presence on the UTSA campus. The university is building an identity and legacy that students are increasingly proud to display through the unifying symbol of the UTSA ring.

“For being such a young school, we have a great deal of pride and tradition,” said George De Leon, a history major who will graduate in 2009. “The UTSA ring can tie us all together.”

De Leon was one of nearly 300 students receiving their rings in a May 1 ceremony at the Convocation Center on the 1604 Campus. Rising seniors, graduating seniors and nontraditional students participated in the ceremony, each bringing their own meaning to the symbol of the ring and the act of receiving it.

After missing her ring ceremony in 1999 due to illness, Sandy Jimenez-Huizar returned to campus this year to formally receive her ring. She chose to participate not only for her own emotional connection to the school, but also, as a first-generation college graduate, to set an example for her three young daughters.

“In first-generation graduates, the ring tradition has tapped into pride and the ring as a symbol of



that pride,” said Curt Langford, national director of the official ring program at Balfour and a company representative to UTSA. “The nontraditional graduate has more to overcome to get the ring. It means more and becomes that symbol of achievement.”

Vice President for Student Affairs Gage Paine took part in the ceremony she describes as one of her favorites. Like commencement exercises, the ring ceremony is held at the end of every fall and spring semester.

“I hand rings to a wide variety of students and the smiles I get in return are amazing,” she said. “The students who choose to buy and wear a ring want to share their accomplishments with the world and they are proud of having a degree from UTSA. What could be more fun than to be part of that?”

In her remarks at the ceremony, Paine also touched on the meaning of pride. “I do think pride in your accomplishments at UTSA, as symbolized by your ring, falls under the definition of

## WEB EXTRA:

To view a video of the May 2008 ring ceremony, go to [www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla).

reasonable and justifiable self-respect,” she said. “So be proud.”

In addition to the symbolic value recipients place on their rings, the imagery on the ring itself represents the university, the city and the state. Ms. UTSA 2008 Jessica Beemer pointed out the Sombrilla on the ring’s left shank, describing it as a centerpiece and gathering place critical to the university. The Alamo on its right shank, she said, shows pride in the landmark and the city. To Beemer, the book and shield on the ring’s crown symbolize dedication to studies.

“The institution has restored the academic integrity of the ring,” said Balfour’s Langford, citing the standards created only in the last 12 years of the university’s 39-year history. The ring is reserved for alumni and juniors and seniors who have completed 60 credit hours.

“UTSA clearly stands out among its peers in ring traditions,” said Langford. “There are more historic ring traditions, but in a new generation of schools creating a ring tradition, UTSA is clearly ahead of the pack.”

Students and alumni who proudly wear their UTSA ring have made remarkable achievements and made sacrifices to get where they are today. Indeed they are the ones that have advanced the tradition and spirit that helps make UTSA the institution that it is now and will be tomorrow.

The UTSA ring program is administered by the UTSA alumni office and facilitated through the UTSA bookstore. For information, call (210) 458-4133 or visit [www.utsa.edu/alumni](http://www.utsa.edu/alumni) and click on “Official UTSA Ring.”

—James Benavides

## WEB EXTRA:

The UTSA Alumni Association celebrated its 30th anniversary at the UTSA Alumni Gala on Aug.16. Go to [www.utsa.edu/sombrilla](http://www.utsa.edu/sombrilla) to see a video of 2008 gala honorees: San Antonio deputy city manager A.J. Rodriguez ’98, ’00, Alumnus of the Year; and teacher and Olympic marathoner Liza Hunter-Galvan ’93, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

**80 Belinda Flores**, B.A. in early childhood and elementary education, has been promoted to full professor in the College of Education and Human Development at UTSA. She also was recently invited to serve on the Hispanic Higher Education Research Collective, an initiative of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. The goal of the collective is to develop a research agenda to ensure all teachers are prepared to teach Hispanic children and to find ways to recruit, prepare and retain Hispanic teachers in school systems. Belinda, who began working at UTSA in 1992, says becoming a full professor is an honor. “In addition to being the top rank in our profession, it means that your peers recognize your research, teaching and service; that you have attained a national presence; and that your peers value your work,” she says.

