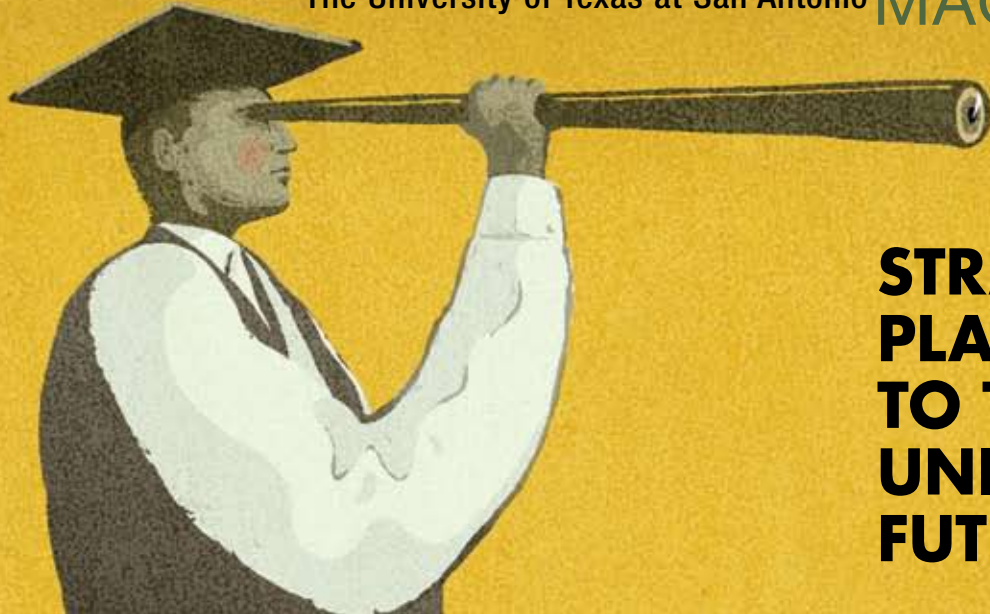


Sombrilla

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Winter 2008
Vol. 24, No. 1



STRATEGIC PLAN LOOKS TO THE UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE

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go to College

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Additions to the Recreation and Wellness Center on the 1604 Campus include a lazy river, now under construction. Photo by Mark McClendon.

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Write back!

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Talkin' 'bout my generation gap

When Bob Dylan played in Austin earlier this fall, my sister-in-law Megan, a college student at UT Austin, found herself with a spare ticket to the show. So she called the first person she thought of. Do you think she offered the extra ticket to one of her classmates, one of her co-workers at Threadgill's restaurant or one of her friends on the lacrosse team? No, she gave the extra ticket to her mom.

Let me repeat this for you: My 21-year-old sister-in-law took her 50+ mother to a rock concert.

That just doesn't make any sense to a Gen X-er like myself. I can safely say that when I was a college student, my own mother would have been, well, let's say extremely surprised if I had invited her to do anything other than perhaps send me more money. Forget the fact that my

mother-in-law was listening to Dylan years before her daughter was born; taking a parent to a concert just isn't cool, at least not by my generation's standards. It made me wonder if Megan might be a bit of a nerd.

But Gage Paine, UTSA's new vice president for student affairs, assures me that Megan is fairly normal for her generation—dubbed the Echo Boomers, the Millennials or Generation Y. Paine points to a disappearing generation gap; today's youth enjoy being with their parents and vice versa. Read more about them in our feature article, "The Millennials Go to College."

And if you want to learn even more about today's college students, check out Beloit College's Mindset List for the Class of 2011 at www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset/2011.php. Every year for the past decade, Beloit College in Wisconsin has offered a list of factoids to help professors and university staffers try to understand the worldview of the entering freshman class.

Here are a few nuggets from the list about this year's crop of freshmen:

- They never saw Johnny Carson live on television.
- Time has always worked with Warner.
- They have grown up with bottled water.
- They never "rolled down" a car window.

And topping the list:

- What Berlin wall?

— Rebecca Luther



UTSA COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NEW ENGINEERING BUILDING, UNVEILS STRATEGIC PLAN

UTSA President Ricardo Romo joined state legislators, community leaders and members of the university community Nov. 5 in a symbolic celebration laying the cornerstone for the university's new \$82 million engineering building on the 1604 Campus.

Joining Romo to mark the beginning of the two-year construction project were State Sens. Jeff Wentworth, Leticia Van de Putte and Carlos Uresti. Romo also recognized the ongoing support of the Bexar County legislative delegation including Joaquin Castro, Frank Corte Jr., Joe Farias, David McQuade Leibowitz, Trey Martinez Fischer, Ruth Jones McClendon, Jose Menendez, Robert Puente, Joe Straus and Mike Villarreal.

To commemorate the event, guests signed a large piece of limestone that will be placed in one

of the exterior walls of the building.

The ceremony also featured the unveiling of UTSA's strategic plan, A Shared Vision: UTSA 2016. Created through an 18-month process involving faculty, students, staff, alumni, community leaders and others, the plan will provide a strategic framework for UTSA's growth. (See full story, page 18.)

"As we work to build a premier research university, this plan presents specific goals and initiatives to guide us as we make important decisions that will shape the future of our institution," said Romo.

A key component in the strategic plan is Engineering Building II, which will help the College of Engineering achieve its 10-year goal of doubling student enrollment from 2,000 to 4,000 and doubling research funding, currently at \$5 million annually. To help fund the

facility, the Texas Legislature approved \$74 million in tuition revenue bonds and the UT System Board of Regents allocated \$8.25 million.

The 150,000-square-foot facility is adjacent to the \$84 million Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building, which opened in 2006. Completion is scheduled for August 2009.

One of the nation's leading producers of Hispanic engineers, the College of Engineering offers doctoral, master's and ABET-accredited bachelor's degree programs in four departments (biomedical engineering, civil and environmental engineering, electrical and computer engineering, and mechanical engineering). Over the last five years, the college has seen a 90 percent increase in enrollment.

— Kris Rodriguez



HOMEcoming '08 Tradition. Spirit. Pride.

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Downtown Campus celebrates its 10th anniversary with a daylong event culminating with **Jazz in the Plaza**, 5 to 7 p.m., in the Bill Miller Plaza.

On Friday, Feb. 29, enjoy a round of golf at the Quarry Golf Club for **Alumni Link Up**. Lunch is served at noon; shotgun start is 1 p.m. Cost is \$100 per person. **The SGA Rowdy Rampage Fireworks Spectacular and Golf Cart Parade** is set for Friday night at the Convocation Center and track at the 1604 Campus. The parade begins at 6 p.m.; the fireworks will start around 8 p.m.

On Saturday, March 1, the day begins with the 24th annual **Diploma Dash 5K Run/Fitness Walk and San Antonio City Championship Race** at the Convocation Center at the 1604 Campus. Proceeds benefit student scholarships, and alumni programs and services. Registration begins at 8 a.m.; race time is 9 a.m. Fee is \$20 before Feb. 27, \$30 on race day, and \$10 for UTSA students with ID who register at the Alumni Office.

At noon on Saturday, former student leaders and UTSA Ambassadors are invited to a **reunion luncheon** in the Denman Room, University Center, on the 1604 Campus. For information, contact Pat Graham at (210) 458-6110. On Saturday afternoon, join other Roadrunners for an old-fashioned **Tailgate Party** on the Convocation Center west lawn and parking lot at the 1604 Campus. This year will feature a competition for Best Spirited Fan and Best Spirited Tailgater. The party begins at 4 p.m.

At 6 p.m., be in your seat in the Convo for tip-off of the **men's basketball game**, the UTSA Roadrunners vs. the Islanders of Texas A&M—Corpus Christi. Mr. and Ms. UTSA and the Family of the Year will be announced at halftime. **For more details on Homecoming '08, go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/homecoming/.**



President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner raises \$4.6 million



More than 750 friends of UTSA attended the annual President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner on Oct. 23, an event that honored two South Texans and raised a record \$4.6 million for student scholarships and other academic programs. It surpassed last year's record total of \$3.1 million.

UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Harriett Romo served as hosts for the dinner. Event co-chairs were John T. Montford, AT&T Inc. senior vice president—western region legislative and regulatory affairs, and Kenny Wilson, Bank of America regional president.

Honored at the dinner were business and civic entrepreneur David A. Spencer and his wife, alumna Jennifer Spencer, who recently funded a distinguished chair for the dean of the College of Engineering with a \$1 million gift to the university. David Spencer was presented the Tom C. Frost Award, established to honor an outstanding citizen who has provided exceptional leadership to important business and community endeavors.

"It is an honor for me to stand here and thank David Spencer for all he has done, not only for our students at UTSA, but also for the San Antonio community," said Romo. "David is an energetic and dynamic individual, an inspirational leader, and an example of what can happen when youth and education meet opportunity."

Top to bottom: UTSA President Ricardo Romo introduces student athlete Josh Ruffin; John T. Montford and Kenny Wilson were event co-chairs; contributions from various donors, including the AT&T Foundation and the Greehey Family Foundation, were on display; and San Antonio Mayor Phil Hardberger and City Manager Sheryl Sculley attended the event.

Spencer has been an active participant in charitable, business, academic, entrepreneurial, public policy and technology economic development organizations since 1990. His entrepreneurial career took off in 1996 when he co-founded OnBoard Software Inc., which achieved \$17 million in annual revenue in eight years. In 2005, Gov. Rick Perry appointed him inaugural chair of the Emerging Technology Fund advisory committee, a \$200 million investment and company formation fund.

Honored posthumously at the dinner was Irene Stimson Wischer, an oil and gas industry pioneer and philanthropist who died this year at age 91. Wischer was recognized with the Gold Star Award, presented each year to an individual or organization that has forged extensive partnerships with the university and supported UTSA students and faculty in extraordinary ways.

"Anyone who knew Irene knew she was a lady of great compassion and strong character. She was a firm believer in education and proudly served on the development board for UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures," said Romo. "I am honored tonight to announce a scholarship will be created in her name as a lasting legacy to her generosity."

Wischer was a lifelong supporter of community, education and charitable organizations. Beginning as a secretary at the oil and gas firm Henderson Trust Co., she became a director by 1955 and was Panhandle Producing Co. chairman and CEO in 1963. During her long and remarkable career in the oil and gas industry, she received many honors, including being the first woman named Chief Roughneck of the Year by Lone Star Steel.

Additionally, Romo thanked several other generous donors for their support of UTSA, its students and its mission.

Montford accepted thanks for the AT&T Foundation gift of \$1.5 million, given to create and fund the interactive Technology Experience Center (iTEC) in the College of Engineering. The center will foster AT&T's educational outreach mission in partnership with UTSA graduate students, who will introduce local and regional middle and high school students to the field of engineering communication technology.

Bill Greehey, chairman of the board of NuStar Energy, accepted thanks on behalf of the Greehey Family Foundation as they were recognized for their gift of \$1 million, given to UTSA to establish an endowment for student scholarships.

Also honored were members of the university's donor societies, the President's Associates, Sombrilla Society and Lone Star Society, as well as individual donors from the past year.

Other gifts recognized were \$250,000 from The Zachry Foundation to create a distinguished professorship in the College of Engineering, \$200,000 from The Tobin Foundation for the Margaret Batts Tobin Distinguished Chair in Biotechnology and \$100,000 from the Armed Forces Communication and Electronics Association for technology scholarships.

— Marianne McBride Lewis

San Antonio native named as provost and academic affairs VP

UTSA President Ricardo Romo announced in December the selection of John Frederick as provost and vice president for academic affairs, the university's second-highest-ranking official. Frederick will begin his duties Feb. 18.

A native of San Antonio and 1976 graduate of Jefferson High School, Frederick comes to UTSA from the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) in Washington, D.C., where he was a senior fellow. He served as executive vice president and provost at the University of Nevada, Reno, from 2001 to 2007. At NASULGC, he helped implement the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative, a national effort to enhance the quality and production of math and science teachers at the middle and secondary school levels.



"I am delighted to announce Dr. Frederick's appointment as the university's new provost," said Romo. "He is a gifted scholar, educator and academic leader. He is highly respected by faculty colleagues and peers in the field of chemistry, and I am confident he will provide great leadership for UTSA as our next provost."

Frederick received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Princeton University, and master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry from Harvard University. Before serving as provost at University of Nevada, Reno, he was a professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry. As a theoretical chemist, he initiated and directed the

chemical physics Ph.D. program.

He has published more than 40 refereed articles in leading chemical physics journals in topics ranging from the spectroscopy and dynamics of large conjugated molecular systems to the formulation of a phase-space representation of quantum mechanics with work supported by more than \$2.5 million in competitive funding. He was a visiting scientist at the Institute for Molecular Science, Okazaki, Japan; Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del I.P.N., Mexico City; Moscow State University, Russia; and the University of Texas at Austin.

Additionally, Frederick served on the Academic Affairs Council in the Nevada System of Higher Education, the Council for Academic Affairs in NASULGC and Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons' transition team for education policy and priorities.

BusinessWeek Ranks Flex M.B.A. Program Third in the Southwest

The College of Business was ranked one of the top three part-time M.B.A. programs in the Southwest by *BusinessWeek* in its annual business school rankings edition. Nationally, UTSA's part-time M.B.A. program is ranked 26th.