**81 Rex Hensley**, M.S. in environmental science, was named Senior Level Civilian of the Year for 2006 in the U.S. Air Force. Rex is employed in the 59th Laboratory Squadron at Wilford Hall Medical Center. He is an administrator and technical supervisor at the Center of Excellence laboratories. “Being named Civilian of the Year for Lackland AFB is a personal achievement for me. I was nominated and recommended as a leader of a core of highly educated and technical personnel. They are the backbone of this achievement,” he says. Rex supervises nine technologists, five of whom are UTSA graduates. Rex is an active gardener who also loves to participate in community fundraising events, especially when the activities include running, swimming or biking.

**85 Patricia Escobedo**, B.A. in Spanish, has been named the new director for elementary curriculum for Southwest Independent School District.

**Wayne Terry**, B.A. in political science, has been selected for recognition in the inaugural edition of Who’s Who in Black San Antonio. Wayne is on the board of directors for the UTSA Alumni Association, and previously served as vice president, president and immediate-past president. He is currently the recruiting manager for college relations for H-E-B Grocery Company.

**89 James Glenn Cox**, M.D., B.S. in biology, received his M.B.A. from Auburn University on May 10. He graduated summa cum laude and is a member of Delta Epsilon Iota, an academic honor society. E-mail James at [coxjam@earthlink.net](mailto:coxjam@earthlink.net).

**90 Lawrence F. Gwinn**, B.B.A. in management, has retired from AT&T in San Antonio. E-mail Lawrence at [lgwinn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lgwinn@sbcglobal.net).



## Joe Escoto ’84, ’93

Back to the beach

**T**he first time Joe Escoto saw the ocean was as a young boy visiting the beaches at Padre Island National Seashore. Now, he gets to see it every day as superintendent of the national park.

Escoto, who received his degree in accounting in 1984 and an M.B.A. in 1993, is responsible for all park operations, including planning and development, public relations and seashore preservation. The happily married father of two credits UTSA with his success.

“Ultimately, I couldn’t have done this without the education I received at UTSA, and the opportunity to work for the federal government initially as a co-op student,” Escoto says.

That opportunity arose in 1983, when Escoto received word from the career services office about a position at Brooks Air Force Base.

“I worked full time then went to school full time, alternating semesters until I graduated,” he explains. “Completing the program

afforded me a permanent job. That was one of the benefits, that once you finished the program you could noncompetitively be appointed to a job with the federal government. Without UTSA, I wouldn’t have been able to get my foot in the door initially.”

Escoto has worked for the government for more than 25 years. He was in the financial management sector of the Air Force for 22 years before taking a job with the National Park Service in 2005 as the regional comptroller for the intermountain region in Denver, Colo.

“I was there for about two-and-a-half years, and this position for superintendent of Padre Island National Seashore became vacant and was announced. I applied for it, and was very, very lucky and fortunate to get this job.”

Working for the federal government, Escoto says, has been a wonderful experience.

“I encourage all students at UTSA to get out and visit national

parks, and to consider a career with the federal government or public service. The jobs and careers can be very challenging and rewarding,” he says. “For example, when I worked for the Air Force, I had the opportunity to work on acquisition programs that I could see save lives or help save lives. As far as the park service goes, they have such a dedicated mission to preserve these great resources at our national parks for people to come and enjoy. It’s rewarding to be able to help do that.”

But nothing can compare to turning something you loved to do as a child into a career as an adult. Working at Padre Island National Seashore, Escoto says, has been a dream come true.

“Whenever I go through the park, whether it’s just walking down the beach to the Visitor’s Center, I always enjoy watching kids have fun at the beach simply because that’s how it started for me—as a kid having fun at the beach.”

—Lorna Stafford



**Susan Medina**, B.B.A. in management, is a Leadership Fort Worth graduate and has been nominated as a “40 under 40” by the Fort Worth Business Press. Susan is the president and founder of SKM Communication Strategies.  
**Patricia Dean-Ruiz**, B.B.A. in accounting, is owner and president of Lonestar Payroll Services in San Antonio.

**95 Elva Adams**, B.B.A. in accounting, was a finalist for the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce’s Athena Young Professional Award. The award recognizes business professionals age 25 to 40 who exhibit excellence in the workplace and community. Elva is on the board of directors for the UTSA Alumni Association. Currently, she is the senior business relationship manager/portfolio banker in the business banking department at Wells Fargo Bank.

**Mark A. Connell**, M.B.A. in business, is the deputy director of SBIRS Operating Location for the U.S. Air Force in Sunnyvale, Calif. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in January 2007. Mark also announces his marriage to Amy M. Scurlock on Aug. 6, 2005, and the birth of his son, John P. Connell III, on Oct. 23, 2006.

**Perla Herrera**, B.A. in English, is a national gala consultant for the American Heart Association in Atlanta.  
**Laurence Rosen**, M.S. in environmental science, announces the birth of his son, David Rosen, on Sept. 27, 2007.

**96 Renee Crittenden-Garcia**, B.A. in communication, was a finalist for the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce’s Athena Young Professional Award. The award recognizes business professionals age 25 to 40 who exhibit excellence in the workplace and community. Renee owns Crittenden Communications, a marketing consulting firm. She served two years on the UTSA Alumni Association board of directors.

**Gary F. Grieco**, B.B.A. in accounting, is a catastrophe services claims trainer at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington, Ill.

**Desiree Kornrum-Byrne**, M.P.A., public administration, is the author of “Service in an Era of Change,” an article published in the winter 2008 edition of the *TASFAA Times* (Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators). She also will present a seminar titled “Smoothing the Way: Making the Transition from College to School” at the annual conference of the Family Educators Alliance of South Texas. Desiree is assistant director in the Office of Financial Assistance at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

**97 Juan Carlos Durand**, M.B.A. in business, is a brand manager for Juanita’s Foods in Long Beach, Calif. He married Claire Roberts on Nov. 16, 2007.

**Gregory Scott Ramin**, B.A. in communication, is a training, education and culinary coordinator at OSU Cowboy Dining in Stillwater, Okla., which provides foodservice for Oklahoma State’s athletic department and associated outlets. E-mail Scott at ScottRamin@osu-cowboydining.com.

**Jennifer Gamez Whitten**, B.A. in psychology, received a degree in interior design from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif. She recently accepted a designer position at Hatch Design Group, recognized as one of the top 50 interior design firms in the country specializing in the design of restaurants and nightclubs. She lives just outside Laguna Beach, Calif., with her husband of eight years. “As a young child, I remember drawing buildings and trying to sketch people, cartoons—anything I could,” she says. “When I got the Barbie Dream House in the early ’80s, I reupholstered Barbie’s living room furniture, gave her wall-to-wall carpet in the house and made her a new wardrobe, too!

**98 Jennifer Anne Naples**, B.S. in kinesiology, is a nutrition bariatric specialist at Methodist Wellness Center and a certified diabetes educator (in-patient) at Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center in Houston. She recently passed the Certified Diabetes Educator National Exam and completed 1,000 hours of diabetes patient education. E-mail Jennifer at jennanb@comcast.net.

**A.J. Rodriguez**, B.B.A. in management and M.B.A. with a concentration in international business ’00, was recently appointed deputy city manager for the City of San Antonio. His responsibilities include oversight of economic development, parks and recreation, libraries and intergovernmental affairs. A.J. previously served as president and CEO of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

**99 Cynthia Schweers**, B.B.A. in accounting, is a senior accountant at UTSA and has worked for the university for seven and a half years. In 2007, she received the Celebrating Excellence award presented by the Office of the Vice President for Business Affairs in recognition of her work in helping to create and implement a new business intelligence reporting data system. Cynthia says she loves traveling, spending time with her family and following her favorite basketball team, the San Antonio Spurs. Go, Spurs, go!