"We are honored to be included in *BusinessWeek*'s inaugural ranking of Flex M.B.A. programs," said Lynda de la Viña, dean of the College of Business. "With more than 60 percent of graduate business students nationwide taking courses in the evening or weekends, this is a monumental step in recognizing the nature of M.B.A. programs today. The ranking reflects the quality of our academic programs and the level of services we provide our students."

Schools included in the Southwest regional ranking were University of Denver (1), Southern Methodist University (2), UTSA (3), University of Houston (4), and University of Texas at Austin (5).

The UTSA College of Business offers a portfolio of 26 graduate business programs, including the M.B.A., M.B.A. International, Noon M.B.A., Online M.B.A. and Executive M.B.A. Enrolling more than 690 graduate students, the UTSA College of Business student body is diverse with 72 percent of students attending part time, 40 percent women and 26 percent Hispanics.

UTSA's College of Business is accredited by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, placing the college in the top 10 percent of business schools worldwide. It is one of the 40 largest business schools in the nation with 6,000 enrolled students.

The College of Business has also been named one of the top 10 M.B.A. programs for minorities by the *Princeton Review*, one of the 15 largest minority M.B.A. programs by *U.S. News and World Report* and ranks second in the nation for the number of undergraduate business degrees awarded to Hispanics, according to *Hispanic Outlook* magazine.



Terry Foundation increases scholarship program at UTSA

Ed Cotham Jr. isn't accustomed to hearing the word no.

As president of the Houston-based Terry Foundation, the largest private source of scholarships for a growing number of Texas universities, Cotham is in the position of offering renewable, full-ride scholarships to college

students. The foundation, which is funded by a \$135 million endowment, has assisted more than 1,700 Texas college students.

But up until 2004, the Terry Foundation only supported students at the state's two largest schools: the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University. So when, a few years

difficult time narrowing the field to eight freshmen for the group starting in fall 2006 (a total of nine scholarships were offered and accepted), the Terry Foundation announced plans to double its program for the next class starting in fall 2007 and this year offered 16 new scholarships to incoming students. Plans are to select an additional 16 in fall 2008.

The Terry Foundation was established in 1986 by Houston businessman Howard L. Terry and his wife, Nancy M. Terry. In addition to UTSA, UT Austin and Texas A&M, the foundation now also funds scholarships at the University of Houston, UT Dallas and Texas State University-San Marcos. More than 650 enrolled students at the six schools are receiving Terry scholarships.

At UTSA, the Terry Scholarship Program is administered through the Honors College, though selected students do not have to be admitted to the college. Ann Eisenberg, associate dean of the college, heads an internal selection committee that vetted close to 200 applications for the 16 spots this year; the Terry Foundation makes the final selection.

Eisenberg says both the UTSA and Terry selection committees look for students who are very strong academically. The Terry Foundation also wants students with a record of leadership and service, she says. And although the foundation prefers that Terry scholars not work while in college and instead focus on their studies, they do like to see work experience on a resumé. "They want students who have worked and understand what it means to work," Eisenberg says. "Mr. Terry is big on work."

But with a Terry scholarship, she says, "the idea is they graduate without loans and they can

get out in four years because they don't need to work."

At UTSA, where almost 70 percent of students are supported by some type of financial aid, the Terry Scholarship Program is making a big impact for the scholars. "The cost of attending UTSA this year is calculated at \$18,500," said Eisenberg. The Terry Foundation is giving more than \$300,000 to support its Terry scholars at UTSA; by the fifth year of the program, the foundation will be supporting more than 60 students with close to \$900,000.

In addition to providing the financial means to an education, the program is also designed to foster community among its scholarship recipients. Scholars are required to live on campus and attend several Terry Foundation events throughout the year including an orientation, fall banquet and spring picnic. At UTSA, Terry scholars also formed their own student group, the Terry Scholars Student Organization; president of the group is Nicole White, a Houston student who was part of the first class of Terry scholars last fall.

"A big part of the Terry Foundation is they really want us to be like family and to be there to support each other," says White, a psychology major. "That's one of their core values."

"I think it was really important to the people in the foundation that we start the organization. And I think it's worked out really well for us because we've become a lot closer through it, and a lot of us have become really good friends."

Said Cotham: "I couldn't be more pleased with how the program has turned out there. The students are great, the support we get there is great, and we look forward to a long and continued relationship with UTSA."

— Rebecca Luther



TERRY SCHOLARS

Back row left to right: Nicole White, Hanna Hankins, Eli Solis, Steven Castro, Justin Holden, Perry Mullins, Michelle Lange, Fabiola Espinoza, **Front row:** Amanda Snell, Enrique Segura, Caitlyn Schorr, Nadijah Tamimi, Jasmine Tetley, Laura Sewell, Fallyn Garcia, Kaylane Williams

Not pictured: Freddy Cortes, Chelsea Doria, Justin Griffith, Marissa Ramos, and Lindsey Weigel

ago, a student who planned to study music said "No, thanks" to a Terry scholarship to instead enroll at UTSA, Cotham took notice.

"We made a scholarship offer to a student at one of the other schools, and he turned it down to go to UTSA," Cotham said. "I thought to myself, 'You know, to turn down a full scholarship to go up there, there must be something really special going on at that school.' So I made plans to go up and see it myself.

"That is, in fact, how we came to be at UT San Antonio."

In 2005, Cotham and the Terry Foundation announced plans to bring its scholarship program to UTSA, and the first group of scholars arrived on campus last fall. The foundation's original intention was to provide eight scholarships per year with a maximum of 32 by the fourth year of the program. But after having a

BANK OF AMERICA GIVES \$1 MILLION FOR CHILD PROGRAM

A \$1 million grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation will support early childhood development programs in the Bank of America Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute at the UTSA Downtown Campus. The naming of the institute was announced this fall.

"The University of Texas at San Antonio and Bank of America share the common goal of creating opportunities in the lives of the people and communities we serve," said Kenny Wilson, president of Bank of America Central and South Texas. "Demand for quality education and educators is on the rise in San Antonio and throughout Texas. We are pleased to be able to support the Child and Adolescent Policy Research Institute because teachers and students reaching their full potential contribute to the vitality of San Antonio, making it a wonderful place to live, work and play. Education and economic experts alike describe such early childhood programs as economic development with a high public return."

Building solid foundations for low-income families as well as for aspiring early childhood educators and researchers is the reason Harriett Romo, associate professor of sociology, created the institute.

"I wanted our faculty and students to have more opportunity to do research—applied research as well as research that is going to be published in academic journals," said Romo. "All of the work of the Bank of



America CAPRI is aimed toward bettering the opportunities for children and families, especially low income, mostly Latino families in San Antonio. Many of our projects focus on barriers or opportunities for children."

Among the ongoing initiatives are Early Reading First, an incentive to increase literacy opportunities for disadvantaged young children from language-minority backgrounds, and a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-funded project to create a child development center at Navarro Academy, a San Antonio Independent School District alternative

high school near the UTSA Downtown Campus. "We now have a wonderful laboratory site for our students—one that is beneficial to the school district and to UTSA," Romo said.

Both SAISD's Navarro Academy Child Development Center and the Bank of America CAPRI benefit from the \$1 million grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. It funded a playground for preschoolers at the academy and two endowments at UTSA—one for scholarships and another to secure the future of the institute.

— David Gabler

First students earn counseling, physics, biomedical engineering Ph.D.'s

Three of UTSA's doctoral degree programs are celebrating their first graduates following the December 2007 commencement ceremonies.

Ria Baker is the university's first Ph.D. candidate in counselor education and supervision. The program was established in 2004. Baker's dissertation, "Don't You See Me, God? A Phenomenological Study of the Resettlement Experiences and Mental Health Needs of Somali-Bantu Refugee Women," deals directly with her experiences as a clinical care worker for Somali-Bantu refugees in San Antonio.

Zheng Yuan is the first Ph.D. candidate in physics. The physics doctoral program, established in 2005, is offered in partnership with

San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute. Yuan's dissertation is "Nanostructure and Strain Effect in Active Thin Film for Novel Electronic Device Applications."

Gopinath Mani is the first Ph.D. candidate in biomedical engineering. The graduate program was established in 2004 in collaboration with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Mani's research in College of Engineering dean C. Mauli Agrawal's laboratory focused on developing new techniques to deliver drugs through coronary stents.

Ph.D.

iBRAVO!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

Communication students **Jessica Aguilar**, **Ariane Etemadi**, **Dana Hooker**, **Michelle McClain**, and **Ashley Solomon** received honorable mention in the Public Relations Student Society of America National Bateman Case Study Competition, which gives college students the opportunity to apply their skills in a real-world public relations campaign. It is the fourth time in six years that UTSA students received the award; **Wendy Barker**, professor of English and poet in residence, received the 2007 Violet Crown Book Award in Poetry from the Writer's League of Texas for her latest collection, *Between Frames* (Pecan Grove, 2006); **Thomas Cannon**, director of the tourism management program, was named the first chair of the Faculty and Student Advisory Council of the Destination Marketing Association International, which represents more than 1,300 tourism professionals from 600 destination marketing organizations in more than 25 countries; **Philip Chen**, professor of electrical engineering, was named a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in honor of his contributions to intelligent manufacturing systems design and integration. He joins UTSA electrical engineering professors Mo Jamshidi and G.V.S. Raju as recipients of IEEE fellowships; **Lynda de la Viña**, dean of the College of Business, received the Ford Salute to Education award, which honors outstanding community leaders for their major contributions to education; **Richard Gambitta**, associate professor and director of the Institute for Law and Public Affairs, received the Liberty Bell Award from the Bexar County Bar Association for recognition as a non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness

of the American justice system by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law; senior human resource students **Marissa Garcia**, **Samantha Hernandez** and **Sara Roman** finished second regionally and first in Texas in the annual HR Games competition sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management. Another UTSA team, including **Jennifer Harris**, **Michelle Stampely** and **Sandra Summerville**, placed second at the Texas HR Games; **Cheryl Linthicum**, associate professor of accounting, was named an academic accounting fellow with the Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Corporation Finance. During her one-year appointment, she will serve as a research resource for the staff on current financial reporting and auditing issues; Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching faculty members **Miriam Martinez**, professor, and **Susanne Kimball**, senior lecturer, received the Yellow Rose of Texas Education Award from the Constance Allen Heritage Guild for Lifetime Learning for their contributions to education and for carrying forward the spirit of longtime San Antonio educator Constance Allen; **Mahesh B. Senagala**, associate professor in the College of Architecture, was elected president of the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture, which focuses on research and development of computer aids for architecture students; **Eugene Stone-Romero**, professor of management, received the Thomas A. Mahoney Mentoring Award in the Human Resources Division of the Academy of Management for his distinguished record of mentoring and developing doctoral students; **Ram Tripathi**, professor of management science and statistics, was named an associate editor of Communications in Statistics.

A look to the East

UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures will celebrate the 21st Annual Asian Festival on Feb. 9.

More than 42 participant organizations representing countries and cultural groups from across Asia will immerse guests in a variety of cultural activities including dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, traditional gaming and delicious food sampling. The day's activities will include traditional Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Okinawan and Polynesian dance. Various martial arts schools have been invited to demonstrate their techniques, including iaido, karate, kendo, kuk sool won, kung fu, muay thai and tai chi chuan. Visitors can participate in games including the domino-like mah-jongg.

The Asian Festival at ITC traditionally falls near the Lunar New Year observed in many Asian cultures and began as a family reunion for the local Asian community. The festival is scheduled for 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children, seniors and military with I.D. For additional information, visit TexanCultures.com or call (210) 458-2330.



UTSA announces VP for university advancement

Marjie M. French will join UTSA as vice president for university advancement effective Jan. 28. French comes to UTSA from the University of Texas at Dallas where she served as vice president for development since June 2005. A development professional with more than 15 years of experience at public research institutions, her service includes 10 years with the University of Texas at Austin and three years with the University of Houston.

"The vision of UTSA to become a premier research institution while providing access to educational excellence is extremely compelling to me personally," said French. "I am

ready to roll up my sleeves and work every day, 24/7, to help UTSA reach its full philanthropic potential."

A native Texan, French has a bachelor of arts degree from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. At UT Dallas, she supervised all aspects of development including operations, alumni relations, major gifts, annual fund, communications and endowment services. Under her supervision, total giving increased by 50 percent and alumni participation increased by 70 percent.

As associate director of development at UT Austin, French managed the Dallas major gift program for the UT Austin \$1.6 billion "We're Texas" campaign.

Additionally, she supervised fundraising that led to the creation of the Real Estate Finance Center at UT Austin's McCombs School of Business.

At the University of Houston, she supervised development programs for both the Honors College and the College of Architecture during the university's \$350 million creative partnership campaign.

French succeeds Janice Odom, who served as interim vice president for university advancement since July 2007. Odom will return to her previous assignment as director of development for foundation and organization relations.

— Marianne McBride Lewis



Summer internships at UTSA inspire young engineers

College of Engineering faculty members are celebrating the positive results of a pilot program designed to generate more interest in the field of engineering. Sixty area high school students participated in the college's 2007 summer internship program, funded by nearly \$500,000 in grants from the Department of Education and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The participants were selected from 120 applicants.

The program required students to complete a minimum of 48 hours of observation with an assigned mentor in one of the research laboratories in the College of Engineering. Laboratory space was provided by faculty members Hai-Chao-Han, Mo Jamshidi, Yufang Jin, Can Saygin, and Xiadou Wang in the departments of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering. The program was offered to students in all area school districts, with priority given to those who came from schools in low-income districts, especially those without research facilities.

"It was an eye-opening experience for most of the students, particularly those that had never been in a laboratory," said Mehdi Shadaram, UTSA professor of mechanical engineering and internship supervisor. "The feedback was mostly positive; some wanted to go into biomedical and manufacturing engineering, while others came to the decision that they were interested in pursuing architecture, biology or business."

Of the students who completed the internship, more than 60 percent were female and half of them had completed their senior year in high school and had plans to attend college. Among the group, 80 percent had already applied to a university and had been accepted; UTSA was selected for its engineering or science programs by nearly 75 percent of the participants. The remaining students had completed their sophomore or junior years in high school and were also interested in the fields of engineering or science.

Not only was the internship beneficial for participants, he said, but also for the faculty and graduate students who served as mentors.

"In some cases, the students were just observers and did not participate in the experiments, so they needed someone to explain to them what was going on," said Shadaram. "Our graduate students told them what the machines were doing, what the experiment was all about, what the conclusions were and who might be interested in the results."

Simply attending the laboratory experiments was not the only requirement for the internship. Many students were given assignments to conduct their own investigations using either the Internet or library. The students were also required to write a three-page report.

For their participation, interns received a \$900 stipend. In addition, students who were accepted to UTSA as full-time students for the fall of 2007 were eligible to receive a stipend of \$3,600 to assist with their first-year expenses. Seventeen students took advantage of the opportunity.

According to Shadaram, more than 100,000 engineers are hired from overseas annually and the United States continues to see a shortage, which he hopes this program will help change.

"We want to let them know how important this field is and that there is a demand in the job market that pays very well," said Shadaram. "We've noticed that by the time they get out of high school, it's too late to start any field, so we have to fill that gap after middle school until their senior year in high school."

With two years left on the internship grant, Shadaram said that an annual report will be compiled explaining the activities that took place and how students benefited from participation.

Shadaram says applications for next summer's internship program will be accepted beginning in early spring. He expects the selection process to be even more competitive as word spreads about how UTSA is introducing a younger generation of students to the field of engineering.

— Kris Rodriguez

For more information about the internship program, contact Sheila Slife at (210) 458-7377 or sheila.slife@utsa.edu.

Cutting into the medical-care pie

Honors College students look at disparities in the border region

Understanding why considerable differences in health care and health status exist among different ethnic groups in South Texas has been the focus of a two-year, cross-disciplinary undergraduate project in the Honors College. Funded by the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and the Lancy Foundation, the summer program has linked some 15 UTSA students with mentors at UTSA as well as the UT Health Science Center to study public health issues such as barriers to prenatal care, water purity and use on the border, effects of acculturative stress on anxiety and depression, and access to health care and health insurance.

The common theme of these individual studies, Understanding Health Disparities in the Texas-Mexico Border Region, is particularly applicable to UTSA's location in South Texas, says Ann Eisenberg, project director and associate dean of the Honors College. But the primary objective of the project is to provide undergraduate students an opportunity to conduct original, mentored research projects.

"One of the things we try to do in the Honors College is find ways to involve students in undergraduate research," Eisenberg says. "We think it's critical to honors education, and we think it's really valuable in any education."

One of the primary barriers to involving students in research is that "research tends to be very time-intensive," Eisenberg says. For undergraduates who have to work to pay bills while going to school, it can be particularly challenging to find a large enough block of time to participate in a research project. Through the Lancy program, scholars receive

a stipend to spend nine weeks conducting research during the summer semester, and that research is preceded by a three-week mini-mester course, Understanding Health Disparities, taught by psychology professor and project co-director Tina Zawacki.

"The course is designed to introduce the Lancy students to the socioeconomic, environmental and behavioral roots of ethnic disparities in health status and health care. Fundamental to the course is the recognition of race and ethnicity as primary social determinants of health in the U.S.," Zawacki says. "So that is quite an eye opener sometimes for the natural sciences students because they come in with the least familiarity with the importance of those factors in determining health."

Zawacki is one of a handful of UTSA and Health Science Center faculty members who mentored students through the program; her own research deals with ethnic health disparity in HIV transmission. For example, she says, the rate of HIV infection is five times higher among Hispanic women than Anglo women. This summer, Zawacki mentored two Lancy students who isolated a very small part of her research to look at the roles that acculturation and drinking may play in terms of HIV-related risk-taking among Latinas.

"What the students were interested in looking at is the degree to which all of those are related," she says. "We know that some research has shown, for example, that increased drinking increases sexual risk taking. Other research has shown that as Latinas become more acculturated to U.S. norms, their drinking increases. So the students were

interested in looking at the degree to which increased drinking might be directly involved in sexual risk taking for Latinas as they become more acculturated."

For the project, Zawacki's students collected and analyzed computer-assisted surveys completed by UTSA students. They and the other Lancy students at UTSA will present their research at the 2008 NCUR conference in Maryland.

"The Lancy program provided me a great opportunity to get into an original and supervised research project that was related to my major in psychology," said Tamami Norizuki, who worked in Zawacki's lab and now will continue to work with the professor for her Honors College thesis.

Mentoring the students is the most rewarding part of the program, Zawacki says.

"There are very few opportunities for undergraduates to come up with a question about the world and figure out how to use scientific methods to answer it," she says. "It's great if then they decide that they want to be scientists. ... [But] even if they don't, I think it goes far to encourage students to be intellectually curious and to ask questions and to think critically about research and about the world in general."

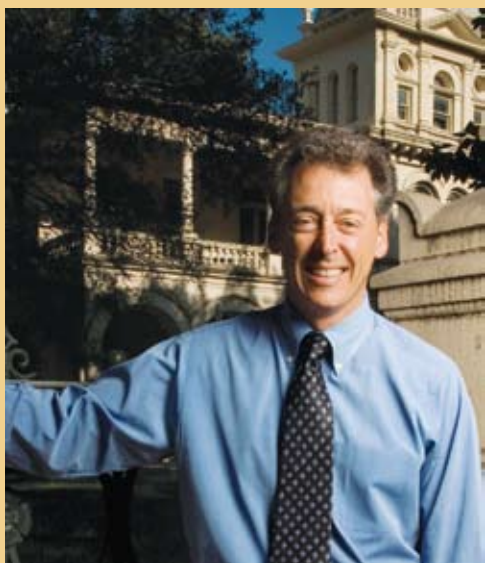
And exposing more students to research in turn benefits the research community, Eisenberg adds.

"We need more people who understand what research is and how research operates in order to support continuation of research. Who's going to support continuing to fund organizations such as NSF and NIH if we don't understand what the value of that research is?"

— Rebecca Luther



Illustration by Michelle Wilby Friesenhan



Preserving the past

He's helped restore Ernest Hemingway's Finca Vigia home in Havana, Cuba, and has worked on other historic sites such as Villa Finale, the home of San Antonio philanthropist Walter Mathis in the historic King William district.

Now, William Dupont, UTSA's professor of historic preservation for the College of Architecture, is working to churn out preservation specialists throughout the university and make UTSA known as a preservation research hub.

The former chief architect for the National Trust for Historic Preservation is creating a preservation certification program that would be available to students of all disciplines.

"When you think about this field, there's need for all kinds of disciplines," he said, adding the distinction could be used on resumés for those with master's degrees in anything from anthropology or history to business administration. "It would also mean they would hopefully have some of the same skill sets in terms of awareness and understanding about managing change with respect to historic context."

Dupont filled the San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professorship in April. He hopes to create a preservation research center with a regional and global reach.

"If there's a development project that the World Bank is funding or something, they could say 'We can bring [in] these UTSA folks at the front end and they'll help us and figure out the cultural traditions that exist in this location before we fund it,'" he said. "I hope that's in the future, but it's going to take time to build that kind of reputation and get involved in that way."

— Lety Laurel

"Tell me where it hurts ..."

A professor in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts will lead a team of faculty and student researchers from UTSA, the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio in a study to learn more about the language of pain.

"It is the second most common reason why people seek medical attention," said Ephrem Fernandez, professor of psychology and the recipient of a two-year, \$368,711 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The project focuses on analyzing descriptions from patients regarding pain. Findings could help lead caregivers to better diagnoses and treatments.

"Typically, the two questions that the physician or nurse asks of a person in pain are 'Where is the pain?' and 'What does the pain feel like?'" Fernandez said.

The patient's reply, he said, goes beyond an immediate complaint and can be a clue in helping the clinician diagnose the problem. For example, complaints of "throbbing" or "pulsing sensation" are more consistent with vascular properties of a migraine, while a "dull ache" is in keeping with a tension headache.

"There are also words to convey a diversity of emotional qualities associated with pain," Fernandez said. "Terrifying" suggests a high

level of anxiety, "miserable" suggests depression, and "annoying" conveys a low level of anger.

Drawing largely from patient interviews, the research team will identify, classify and calibrate pain descriptors to help differentiate pain in areas such as the back, head, joints and nerves, also relating it to disability levels and to demographic variables such as gender. The anticipated result, Fernandez said, will be a new "psychometrically valid and reliable" diagnostic test that can be used in conjunction with other instruments for assessing pain.

— Lesli Hicks



Illustration by Michelle Wilby Friesenhan

UTSA leads nanoscience consortium

UTSA is one of five research universities in a nationwide consortium awarded \$1.4 million from the National Science Foundation to explore ways of concentrating optical energy on a scale of nanometers, which is the size of just a few molecules, and to develop means of controlling optical energy for applications in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Team (NIRT) member institutions also include UT Austin, Harvard University, Cornell University and Case Western Reserve.

According to Andrey Chabanov, NIRT principal investigator and UTSA assistant professor of physics, the proposed research has a potentially broad social impact.

"The development of future imaging applications and nanophotonic devices is impeded by light diffractions," said Chabanov. "We have interesting ideas how to circumvent the diffraction limit by utilizing polaritonic and plasmonic materials.

This might enable super-resolution imaging, which can revolutionize label-free detection of biological and chemical substances.

UTSA's nanoscience research focus involves fabrication and optical characterization of nanostructures for energy concentration in the infrared and visible spectral ranges.

Areas that could benefit from focusing small measures of light include the medical field, where unlimited resolution imaging could be used on living tissues to detect diseases. The semiconductor industry could also benefit by making chips smaller through the use of light at a nanoscale level.

Chabanov hopes to attract high school and college students to participate in nanoscience research at UTSA; as the program develops, students from the San Antonio and Austin areas could go to summer school programs in nanoscience at Harvard's research laboratories.

— Kris Rodriguez

Champions under construction

UTSA soccer coach and players aim to dominate Southland Conference

By Vincent T. Davis

UTSA soccer head coach Steve Ballard doles out praise to his team when deserved, along with a steady dose of discipline.

Early this fall, he stood on the practice field between his 26-member team, split into two squads, yelling assessments of their skills. His voice echoed after each drill like a beefy catcher egging a batter to swing. The players never have any doubts whether he's content or not. No one escapes his scrutiny.

"Think now," he said to the first squad after a successful run-through. "You're getting the idea, ladies."

The squad scrambled for the ball. A defender stopped it with her heel and pushed it up the field like Ballard urged them to do.

Turning to the other squad, he watched for a few seconds, arms flailing the next.

"Stop right there, go back there with the ball," he gestured to a player who turned to listen to his instructions. "You've got to think way ahead of the game!"

That's been his philosophy since he helped establish the first UTSA women's soccer team in 2006. The university chose Ballard for his years of experience and success building fledgling teams into champions. He started programs at Averett University in Danville, Va., and Elon University in Elon, N.C. Before

taking the head-coaching job at UTSA, he led Eastern Illinois to four consecutive appearances in the NCAA Division I College Cup.

Last year, UTSA's inaugural soccer team, which included 24 freshmen, finished the 2006 regular season with an 8-9-2 record. Their first win came against Prairie View A&M on Aug. 30, 2006, with a 7-0 score in their third game.

The Roadrunners went on to take second place in the Southland Conference with a 5-1-2 record. Chelsea Zimmerman, who scored the first goal in team history, was chosen for first-team All-SLC and SLC Freshman of the Year. Defender Ezinne Okpo, 19, earned second-team All-SLC honors.

This year, the team had a 9-9-2 record and advanced to the 2007 SLC semifinals. Alli Dillon was named SLC Freshman of the Year; Okpo, Zimmerman and sophomore Veronica Najera also earned All-SLC honors.

But Ballard has higher goals in mind.

"Our goal is winning the conference and be in the NCAA finals," he said. "And that's very realistic. They're a good gang. I expect good things and so do they."

The team, made up primarily of freshmen and sophomores, expect a lot from each other. They rise early, eat and study before their four-hour practice begins at 7:30 a.m. They also pore over books on long charter bus rides across the state to competitions. Every spare moment is spent studying.

Striking a balance in their collegiate life is one of Ballard's rules—they have to be community players who represent their university on and off the field. His team understands the course he's charting for them.