**00 David Brown**, B.A. in history, is the owner of World Karate located in Leon Springs, Texas. Since 2001, he has trained students ages 3.5 to 73 in the martial arts, but David is particularly proud of the school’s environmental and community outreach efforts. More than half of the facility’s energy comes from its rooftop solar panels. A 7,000-gallon rain catch-

ment system is used to water more than 50 trees and shrubs on the property. Seating within the classrooms was built using recycled 100-year-old barn wood. The school has held a toy and clothing drive each year since 2001, and after Hurricane Katrina, the school raised \$30,000 in one day with a carnival and auction. “It is important to me to lead by example, because some of these kids will grow up to be the president of the United States or the president of UTSA,” David says. “Hopefully, they will remember what their instructors taught them—how to live and give back.”

**Alex San Martin**, B.A. in communication, is serving in an administrative support role for the microbiological science division of the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin. The division provides testing to prevent public health crises. Alex, who formerly worked for state Rep. Tommy Merritt, continues his ties with politics as the membership director of the Austin chapter of the Young Republicans. Alex says his future plans include pursuing a political career as an elected official.

**01 Sarae Rodriguez**, B.A. in communication, works in television production at KSAT-TV 12 in San Antonio.

**02 Debra Perelman**, B.A. in psychology, is a customer service adviser for Huntsman Corporation in The Woodlands, Texas.  
**Louise M. Underwood**, M.B.A. in business, is a senior contracts administrator at Northrop Grumman Corp. in San Antonio.

**03 Sonia M. Quirino**, B.A. in communication, is now a public information officer for the City of San Antonio.

**04 Imelda P. Rivera (Ramirez)**, B.A. in English, happily announces the birth of her second daughter, Chloe Alexandra, on March 10. Imelda’s husband, David, and oldest daughter, Solana Lucia, are pleased with the new addition to the family. Imelda is a technical trainer for CPS Energy’s Controller Division in San Antonio.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

We want to know what you’ve been up to lately. New jobs, relocation, accomplishments, marriages—whatever your news, share it with friends and classmates.

**E-mail:** [alumni@utsa.edu](mailto:alumni@utsa.edu)  
**Fax:** (210) 458-7227  
**Write:** Office of Alumni Programs  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78249  
**Log on:** [www.utsa.edu/alumni/profile/](http://www.utsa.edu/alumni/profile/)

**05 Sarah V. Cook**, B.A. in English, is a claims adjuster at USAA.  
**Veronica M. (Karkoska) Terrazas**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a child support officer for the Office of the Attorney General in San Antonio. Veronica married alum **Christopher Terrazas**, B.A. in criminal justice ’05, on Sept. 14, 2007. Christopher is an investigator at the Guadalupe County Jail.

**06 Jared Brown**, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is a research assistant at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. He married alum **Pari Ghaffari Brown**, B.A. in psychology ’03, on Dec. 22, 2007.  
**Timothy Davies**, B.B.A. in marketing, is a branch manager at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in San Antonio.

**Geraldine Garcia**, M.S. in justice policy, has been promoted to assistant police chief for the City of San Antonio. A 25-year employee of S.A.P.D., Geraldine is the first woman and the first woman of Hispanic heritage to hold the position of assistant police chief in the history of the city. “This appointment has meant many more speaking engagements, especially invitations to address women and children’s groups,” she says. “I welcome the opportunity to tell our youth about the importance of education. For women, I like to tell them they are only limited by the barriers they have developed in their own minds.”

**Mark North Jauregui**, B.B.A. in management, is a realtor and owner of NorthMax Realty in San Antonio. Mark also is a master freemason at Albert Pike Lodge.  
**Noemi D. Ortiguerra**, B.A. in English, is an office manager in the police department at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

**07 Brian Crow**, B.B.A. in marketing, is an account manager and independent insurance agent at Access Insurance Services in Garden Ridge, Texas. E-mail Brian at [brian@goaccess.cc](mailto:brian@goaccess.cc).  
**Paul Flanigan**, M.P.A. in public administration, is senior vice president of corporate communications at Plains Capital Corporation in Dallas. E-mail Paul at [pflaning@plainscapital.com](mailto:pflaning@plainscapital.com).