Photography by Jeff Huehn, Lazy J Photo



They've all played soccer since they were youngsters. Now they're ready to endure the grueling schedule of classes, travel to away games and three-day-a-week practices.

Goal keeper Rachel Francis' game comes from playing soccer with her big brothers in Lancaster, Texas. The prospect of being part of a new program drew her to the university.

"That's why I came here," Francis said. "I wanted to help establish a good soccer team down at UTSA." She said the whole team is like one big family, in tune with the other's personality and always pushing one another. And if one teammate starts to flag, she said, there's always someone there to help get her back on her feet.

Center Darinka Lopez, a walk-on, pumped weights and put herself through a strict physical regimen to make the team. Once in the lineup, she learned to play through the toughest drills she'd experienced in her years of playing the sport. Now come the tough practices, where Lopez and teammates never protest their coach's criticism, committing his calls to memory, replaying instructions over in their minds.

"We pretty much decided we can step up to play hard," Lopez said. "You practice the way you'll play."

Her teammate Okpo said everyone is looking forward to building on their achievements. The second-year sophomore from Denton loves the sport because of the nonstop play. She started playing when she was 8 years old.

She said after noteworthy showings in the last two seasons, the team of returnees and newcomers is meshing, which is important to Ballard's overall plan. He is in the midst of recruiting the 2008 class and working on efforts for 2009. He's a stickler for basics, pushing his team to grow into the champion soccer players he knows they can become.

Their reward comes in the two months they have off in the summer. That's when he encourages them to get away, do their own thing and let the intensity of their season simmer to a slow boil. But not too low, just enough to burn steady and bounce back to form when they return.

Looking ahead to the 2008 season, Ballard remains steadfast in his coaching stance.

"They're a special group," he said, as the morning practice wound down. "They're going to have a special season."



SPORTS BRIEFS

Students pass athletics fee increase

In a referendum held in September, UTSA students voted almost two to one to support expansion of the school's athletics program. The students' endorsement of increased fees includes support for the eventual addition of a football program at UTSA.

The student referendum authorizes athletics fees to increase from a maximum of \$120 per semester to a maximum of \$240. If approved by UTSA administration and the UT System Board of Regents, the increases would provide additional support for all of UTSA's existing 16 Division I sports programs.

"UTSA students have spoken, and this vote endorses their dream to take the athletics program at the

university to the next level," said Gage Paine, UTSA vice president for student affairs. "With this vote, students demonstrate once again that they support the expansion of student life activities at the university. During the last five years, students at UTSA have supported the expansion of the University Center, the Recreation and Wellness Center, parking facilities and additional on-campus housing."

But, administrators said, the student fees alone will not generate enough revenue to cover the costs associated with adding a football program. Because state law prohibits UTSA from using tuition dollars or state appropriations for athletics, football at UTSA would have to be funded by both student fees and private donations.

UTSA hosts third Men's Final Four in April

UTSA will continue its proud tradition of hosting NCAA championship events when the 2008 Men's Final Four comes to the Alamodome on April 5 and 7. The school has hosted three events in the past two years—the 2005 Women's Volleyball Championship, the 2006 Women's Basketball South Regional and the 2007 Men's Basketball South Regional.

UTSA has served as host institution for 10 NCAA events during the past 11 years, including the 1998 and 2004 Men's Final Four and the 2002 Women's Final Four. The Women's Final Four returns to the Alamo City in 2010.

Mighty Mecke

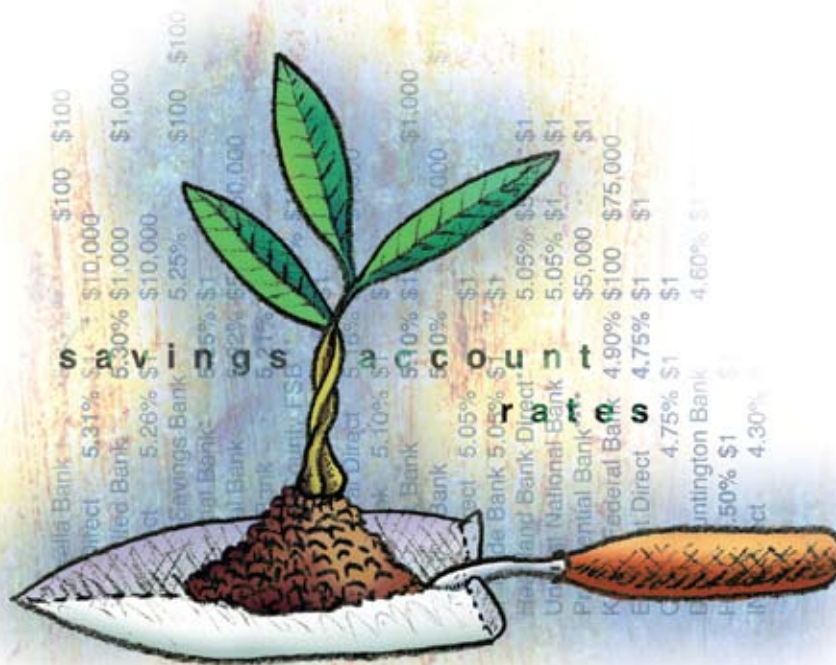
Dana Mecke has been quite busy this fall as a member of both the volleyball and cross country teams. In her first season with the volleyball squad, the Smithson Valley High School product played in nearly every match as a defensive specialist, averaging about two digs per game. On the cross country course, she has finished as the top Roadrunner five times, including winning her first collegiate crown at the Ricardo Romo/Six Flags Fiesta Texas Classic on Sept. 21. She finished sixth at the Southland Conference Championships in October, earning her first all-conference award. Mecke ran in cross country meets and played volleyball matches on the same weekend five times during the fall.

What's the Latest? Go to www.goUTSA.com for the latest Roadrunner sports news, stats and schedules.

Get Rich (Slowly)!

Latino Financial Issues Program teaches students about building a financial future
—for themselves and their community

By Analisa Nazareno



Sarah Ramos grew up in working-class, southeast San Antonio, believing that only greedy people thought about generating wealth and getting rich.

An undergraduate psychology student planning a career in education, Ramos dismissed such things as money market accounts and individual retirement accounts as something for other, more avaricious people.

Then she became a Latino Financial Issues Program scholar, taking classes with Lisa Montoya, a senior lecturer and assistant dean in the College of Business. And she learned in this yearlong practicum about the barriers low-income Latinos have faced in achieving economic stability, the tools that place people on firm financial footing, and the efforts of governments and nonprofits to make those financial vehicles more available to Latinos.

“You come from a certain cultural background where we have a tendency to look down on certain types of success, and so acquiring wealth and retiring were never discussed,” Ramos says about her formative years. “My role models never said, ‘You should invest money, put it into an IRA, or look for a higher percentage savings rate.’ I never knew about those things, until she told me, ‘It’s just about preparing for your future.’”

Ramos was one of 45 students who took Montoya’s special studies course, the Economy of Low-Income Communities, last fall. She was one of 25 students selected on a competitive basis to take the second course in the program, Community Leadership Seminar. The spring course emphasizes professional development and includes a field study of various nonprofit agencies at work in South Texas, as well as a service learning partnership with Navarro Academy, a charter high school near the UTSA Downtown Campus. For

the program, students also complete a summer internship with organizations working in the area of community economic development.

“The Latino Financial Issues Program is an integrated course of study in the area of community economic development,” Montoya says. “When we talk about community economic development, what I’m talking about is how businesses, government, communities, nonprofits, individuals, how all these different actors work together to elevate low-income communities and make them more financially stable.”

Housed in the College of Business, the program accepts students from any academic department and is designed to attract both business majors and those studying the liberal arts. The program’s composition is roughly half and half.

“The beauty of this is that when you bring these two populations together and they spend a whole year talking to one another, there is a neat interaction that happens,” Montoya says. “Most of the time, these two groups of students never have a chance to talk to one another.”

The students engage one another in conversations about what it means to be poor and wealthy in the United States, why it is that some groups have been mired in cyclical poverty, and what role individuals, governments and businesses play in this cycle. During the first semester, students draw from scholarly texts, such as *Organizing Access to Capital*, by George Washington University sociology professor Gregory D. Squires. Through this text, students learn about the Community Reinvestment Act, which was enacted in 1977 after grassroots protest over the practice of redlining. The act requires banks to meet the credit needs of the communities they serve and encourages investing in low-income communities.

Economics major Fernando Elizondo says he had some exposure to much of the information in the class, but this was his first in-depth look at many of the issues.

"I hadn't realized the extent of the problems," Elizondo says. "Like redlining and how it's related to the problems with the subprime market. The program has really shed some light on some of these issues going on and opened my eyes."

Students also read David Bach's bestselling book, *The Automatic Millionaire: A Powerful One-Step Plan to Live and Finish Rich*, which encourages readers through exercises such as the "latte factor" to set aside 10 to 15 percent of gross income for savings and to cut back on extra expenses. The LFIP scholars drew from Bach's "latte factor" exercise as part of a financial literacy curriculum for the students at Navarro Academy during the second half of the program.

"Hopefully the idea got through to some of these younger kids that all the materialistic stuff, like spending \$100 on shoes, is not going to mean anything later when you are older," Ramos says.

At the start of the second semester, Montoya works with the LFIP scholars for three weeks on professional development—preparing résumés, public speaking, and doing an inventory of marketable skills. These exercises are meant to prime the students for the summer internships that Montoya has lined up for them, with the help of the program's partners at ACCIÓN Texas, a nonprofit small-business lending agency. The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the program's lead sponsor, has contributed more than \$100,000 over the past three years to fund the internship program.

"The logic of doing this is that most of our students are first-generation from moderate-income families. And most students with that profile across the country usually don't have the opportunity to do a super-prestigious internship like the ones in Washington, D.C.," Montoya says. "So this is an opportunity to place students into a prestigious internship and earn a summer income. And we place them with nonprofit corporations or governments, based on their interests and our connections."

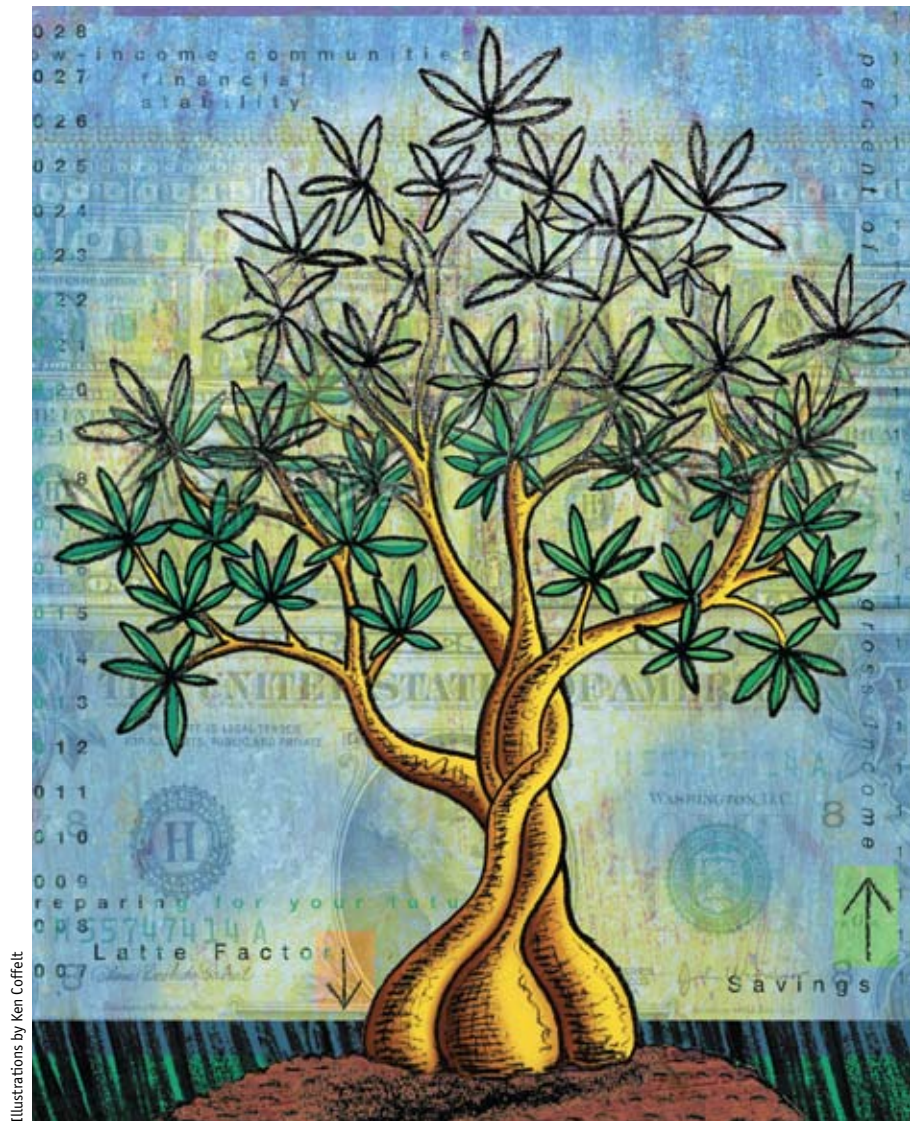
Also during the second semester, Montoya invites guest speakers—bankers, nonprofit directors, city administrators—to discuss asset building and community development. Past guest speakers have included Deputy City Manager Jelynn Burley and J. Oscar Ramirez, executive director of the Avenida Guadalupe Association. Toward the end of the seminar, the LFIP scholars travel to San Juan, Texas, to do a field study of nonprofits, such as Proyecto Azteca, a housing organization.

"By the end, they've learned a lot of things and they've met with a lot of people in San Antonio and in Texas. They've seen projects in the Valley and how they work and people who are living on low incomes and making the best and helping one another," Montoya says.

Ramos says she likes the idea of serving on a board or working with nonprofit agencies when she finishes school this year. For now, she sets aside some of the money from her paychecks into money market accounts and has encouraged her boyfriend, her relatives and her friends to do the same. She tells co-workers at the H-E-B on Zarzamora and West Commerce about down payment assistance programs and homebuyer resources. She warns people about the dangers of using check cashing stores and pawnshops and the damage they can do to one's ability to borrow from banks.

"This program has inspired me a lot and has set me on the right path. Latinos can do all these things and have all these things. It has opened my eyes to a whole different world," Ramos says. "It's something I want to share with [others] so they don't have to struggle as much or feel they have to work until they die."

Montoya invites guest speakers—bankers, nonprofit directors, city administrators—to discuss asset building and community development.



Illustrations by Ken Coffelt



UTSA 2016

UNIVERSITY
SETS FORTH A
STRATEGIC PLAN
FOR BECOMING
A PREMIER PUBLIC
RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY

BY RANDY LANKFORD

Just like other businesses, universities must constantly update their products to keep up with the competition. That is what's behind A Shared Vision: UTSA 2016, the strategic plan that will serve as the blueprint for the university's evolution into a premier public research facility.

"We've pretty much incorporated the concept of being a Tier 1 institution into our everyday lives," says UTSA President Ricardo Romo. "It has something to do with planning for the future. It has something to do with us marching in step with what's going on in Texas and the need for an educated workforce and developing the state economically."

If San Antonio and UTSA grads are going to continue to contribute to that economic development, Romo says the quality of the school's product, a college education, is going to have to continue to improve. For a UTSA degree to be of more value in the emerging job market, the university must raise its standards in several areas.

An overarching strategic blueprint that cuts across all aspects of university life from campus infrastructure to international studies, UTSA 2016 is the product of a year's collaborative study by representatives of UTSA's administration, faculty, students, alumni and supporters. And, it is the road map for the university's quest to become a premier public research university.

The plan is built around five strategic initiatives: enrich education through experiences to enable student success; serve society through creativity, expanded research and innovations; promote access and affordability; serve the public through community engagement; and expand resources and infrastructure.

Having answered the strategic question of "what it will do," UTSA is now tackling the much more difficult tactical matter of "how it will do it." The underlying goals of the strategic initiatives include increasing graduation rates, nurturing a vibrant research culture, creating an enrollment plan that promotes student success, developing community partnerships, and recruiting and retaining top-notch faculty and staff.



"We want to give anyone who wants an education that opportunity, but we are growing at such a rapid rate we're bursting at the seams."

In addition to providing a competitive education, the university's goal of becoming a premier public research university is also driven by the need to manage the school's growth.

Since its founding in 1969, UTSA has had almost uncontrolled growth. The first students didn't arrive on campus until 1974, so in just over 30 years, the university's population has gone from zero to more than 28,500, the same population as the San Antonio suburb of Schertz. After a staggering 62 percent increase in the last decade, UTSA 2016 calls for enrollment to be capped between 35,000 and 40,000.

One way to control that growth is by raising admission standards. UTSA 2016 recommends expanding the school's guaranteed admission policy from the top 10 percent to the top 25 percent of high school graduates and raising its minimum SAT scores from 830 to 920. The change is also expected to increase the graduation rate by making room for more qualified students in each incoming class.

Implementation of UTSA 2016 is being managed by Interim Provost Julius Gribou. He, along with Vice Provost Sandra Welch, is charged with directing Team 2016, an oversight committee representing various UTSA constituencies, which will act as a clearinghouse for strategic direction and ensure the alignment of current operations and new initiatives. The provost office will disseminate the blueprint throughout the university and then compile the feedback provided by deans, departments, even degree programs on how to make it work.

"That's going to make it sound like it was a top-down strategic plan but it was developed from the bottom-up," Gribou explains. "Now, when any unit makes a decision about its programs, they can look back and say, 'Okay, how does that relate to the bigger strategic plan?' At that level you can assess outcomes. You can do a number of things to see if you're meeting the strategic plan."

Rather than develop metrics at the university level, UTSA 2016 leaves it up to the various units, all the way down to the research center level, to establish their own measurements. As the plan rolls out, it will be up to the various units to determine how to implement it.

"The large strategic plan will talk about success and access but it's not going to have the metrics of 'what's the retention rate' or 'what's the graduation rate.' That becomes much more specific and every unit needs to be looking at it," explains Gribou.

No one expects those plans to remain static. "We look at the strategic plan, not as a one-time document where you meet for a year, figure something out and put it on the shelf where it's nice to look at," Gribou says. "This is a working document that's going to evolve and change."

The university's graduation rate is another area being addressed by UTSA 2016. UTSA's four-year graduation rate is currently in the neighborhood of 8 percent. The six-year rate is less than 30 percent. The average rates for the nine UT academic institutions in 2006 were 26 percent for four years and 53 percent for six.

UTSA 2016 is expected to increase the university's graduation rate by increasing the number of full-time students, and to that end, the plan calls for creating a more interactive campus life through an increase in student organizations, on-campus employment, student governance, cultural and entertainment events and intramural and intercollegiate sports. The growing momentum behind establishing a football program is evidence of both the university's and students' desire to raise UTSA's athletic profile.

Christian Porter, who was vice president of the Student Government Association during the creation of the plan, served on the planning committee.

"We're becoming more and more of an on-campus university rather than a commuter school," Porter says.

"You'll see as the people who come to our university get more serious about it, and as the university switches more and more to living on campus and going to school as a full-time student, you'll see that four-year graduation rate rise."

On the other hand, as admission standards rise, some students will be left behind. "This is the rub you get when it comes to funding," Porter admits. "We want to give anyone who wants an education that opportunity, but we are growing at such a rapid rate we're bursting at the seams."

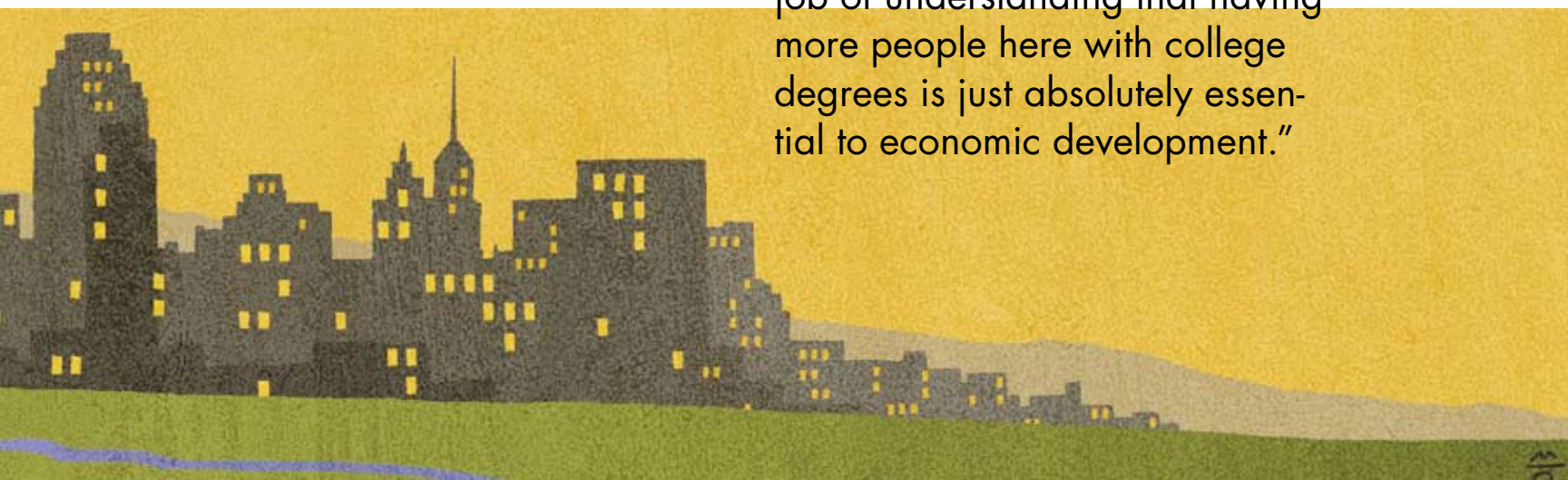
"Money is also an issue. Just paying the bills is an issue when the number of students is growing faster than the university can possibly handle. What good are we doing people if we accept everyone and can't give anyone a good education?"

Romo also sees access as one of the key issues as UTSA continues to evolve. He likens open enrollment to standing on a street corner shouting, "Free health care."

"A lot of people will rush to that. And if you say 'free admissions' or 'open enrollment' or 'no standards,' that makes a lot of people happy but it's not a realistic picture for us because we don't have the resources to offer that. It'd be nice, but we're not going to be able to do it."

San Antonio banker Tom Frost, chairman of UTSA's development board, agrees that while access is important, the educational bar continues to rise, so UTSA's standards must continue to rise with it.

"You've got to move on and continue to give access but you need to raise it up, not only because it will make UTSA a more effective institution, but because it will provide greater opportunities for the young



"San Antonio has done a good job of understanding that having more people here with college degrees is just absolutely essential to economic development."

people coming here to go on to the graduate level and have available to them some of the jobs San Antonio will have to offer in the future."

Frost believes the university and San Antonio both benefit by the other's growth. He adds that, while there's little question San Antonio will continue to support the university, it's important to keep residents up to speed on what is happening on campus and why it's important to them and the city's growth.

"UTSA affects the growth and development of the community and, obviously, as the community becomes convinced of the value of education, and particularly the value of UTSA, that engenders further support.

"The community needs to continue to do what it's done in the past only in a more focused way. San Antonio has done a good job of understanding that having more people here with college degrees is just absolutely essential to economic development.

"The next thing the university needs to do is explain to the public what a research university can mean. We all know the example of UT Austin and what it's meant as far as generating high-level businesses, high tech businesses. We need to tell the citizens of San Antonio about the advantages to the community of having a first-tier research university here."

The San Antonio native adds that the time has come for UTSA to take the next step in its evolution. While UTSA 2016 is focused firmly on the future, Frost says the strategic plan's roots go all the way back to the birth of the university. He traces those roots through UTSA's past presidents.

"Arleigh Templeton [1970–1972] was really here to get money to get the buildings and get the people here. The real key to me," Frost says, "was the administration of Peter Flawn [1973–1978]. He really set the foundation for UTSA to be a university of the first tier. He wanted UTSA to be much more than just a school that served a large population. He wanted to make it a school of first choice.

"Jim Wagener [1978–1990] and Sam Kirkpatrick [1990–1999] really followed up on what Peter had established. The seeds were planted when Jim came along, but then Sam had the obligation to raise several million dollars for the first doctoral programs. That was the very beginnings of UTSA becoming a research university.

"Then when Ricardo got here we began to talk about the university's role in the community."

In addition to "how do you implement it?," UTSA 2016 is facing two more questions. Who will pay for it? And how do you measure success?

Like every other public university in the state, UTSA gets a portion of its funding from the Texas Legislature. Competition for those funds

is fierce. With UT Austin and Texas A&M vying for those dollars to be divvied up based on research excellence and not just enrollment, UTSA is not likely to see an increase in its share. That leaves tuition, endowments and other private gifts as the main sources of UTSA funding.

Research funding has grown considerably since 1998, climbing from \$19.3 million to a projected \$50.2 million in 2010. Its current funding of \$42 million ranks UTSA in the top third among domestic institutions of higher learning in the United States.

At the end of 2007, UTSA had 257 separate endowments, including 12 distinguished chairs, seven chairs, five distinguished professorships and eight professorships, valued at more than \$53.7 million. That total has grown from 86 endowments worth \$15.2 million 10 years ago. Romo says that success must continue if the university is going to attract top faculty.

"Of course, in hiring outstanding faculty, you have to raise sufficient money to create endowed professorships because a lot of your top professors are going to expect that. That's what they're being offered by our competition and our peers.

"As far as raising money, we're raising about \$10 million a year. I'd love to say we could be raising \$20 million. Realistically, a 10 to 20 percent increase a year would be good. Getting it to \$15 million in the next couple of years and then \$20 million after that, that would be good."

Romo adds that there is only so much money available from local donors and while the San Antonio community has been very supportive, many of UTSA's graduates are young and haven't been able to make significant contributions to the university yet. The president also believes the university can do a better job of retaining some of the contributions that are flowing out of San Antonio to other institutions.

With the addition of 230 tenured and tenure-track faculty over the past six years, including 62 in 2007, and 20 Ph.D. programs currently in place, UTSA has increased its academic credentials substantially. While that growth is impressive, the question remains, is it appropriate?