## Kay Hindes ’86

Rediscovering San Antonio’s past

The earth holds many treasures buried below its surface that tell the stories of its peoples and cultures. It’s Kay Hindes’ job to bring those stories to light.

Hindes, who received a bachelor of arts in anthropology with a specialty in archaeology, is staff archaeologist and interim historic preservation officer with the City of San Antonio. As archaeologist, she manages and coordinates archaeological projects unearthed during development in and around the city.

“We are looking for prehistoric and historic deposits,” she says. That includes relics dating back thousands of years to anything associated with Spanish Colonial settlers.

Hindes, who has been interested in archaeology since she was a little girl, has made tremendous discoveries over the years working

for various universities and as an independent consultant. In 1984, she was part of the team that found the Gates to the Alamo, two massive doors believed to have led into the original mission. A decade later, she and colleagues rediscovered the Mission Santa Cruz de San Sabá, located south of San Angelo in Menard, Texas. “It was known as the missing mission of Texas,” she says. She has also worked in Victoria, Texas, at a site called Tonkawa Bank, which is believed to be the second location of the Mission Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga.

Her work within the San Antonio city limits has unearthed interesting finds as well.

Earlier this year, during the city’s multimillion-dollar Main Plaza



redevelopment project that brought life to the historic municipal center, one of the Mexican fortification entrenchments in the Siege of Bexar in 1835 was discovered.

“We were kind of looking for it because we thought it might be there, but we had no idea that on the second day we would find it,” she says. “That was really, really cool.”

A few months ago another discovery was made with the help of UTSA.

“We recently did excavations at the Lt. Col. Juan Ignacio Pérez stone rancho,” Hindes says. “He was an ad interim Spanish governor of Texas and he had this big ranch on the Medina River. He owned around 20,000 acres.” The team’s finds included portions of the home’s

foundation and artifacts dating to the turn of the 19th century.

Hindes credits UTSA for developing her interests into a fulfilling career.

“I feel very fortunate that UTSA was there, because Dr. Tom Hester was there and he is such a foremost archaeologist nationally and internationally. At the time I was there in the ’80s, the Center for Archaeological Research [begun by Hester] really utilized students,” she says. “We all had projects and things to work on. Some of my first fieldwork was for what was called Las Tiendas—River Center Mall.”

But above all, Hindes has this message:

“I was 27 when I went back to school. If I have any words of

encouragement to women it is, ‘Go get your degree! You can do it!’

“I just feel like I have been so, so fortunate. I got to study under great people, I’ve [been able] to work with great people, and I’ve learned something from every one of them. And to get to do something I love—how more fortunate can you be that when you wake up in the morning you love to go to work because you love what you’re doing? Isn’t that great?”

—Lorna Stafford





## Jason Keoni Rose '01

Out of the frying pan, into the car

**F**oresight mixed with ingenuity equals a successful business for alumnus Jason Keoni Rose.

Rose is the founder of Alamo Biodiesel Inc., which produces alternative fuel made from previously used cooking oil, among other things.

"Biodiesel is the name of a clean burning alternative fuel produced from domestic renewable resources," says Rose. "Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression-ignition [diesel] engines with no modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics."

Since 2006, the company, located at 519 Seguin St. in San Antonio, has used ingredients from oil seed-crushing facilities and donations of used cooking oil from restaurants and commercial chemical manufacturers to make the fuel, which can be used in diesel-engine passenger cars, trucks and commercial vehicles as well as in tractor-trailers.

Rose, who has a bachelor of science degree in biology, says "gloom and doom" prompted him into action.

"When the hurricanes hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, I believed I needed an alternative fuel source. I believed there would be a price increase in petroleum and possibly a shortage, so I did not want to be left without fuel. My wife would say I started making it because I'm so cheap!"