Those decisions are yet to be determined. How many Ph.D. programs are enough? How fast should they be added? How many graduate students should UTSA host?

"There are lots of questions that still need to be answered," Romo concludes. "But I tell people, I won't rest, I won't be satisfied until we have taken UTSA to the next level. Maybe it's not going to be 100 percent of what we want but, by golly, we're going to give it our best shot.

"And when you get to that next level, your next challenge is to take it to the level beyond that." ★

THE MILLENNIALS GO TO COLLEGE

**FAMILY
ORIENTATION
HELPS EASE THE
TRANSITION
FOR PARENTS
WHO MIGHT
NOT BE QUITE
READY
TO LET GO**

BY REBECCA LUTHER

When Gage Paine went to college in 1975, she kept in touch with her mother through weekly phone calls.

“My mom worked for a major corporation and she had a WATS line, so she could call me and it wouldn’t cost anything,” Paine says. “She would always call me at 8:30 on Saturday morning—my roommate hated her—because she went in the office on Saturday morning when it was quiet and she could call for free.”

Today’s college students might not even know what a WATS line is (short for wide area telephone service; a fixed-rate long distance service for commercial users), but they’d be lost without cell phones, e-mail and text messaging. Paine, who joined UTSA in 2007 as vice president for student affairs, laughs when she talks about seeing students on their cell phones between classes. “There’s a different mindset about picking up the phone now,” she says. “It was a once-a-week phone call then because it cost a lot to call long distance.”

While technology has changed the way we communicate with each other, it’s just a part of a bigger picture of how this generation of college students—often called the Millennials or the Echo Boomers—relates to the world and to their parents.

But it is the parents who’ve gotten the bad rap. They’ve been dubbed “helicopter parents” by the media, a term attributed to university administrators weary of parents who “hover” over their children throughout the college search and admissions process and beyond. And while Paine and other administrators say UTSA does see its share of helicopter parents, she believes overly involved parents are an exception. What is happening as a rule, she says, is that parents simply do tend to be more involved in their children’s lives and education—from kindergarten through college—than they were a generation ago.

“There certainly is way more conversation and information exchange between students today and their parents,” Paine says. “Some of that’s the technological capability, and some of that is the predisposition to be a part of each other’s lives.”

Paine has been particularly intrigued by one idea she’s heard to explain the changing times: that the generation gap that existed between parents and children is disappearing. “Students are mostly quite happy for parents to be connected and to know about their daily lives in a way that was very different 20 years ago,” she says.

That may be particularly true when it comes to making decisions about college. In a 2007 national survey of more than 1,700 high school seniors conducted by the College Board and Art & Science Group, 95 percent of participants reported that their parents were either “very involved” or “involved” in their college plans. And of the surveyed students, 60 percent said they were satisfied with their parents’ involvement, and 28 percent actually wished their parents were more involved. Only 6 percent said they wanted their parents to be “less involved.”



NEUBECKER

Changing times

So what happened to the generation gap? Paine believes at least a part of the explanation lies in the fact that the world changed—or at least public perception of the world has changed—in myriad ways that go far beyond cell phones and WATS lines. When the Baby Boomers were born, their parents carried them home from the hospital holding them on their laps in the front seat of the car. When today's college students were born, their parents carried them home from the hospital in mandatory car safety seats and stuck a Baby on Board sign in the rear window for good measure. When Paine was growing up, she and her brother spent summer days roaming the neighborhood; their signal to come home was when the streetlights went on. "My parents didn't know where I was," Paine says, "and that just doesn't happen anymore."

From strapping on helmets before they could even learn to ride a bike to receiving participation trophies just for showing up at their youth sports, the Millennials arrive at college having been watched over and nurtured by their parents more than any previous generation. "People care about their kids, and they want them to have a good experience. They're also paying a lot of money; it's a huge family investment to go to college now," Paine says. "They have been a part of their [child's] education for the last 18 years, and that's not going to just stop, but this is a point of transition."

To aid in that transition, UTSA in the mid-1990s began offering an orientation program for family members of incoming freshmen. The program has expanded from a half-day session of campus tours and registration to a two-day orientation with information on available resources for their students, as well as programming geared specifically toward helping parents cope with the impending Empty Nest Syndrome. Approximately 1,500 parents attended Rowdy Ties family orientation programs at UTSA in the summer of 2007, says Julio Joey Ramos, assistant director of orientation and transition programs and coordinator of the Rowdy Ties program.

Ramos, who graduated from UTSA in 2000, says he's seen a shift in parental attitudes just in the last decade. Parents aren't content just to take a weekend to move their students into residence halls, he says; they want to talk with academic advisers, they want to meet with financial aid officers, and they want to help choose a meal plan. "Instead of letting the student do that on their own, they really want to be there to make sure that student is making the right decisions," he says. "If they're writing the check, they feel they should have that say-so. ... It's a matter of closely watching their investments."

While incoming students may come to orientation focused mainly on registering and getting a class schedule that lets them sleep in the morning, Ramos says their parents arrive on campus with a much longer list



of questions. Getting their child registered for the right classes also tops their list but for different reasons: they want their children to be able to finish college in four years. And that's not necessarily the case anymore, Ramos says, but parents still have that expectation.

"After that," he says, "finances are a big concern and campus safety is a big concern. We have more and more parents who are coming from out of town, and their student is going to be living either on campus or very close, and they want to know that their son or daughter is going to be safe here. That's a really big concern."

As the university has evolved from a commuter school, Ramos says the Rowdy Ties program does draw parents of out-of-town students who may not know much about the university. And that represents a steadily growing part of UTSA enrollment. In 1990—the year many of today's college freshmen were born—Bexar County students made up 78 percent of the UTSA student body. As of fall 2007, fewer than 49 percent of UTSA students come from Bexar County.

Linda Lippe of Austin has already put two sons through college (and went with them to orientations at East Texas Baptist and the University of Oklahoma) and in August attended orientation with her youngest son, Calvin, who started classes at UTSA this fall. She says even though she has plenty of experience with the college process, she didn't know much about UTSA and signed up for Rowdy Ties to learn more.

"I expected to get familiar with the campus," she says. "I expected to be able to leave knowing where my child was going to live, how he was going to get his meals and how we were going to handle his tuition ... those kinds of critical issues. You know, I'm getting ready to leave my child here, and I'm not that far away but still, you want to know everything is OK. You want to know things are taken care of."

Making connections

While Lippe was prepared for the emotional issues of having a child leave home, many parents at Rowdy Ties are bringing their first child to college. Helping parents through that transition is another purpose of family orientation; one session is even titled "Letting Go." At Rowdy Ties, that transition starts immediately, Ramos says. "We have the two separate tracks, family orientation and student orientation, and that begins right during the check-in process," he says. "Our check-in processes are separate, for a lot of different reasons, but one of the reasons behind it is to start this process of letting the parent know that the student is going to be on their own for the next four or five years."

At the beginning of each Rowdy Ties orientation, Paine always addresses the parents and asks those who've sent children to college before to raise their hand. "These are your experts; be sure to talk to them," she tells the first-timers.

Indeed, Paine and Ramos say, while Rowdy Ties gives university officials a chance to pass on information to parents, another benefit is that it brings together parents who are sharing a similar experience. "We really do try to create those connections. It's a great time to meet people and know you're not alone," Paine says.

To further those connections, the university in 2004 also started a family association; members receive frequent electronic communication from the university about student services and campus events. Ramos also is interested in borrowing an idea from Trinity University in San Antonio (where Paine served as vice president for student affairs before joining UTSA) and creating a listserve, an e-mail discussion group, for parents. On the Trinity listserv, Paine and Ramos say, discussions range from parking problems to professor recommendations. Paine said one mother of an incoming freshman posted on the listserv to ask if she needed to buy a dustruffle for her son's dorm room. The consensus of the other parents was no. "Bless her heart; she'd have done it," Paine says.

Creating such a listserv at UTSA would enable more parent-to-parent communication, and parents do have a lot of questions beyond the basics. Ramos once had a mother at Rowdy Ties ask about the location of an off-campus area that she heard was notorious for keg parties so she could tell her child to stay away. "I remember in one Letting Go session, we went off and started talking about tattoos," Ramos says. "There was a big discussion about is it OK, is it bad, how do we deal with this, because more and more people are getting them. And a lot of parents were shocked; they hadn't even thought about tattoos."

In fact, it's not uncommon for college freshmen to come home for their first break sporting a new tattoo or body piercing or dyed hair. Kevin Price, UTSA's dean of students and associate vice president for student life, says those are outward manifestations of the inner changes a student may be going through as they test the boundaries of their newfound adulthood—and perfectly normal behavior. So Price advises

Parents aren't content just to take a weekend to move their students into residence halls; they want to talk with academic advisers, they want to meet with financial aid officers, and they want to help choose a meal plan.

parents to focus on preparing their college-bound children to handle bigger issues, like underage drinking or even credit card debt.

"Part of it is understanding that their relationship changes. It can grow closer actually, deeper and richer, but the relationship changes from adult-to-child to adult-to-adult," he says. "College is oftentimes when that starts to happen, and that's the transition that I think some families may find more challenging than others. But part of the necessity for that is allowing more latitude and recognizing that their child is becoming an adult."

At Rowdy Ties sessions, Price always shares with parents an anecdote from his time as an administrator at UT

Austin. He attended an academic honesty hearing for a graduate student who was facing a plagiarism charge, and the student brought her mother, an attorney, to the hearing for support. "She shows up at the meeting with her mother, and the mother wouldn't let her daughter talk," Price says. "If the daughter would try to talk, the mother would cut her off."

Whenever he tells that story, it invariably draws groans from parents who recognize that as an extreme case of helicopter parenting, but Price also cautions parents to think about other ways they may be overstepping, like urging their students to choose a particular major or telling their kids what to do when they're not getting along with their roommate or when a professor gives them a bad grade.

"For some parents, one of their challenges in letting go is when their children face problems or conflicts, they sometimes want to step in and fix those," Price says. "I tell parents when those things happen, it's really an opportunity for the students to more fully develop their conflict resolution skills or their problem-solving skills, and those are essential skills that people need to have to be successful after college."

So instead of hovering, Ramos says, parents should trust that they did a good job in the 18 years they've spent raising their children. And even though long distance plans are relatively cheap now, Ramos urges parents of new students to refrain from taking advantage.

"You don't want to call them every day; you certainly don't want to call them three times a day," he says. "Communicating with them is fine, but at the same time it's important that you're trusting them, giving them a little more room to grow, to experience what college is about, and not being there for every little thing that happens." ★

THE BLACK

UTSA PROFESSOR INVESTIGATES THE CROSS-CULTURAL PHENOMENON OF THE DARK-SKINNED MADONNA

Here in San Antonio, we know her by many names: Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Virgin of Guadalupe, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, La Virgen de Guadalupe, or simply, Lupita. But the olive-skinned Virgin Mary/mother-goddess is a cross-cultural phenomenon, as Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures details in her new book, *The Black Madonna in Latin America and Europe: Tradition and Transformation* (University of New Mexico Press, 2007).

In the following excerpts from *The Black Madonna in Latin America and Europe: Tradition and Transformation*, Oleszkiewicz-Peralba writes about her native Poland and its fervent worship of Our Lady of Częstochowa, and the similar devotion in Mexico and the American Southwest to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Alternate images of the Black Madonna: Mexico's Our Lady of Guadalupe (left) and Poland's Our Lady of Częstochowa (right).



MADONNA



During my childhood, the figure of the Black Madonna, the famous medieval icon of the Mother of God—Queen of Poland—situated in her sanctuary of Częstochowa, was a pervasive presence. She was and still is the object of multiple processions and peregrinations in all regions of Poland. Her images seemed to be everywhere and were manifested in different ways, as the Częstochowa rendition is only one of hundreds of sacred icons of the dark Madonna in Poland. When Poles emigrated to distant lands, they took the Madonna with them and often established new sanctuaries, such as the Black Madonna of Częstochowa Shrine and Grottos in Eureka, Missouri; in Doylestown, Pennsylvania; and in Czeŝtochowa, Texas. Significantly, the town of Panna Maria (Virgin Mary), near San Antonio, Texas, dedicated to the Black Madonna of Częstochowa, was the first Polish settlement in the United States (1854). A grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Częstochowa was built in San Antonio in 1966 to commemorate the Polish millennium of Christianity (966–1966).



AROUND SAN ANTONIO: From left, Jesse Trevino's 40-foot-tall replica of a Virgin of Guadalupe candle; statue at Market Square; author Sandra Cisneros; painting at Our Lady of Częstochowa Shrine; ice house near Mission Concepción; detail at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.



I was born in Poland less than a decade after World War II, which saw the destruction of 90 percent of my hometown, Warsaw. To this day I remember vestiges of the prewar city with its distinct flavor, as well as the ruins, and the stories accompanying them. I also recall the Slavic folktales read to me at bedtime and the legends studied in school. Those tales reemerged as I was researching the fervent worship of the Black Madonna for this book. My family's experience was typical of postwar Poland. My father was born in Wilno, now Vilnius, capital of Lithuania. Wilno was an important Polish cultural center, supporting four languages and cultures before World War II. Poles, Lithuanians, Russians, and Jews shared this corner of northeastern Europe. They had their own Dark Madonna, Our Lady of Ostra Brama, whose picture crowns the city gate. Even today, people kneel on the street in front of her. My father was subjected to the postwar events that led to the diaspora of eastern Poland, whereby its inhabitants were forced to relocate to the western region if they wanted to remain in the Polish nation after Lithuania became incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940 and was occupied by the Nazis in 1941. The family settled in Gdańsk in 1946, and three years later my father moved to Warsaw to study at Warsaw's School of Economics. Wherever he went, he took the image of the Dark Madonna with him. His own life experience of relocation and exposure to different cultures led

him to become a multilingual translator, an international trade expert, and a world traveler. His example instilled in me the love for different cultures, languages, and lands. In Warsaw he met my mother, who came from a family whose female line had been there for five generations.

As a child I lived with my family in a quarter of Warsaw where I could regularly observe colorful processions honoring the Catholic saints, among which the dark Mother of God was the most venerated. I regularly witnessed the same phenomenon during vacations in small towns and villages in other regions of Poland. There, the display of icons, adornments, and chants during the ritual parades was even more profuse.



While it is undeniable that Poland is one among many countries in the Eastern Hemisphere that hold an image of a Dark Madonna dear to their heart, an equally potent, parallel cult is found across the Atlantic in Mexico. What are the reasons for this surprising cross-cultural phenomenon? A quick comparison of the geographical and racial components sets these two countries worlds apart. Yet, in spite of their many differences, they are both fervent worshippers



WEB EXTRA: To see more images of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Virgin of Guadalupe around San Antonio, go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.

of a Dark Madonna, the Mother of God of Czestochowa, and the Virgin of Guadalupe, respectively. Moreover, both icons embody a specific national identity character whose impact is unparalleled in any other country.

Poland and Mexico would appear to have very little in common. Poland is a central European nation with a relatively uniform, Polish-speaking population of primarily Slavic origin. Conversely, Mexico is located at the southern end of North America and contains a multilingual, multiracial population composed of descendants of Spaniards, other Europeans, Indians, mestizos, blacks, mulattos, and a small component of Asians. Besides the official Spanish, sixty-two indigenous languages are spoken ("The Indigenous Languages of Mexico"). With the baptism of Poland in AD 966, a date also corresponding to the beginnings of Poland's statehood tradition, Catholicism established an early influence. Mexico did not experience that influence until the beginning of the Spanish Conquest, 1519–21, and many centuries passed before independent statehood was attained in 1821. Climate is also a point of contrast. While Poland experiences a harsh climate most of the year, Mexico's ranges from tropical to moderate.

In spite of these disparities, an examination of both countries from a popular and national religiosity point of view uncovers surprising analogies. The Mother of God of Czestochowa for Poles and the Virgin of Guadalupe for Mexicans are each the utmost national and religious identity symbol. Moreover, the status of the dark Mary as the saint most often invoked for personal aid and protection is affirmed by her pervasive presence in home altars and innumerable churches, chapels, and shrines. She is the principal recipient of adoration, manifested in paintings,

ex-votos, songs, poems, books, processions, and pilgrimages. Significantly, she is displayed on medallions and portraits worn close to the body. A special place is always reserved for her. Her church or basilica is the site of continual individual and group visits, besides being the object of major peregrinations that bring millions of people from all over the country and from abroad. They arrive on foot, walking the countryside for weeks, or on buses, cars, and planes, in order to share private and collective time with this embodiment of female protection, nourishment, consolation, and strength. The Dark Madonna is the understanding and forgiving mother of all creation that will grant her worshippers most of their requested favors. Her faithful perceive her as a repository of strength and courage, invoked in battles for freedom and social justice. Only she understands her children's needs and knows about their every hardship. As Eric R. Wolf comments, the Virgin of Guadalupe symbol represents "mother; food, hope, health, life; supernatural salvation and salvation from oppression. . . . [She] links together family, politics and religion; colonial past and independent present; Indian and Mexican." In all of life's struggles, she is the one to be most often invoked directly, rather than her son Jesus or God the Father. Officially, she is the intercessor between mortal beings and a divine god, but in practice she is, in fact, a goddess, the ancient, all-powerful Great Mother of birth, death, and regeneration. ★

The Black Madonna in Latin America and Europe: Tradition and Transformation can be ordered through the University of New Mexico Press Web site, www.unmpress.com.

DIPLOMA DASH

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 1, the 24th annual *Diploma Dash 5K Run/Fitness Walk and San Antonio City Championship Race*. Proceeds benefit student scholarships, and alumni programs and services.

Registration begins at **8 a.m. at the Convocation Center** at the UTSA 1604 Campus. Race time is 9 a.m.

Whether you are a runner or walker, Diploma Dash attracts participants from all over the city and even some from out-of-state. In 1998, the event became San Antonio's City Championship 5K Race by mayoral proclamation. The course is a certified 5K flat and fast course for accomplished runners and a 1.5 mile scenic course for individuals and families who would rather stroll.

Presenting sponsor is the Capital Group Companies, an international investment management firm with an office in San Antonio. Participants receive a long-sleeved T-shirt. Medals are presented to the top three finishers in 13 age categories. Generous

cash prizes are presented to the overall top male and top female along with an American Airlines roundtrip ticket for each. The top three male and female finishers receive running shoes from Roger Soler's Sports.

Registration is \$20 before Feb. 27, and \$30 on race day. UTSA students with ID can register at the Alumni Programs Office in the University Center, 1604 Campus, for \$10. For more information or to register online, **go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/dipdash**.

Diploma Dash is part of **UTSA Homecoming 2008**; activities are held from Feb. 27 through March 1, culminating with the March 1 basketball match-up between UTSA and the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Islanders at the UTSA Convocation Center at 6 p.m.

For more information on other Homecoming events, go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/homecoming.

75 Mary Earle, M.A. in Spanish, had her newest book *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness* (Morehouse Publishing, 2007) chosen as one of the best books of 2007 by Spirituality and Practice Web site. Mary has also released a CD titled *Telling the Brothers: Perspectives of Mary Magdalene* (Stillpoint Studios, 2006).

77 George N. Shuler, B.A. in history, and his wife, Lois, have relocated to Fort Riley, Kan., where he is a social worker for the U.S. government at Irwin Army Community Hospital, serving returning troops and their families.

78 Ellen Sue Turner, B.A. in anthropology, was selected by the Texas Historical Commission to receive the 2006 Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology, which recognizes an individual for outstanding lifetime achievements in archaeological research and preservation. (See profile, page 33.)

80 Evelyn Mortola, B.B.A. in management, M.A. in environmental science '82, pledged an endowed scholarship of \$25,000 to the Tom C. Frost UTeach program at UTSA. The scholarship is given specifically for the last semester of teaching.

81 David A. Hendricks, M.A. in English, business columnist for the *San Antonio Express-News*, was recog-

nized by the Society of American Business Editors and Writers in April 2007 as one of the top business columnists in the country. He and two other columnists were selected in the medium newspapers category.

83 Gloria Hansmann Cunha, B.B.A. in finance, was promoted to area director for World Financial Group in Roseville, Calif., after being top insurance recruiter for two consecutive months.

Annette Tremontozzi, B.B.A. in management, M.A. in education '06, is principal of Judson Learning Academy in the Judson Independent School District in San Antonio.

84 Janet Lee Frerich, B.B.A. in management, is office manager for Monarch Precast Services in San Antonio.

Jeanette B. Kloos, B.S. in mathematics, is president of the Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway in Bridal Veil, Ore.

Jonathan T. Shubert, B.A. in English, was promoted to director of Executive Office Administrative Services for Southwest Airlines. He has been with Southwest for over 18 years. Jon and his wife, Sandy, recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have a daughter, 21, and a son, 19, both attending Texas A&M University. E-mail Jon at jon.shubert@wnco.com.

85 George Richard Knox Jr., M.B.A.

in business, is a lawyer at Maloney and Knox, PLLC, in Alexandria, Va. As an interdisciplinary advocate, George is pleased to learn about UTSA's Center for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship. E-mail George at gk20015@aol.com.

86 Peggy Dettwiler, M.A. in music/choral conducting, is director of choral activities of the Mansfield University Concert Choir in Mansfield, Penn. Her choir was chosen to perform in a concert at the Scottish Rite Temple in San Antonio in November 2006 at the inaugural conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Choirs from 10 states performed during the three-day conference, which included sessions on conducting, choral literature and performance practices by internationally renowned conductors.

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

Steven R. Westbrook, M.B.A. in business, is a principal scientist in the Fuels and Lubricants Research Division at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. Steven was selected for the ASTM International 2007 Award of Merit. With the award also comes recognition as a fellow of ASTM. ASTM International, originally known as the American Society for Testing and

Materials, is one of the world's largest voluntary standards development organizations.

88 Michael Robert Gonzalez, B.A. in criminal justice, is a financial service representative for MetLife Resources and was honored as Rookie of the Year in 2005.

Steven Jungman, B.B.A. in management, is director of recruiting at Chase Source, LP, in Pearland, Texas. E-mail Steven at sjungman@chasesource.com.

89 Lisette Murray, B.B.A. in management, regional manager for HelmsBriscoe, received the President's Club Award for booking over \$1 million in room revenue in the last year. Lisette received the award at HelmsBriscoe's annual business conference in Houston.

90 Barbara A. Rodela, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in education '97, is associate vice president for research integrity and compliance at UTSA.

91 George Antuna Jr., B.B.A. in management, is economic development executive director for the City of Schertz, Texas. George is married to alumna Patricia A. Antuna, B.B.A. in management. Tricia is a service center manager for Security Service Federal Credit Union.

Cathryn L. Craig, B.A. in American studies, received her M.B.A. from the

Jonathan Pennington '05

Staging a comeback

Most people look before they leap, but Jonathan Pennington did the exact opposite when he decided to lease the historic Woodlawn Theatre in the Deco District on Fredericksburg Road.

Pennington, who earned a bachelor's degree in music education, last year spent two weeks driving around the city, searching for a potential property to open a theater. Not having much luck and beginning to think he would come up empty, he happened to drive down Fredericksburg Road, when his eye caught the retro neon sign of the Woodlawn Theatre and a For Lease sign in the window.

"It looked really cool from the outside and has a great ambiance of a good classic theater," said the 28-year-old from Snyder, Texas. "Without even seeing the inside, I called the landlord and said, 'Hold it. I'm going to sign the lease.'"

After signing the dotted line, Pennington wondered if he made a wise decision. "It was trashed inside, and had fallen into disrepair over the years," he said, "The walls had extensive water damage and mildew. It was a monster."

Pennington and his mom, Sandra Bradshaw, who also serves as the business/accounting manager, quickly went to work repairing the theater, which included countless hours of patching "millions of holes in the cement walls." Six months and \$160,000 later, he re-opened the doors of the Woodlawn Theatre on Nov. 3, 2006—his birthday—with the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* to excellent reviews.

Since then, Pennington, executive artistic director of Amphisphere Theatre Productions, and his business partner, Cal Collins, have enjoyed success with several well-received productions, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Disney's High School Musical*.

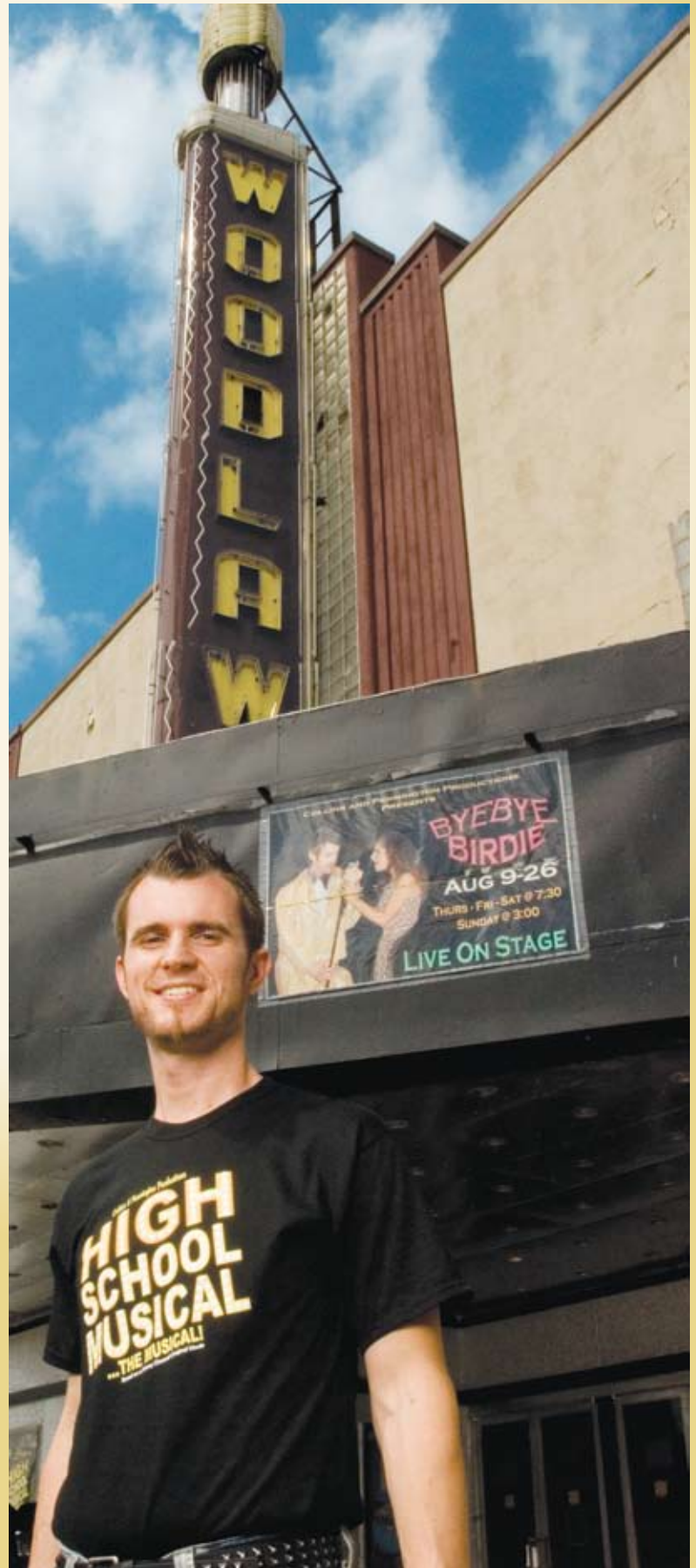
In addition to overseeing daily operations of the theater and preparing for current productions, Pennington teaches musical theater, voice training and acting classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays to local high school students.