Rose, who had been toying with the idea since 2002, began in-depth research in 2005, and then began experimenting in his garage.

"It took several months to perfect," he says. "There are so

many variables to making biodiesel, so it takes some time to understand what is going on."

After using his product in his own vehicle for more than a year, Rose decided it was time to share his finding with others.

"The beauty of biodiesel is the vehicle does not have to be modified. It is a direct replacement for petroleum diesel fuel," he says. "Both petro and biodiesel can be blended in any ratio with no problems. If biodiesel is not available, there are no problems using diesel." He stresses, however, that only diesel engines can use biodiesel.

Rose says that the benefits of using the alternative fuel include reduced dependence on foreign oil, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, no strong exhaust emission smells, reduced black exhaust smoke, quieter and smoother-running engines and a lower fuel bill. On average, his biodiesel costs 30 to 50 cents less per gallon than petroleum diesel.

Protecting the environment is something Rose takes seriously. He is also a natural resources program manager with the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, where he manages programs such as urban forestry with the aim of making the Air Force a more environmentally sustainable entity.

But his major focus is on the potential of alternative fuels.

"Biodiesel has a very bright future," he says. "Our customers love the performance of the fuel. Once people have used it, they prefer to use it over petroleum diesel. Producing enough is always a challenge because demand far exceeds our supply. Typically, once a batch is ready, it is sold in hours."

—Lorna Stafford

## SHINING STARS OF UTSA

**"Having 10 people give \$100 is just as important to us as one person giving \$1,000. It sets an example for other alumni who want to help out UTSA and creates momentum for the future."**

**As a student, Jerry Anderson knows why it's important to support UTSA and he wants you to know why, too.**

Anderson, a sophomore prebusiness major from San Antonio, is one of 30 student fundraisers who work for the Annual Giving Rowdython, a student calling program that contacts alumni around the state and country to ask them to support their alma mater by making a gift to the UTSA Fund.

A proud Roadrunner, Anderson shares his enthusiasm with alumni by telling them about UTSA's growth and the many exciting things happening around campus. "When I tell them enrollment is about to break 30,000, they're stunned at how much it's grown in such a short amount of time," he says.

But, Anderson adds, it's important for alumni to know that tuition and state funding only cover roughly two-thirds of the university's budget and can't keep up with UTSA's projected growth. It's outside funding—including private support from alumni—that will cover the rest and continue to take UTSA from being a good school to an exceptional one.

"Our alumni are really inspired by growth and the initiatives to make UTSA a premier research institution. They're really impressed with that, and they want to give to that effort to make UTSA a better school, stronger and more competitive."



The largest gift that Anderson has brought in was \$5,000. And while he's proud of that, he emphasizes that the Rowdython is about getting alumni involved, not just the size of the gift. It's about alumni taking pride in their alma mater and increasing the value of their degree in turn.

Anderson encourages all Roadrunner alumni to make a gift to the UTSA Fund. "When alumni make a gift to UTSA, they support students just like me," he says.

**To learn more about supporting the UTSA Fund with a gift of \$1,000, \$100 or even \$10, contact Annual Giving at (210) 458-5135. ON THE WEB: [www.utsa.edu/development](http://www.utsa.edu/development)**

**UTSA** Advancing knowledge. Changing lives.





## Looking back

You should see her backhand ...

**M**ost folks know that UTSA began as a graduate school, offering only master's-level courses at the Koger Executive Center when the university started classes in 1973. It wasn't until 1975—the same year the 1604 Campus opened—that the university began admitting upper-level undergraduates. And the first freshmen were admitted a year after that. To mark the “historic” occasion of the first undergraduate students arriving on campus, photographer Gil Barrera shot this series of promotional photographs featuring Carol Wernette and Bill Reger in April 1975. The caption for these two photos? “He Said She’s Historic.” (You were expecting another tennis pun, right? Well, frankly, so were we.)

*Gil Barrera Collection of UTSA Photographs, Archives and Special Collections, UTSA Library*