In its heyday, the Woodlawn Theatre, which opened in 1946, was a popular movie house and even hosted the 1960 premiere of *The Alamo* starring John Wayne. Now, Pennington hopes that word-of-mouth and the quality of productions will attract large audiences to the theater once again.

"My vision is to provide San Antonio and surrounding communities, as well as tourists, with great, classic musical theater," he said.

— Rudy Arispe

For more information about the Woodlawn Theatre and a schedule of upcoming shows, visit www.woodlawntheatre.com.





Vinicio Montes '04 and Marlon Lozado '08

Nerds amongst Red Bulls

Vinicio Montes (above left) and Marlon Lozado (above right) met at UTSA through their mutual involvement with the Hispanic Student Association, but the friendship of these self-proclaimed nerds was cemented through countless hours spent at the group study tables in the John Peace Library.

"We just started hanging out," Montes says. "[Marlon] was always studying in the library just like me, so I saw him a lot."

The library also was the setting for the epiphany that led the friends to start their own company, Nerd Energy Drink. One day, Montes looked around the crowded library and, he says, "saw nothing but energy drinks." When he then noticed other friends taking purported memory enhancers to try to aid their study sessions, he and Lozado decided why not put the two together? They came up with their own homemade concoction, but when friends responded enthusiastically, they decided to go into business.

In May 2007, they released Nerd, looking to carve a niche in the \$744 million energy drink industry. Montes, who graduated with a degree in biology and now is in medical school in Virginia, worked with a

food chemist at an Illinois lab to come up with a marketable formula for the beverage. "It was a lot of trial and error," he says. "We originally had another ingredient in there that was causing it to foam like crazy. The food scientist was laughing. He said, 'I've never seen a blend foam this much in my life.' Foam was everywhere."

Their formula perfected, the partners borrowed money from family and friends—offering 2 percent of the company in exchange for each \$5,000 investment—to come up with the six-figure seed money needed to start the company. They worked with a design firm in San Antonio to create the look for the packaging and found a Coors Light plant in Memphis to bottle their product. Nerd now is available in more than 100 convenience stores around San Antonio with distribution plans for other Texas cities and eventually other states. Already, Montes says, Nerd ranks third in energy drink sales on average at its locations.

Montes and Lozado, a senior engineering student, say their target audience is college students. "Energy drinks are the new coffee in college," he says. "Students in college don't like drinking coffee; it gives you bad breath and all that."

And being students still is their first priority. A third partner helps manage the company so that Montes and Lozado can stay in school. Lozado expects to graduate from UTSA in May 2008, and Montes works on Nerd during his breaks from medical school. He points out that the idea for Nerd came as a way for him to stay alert while studying for the MCAT.

"My thing was getting into medical school," he says. "I wasn't worrying about starting a company and making some energy drink. I was just worried about getting into medical school."

— Rebecca Luther

University of Phoenix in August 2005. Cathryn is an instructor in accounting/adjunct faculty at Northwest Vista College in San Antonio.

Darlene C. Heer Kersey, B.B.A. in accounting, and her husband, Randall, announce the birth of their daughter, Faith Elizabeth, on Dec. 3, 2006.

93 Tracy Jackson, B.B.A. in accounting, is vice president of internal audit at Tesoro Companies in San Antonio. Tracy previously was director of internal audit at Valero Petroleum Corporation.

Glenn C. Stella III, M.P.A., is a district sales manager at Expand Networks in McKinney, Texas. Glenn and his wife, Edith, announce the birth of their twins, Grace Marie and Genevieve, on Dec. 24, 2006. E-mail Glenn at Glenn.Stella@expand.com.

Andrea G. Whitlock, B.S. in computer science, is a programmer/analyst III at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

95 Elva P. Adams, B.B.A. in accounting, was named District and Region VI Financial Services Champion of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration in May 2007.

96 Ana Luisa Avila Lopez, B.S. in electrical engineering, is operations integration manager for the International Space Station Avionics and Software Office at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston.

97 David W. Dye, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is a senior mechanical engineer at X Technologies Inc. in San Antonio. David and his wife, Tara, have two daughters, Madisen, 8, and Allysen, 4.

Yvonne Marie Gomez Gonzalez, B.A. in criminal justice, and her husband, Donald, have two daughters, Sarah, 5, and Sophia, 3.

Peter C. Morales, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. in business '04, is the assistant director of graduate business career services for the UTSA College of Business.

Arturo R. Ortiz, B.S. in kinesiology and health, M.A. in education '05, was promoted to lecturer I in UTSA's Department of Health and Kinesiology. Arturo has been employed by the UT System for 5 years. He and his wife, Maura, announce the birth of daughter, Daphne Rose, on June 11, 2006.

98 Shea Burgess-Hernandez, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, M.A. in education '06, married Jesse Hernandez in November 2006.

Judy Juarez Crockett, B.B.A. in management, is a senior marketing specialist with Frost Bank in San Antonio. Judy was previously with Morgan Stanley in Dallas and San Antonio. Judy and her husband, Brad, announce the birth of their second son, Henry Chandler Crockett.

Ellen Sue Turner '78

Primetime for a lifetime achievement

As a child, Ellen Sue Turner clung to her father's side on hunting trips through the woods in Jackson, Mich. While he looked up in the trees for pheasants, she looked down on the ground for arrowheads. On road trips through the Southwest, the family toured Indian reservations, where Turner immersed herself in their ancient culture.

Those roads led to a long career unveiling the past and to recognition as one of Texas' foremost archaeologists. Recently, the Texas Historical Commission honored her with the 2006 Curtis D. Tunnell Lifetime Achievement Award in Archeology for achievements in archaeological research and preservation.

Turner began her studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1943. Two years later, she married Norman Turner, abandoning her dream of a college degree to start a family.

It would be 30 years before she resumed her studies. Her four children were adults when she enrolled at UTSA in 1975, the first year the university offered undergraduate classes. She was 51 years old and excited by new possibilities.

"People think when you're in your 50s you're through," Turner says. "But that's when you begin."

Young professors taught her in rooms averaging 15 students per class. It was almost like a "private education," she says.

Turner graduated with an anthropology degree in 1978, remaining at the university as a research assistant in cultural anthropology. She teamed with a former professor, Thomas Hester, to co-write a book, *A Field Guide to Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*. Turner and Hester spent three years cataloging every report, site and artifact in Texas for the book. The book has sold 60,000 copies, Turner says, and is read by students across the state.

She honed her research skills scaling hills and sifting through dirt at rugged sites where she encountered ticks, fire ants, mosquitoes and rattlesnakes. One of her memorable trips occurred in 1999, at Range Creek Canyon, Utah, with a survey team. She documented the artifacts of prehistoric dwellers called the Fremont people. Her findings are documented with the Smithsonian Museum and the Southern Texas Archaeological Association.



She says mentoring the younger generation is the spark that keeps her going. Her influence on the young carried over to one of her four grandsons. On several trips her grandson Arthur Scott walked by her side just as she did with her father. Scott later graduated from Reed College in Portland, Ore., with a bachelor's degree in anthropology; the first sentence of his thesis was a dedication to Turner.

She's still involved with Texas archaeology, serving on panels and lending her

expertise to colleagues recording data in the field. She credits returning to college as the key to longevity in a profession she's loved since childhood.

"It just opened the world to me," Turner says. "I'm always looking forward to the next incident. There was no other future for me."

— Vincent T. Davis

WEB EXTRA: To view a video podcast interview with Ellen Sue Turner, go to www.utsa.edu/pub/sombrilla.

Carlos A. Islas, B.B.A. in finance, has been in banking 11 years and has joined JPMorgan Chase in San Antonio where he was recently promoted to assistant vice president in the International Financial Services Department. Carlos is married to alumna Dulce Maria Islas, M.A. in education '03. They have a daughter, Maria Paula, 3, and a son, Carlos Andres, born Dec. 21, 2006.

Joseph D. Ybarra, B.B.A. in finance, opened the Ybarra Law Firm, where he is an attorney in the field of family law. Check out his Web site, www.familylaw-sa.com, or e-mail him at Ybarra.joseph@sbcglobal.net. Joseph and his wife, Leticia, were married in November 2005 and have a daughter, Sophia Isabella, born April 28, 2007.

99 Linda K. Carrillo, B.S. in biology, M.S. in biology '01, earned her doctorate in educational leadership from UTSA in May 2007.

02 Natasha Alff, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a physical education teacher for Northside Independent School District in San Antonio.

Laura Y. Sosa Bustos, B.A. in psychology, is a case manager level II for Communities In Schools in San Antonio. In July 2007, she was elected for a one-year term to the board of directors for the Texas chapter of the National Association of Social Workers where she serves on the executive committee.

Shelli Lyons Egger, B.A. in criminal justice, is a founding partner in the firm Egger & Davis in Austin. Egger & Davis

is a law firm dedicated to family and criminal law. Shelli was elected to the City Council in Manor, Texas, in May 2007.

Douglas Lyssy, B.S. in biology, graduated from Yale University with a Doctor of Medicine degree from Yale Medical School and a master's degree in business administration from the Yale School of Business. Douglas is an investment banking associate with the Global Healthcare Group at Merrill Lynch on Wall Street in New York City.

Debra Perelman, B.A. in psychology, is an account supervisor for BDP International in Houston.

David Salisbury, B.S. in computer science, announces his marriage to Sarah Senecal Salisbury. They were married on June 2, 2007.

Sara Shahsavary, B.B.A. in management, is the owner of HappyLand Day Care Center in San Antonio. She was named to the Cambridge Who's Who of Executives and Professionals in 2005–2006 and named a 2006–2007 VIP Member.

03 Steven Alaniz, B.S. in biology, is a physical therapist for Helotes Physical Therapy in Helotes, Texas. He earned his master's of physical therapy from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2007.

Jack Bruce Hughes, M.B.A. in business, is president and CEO for TriAgility Inc. in San Antonio. TriAgility Inc. does contract software development and project management for technically complex networked wired and wireless products.

Sonia Grover Tummala, B.A. in communication, is information manager for Exxon Mobil in Houston. Sonia and husband, Naveen, were married on Feb. 9, 2007.

Daniel Villarreal, M.A. in education, spent this past summer studying Mandarin Chinese at the Mandarin Training Center of the National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, Taiwan. He also worked as a Test of English as a Foreign Language instructor for the *Princeton Review* in Taipei. Daniel was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi in September 2007 at UT Austin, where he is a Ph.D. student in foreign language education and serves as graduate student representative in student government.

04 LaMecia Butler, B.A. in communication, is a public relations coordinator for Scripps Networks in Knoxville, Tenn., and was recently named Rising Young Professional of the Year by the Volunteer Chapter of Public Relations Society of America. She is a member of PRSA and the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications. **Anna M. Hernandez**, M.A. in education, is a reading specialist at Stony Point High School in the Round Rock Independent School District in Round Rock, Texas.

Aaron C. Schol, B.A. in criminal justice, is a Third Class Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard stationed at Airstation Atlantic City where he serves as a flight mechanic. Aaron married Dawn A. Newell, of Northfield, N.J., on July 20, 2007.

John Trevino, B.S. in electrical engineering, is a senior electrical engineer for General Dynamics-AIS in Scottsdale, Ariz. John and alumna Marlisa Rivera, B.S. in biology '04, were married in 2005.

Kenneth Carl Whitton Jr., B.A. in psychology, is a broker and owner for Whitton Real Estate Services in San Antonio. E-mail Ken at info@kenwhitton.com.

05 Cristina Cardoza, B.B.A. in general business, and her husband, Mario A. Hernandez, were married March 17, 2007.

Lina Forero-Niño, B.A. in communication, is working in the public relations department at Bromley Communications in San Antonio.

Christopher C. Johnson, B.A. in communication, is an editor II for the *Journal of Trauma, Infection, and Critical Care* in the Department of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The journal is the official publication of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST). E-mail Chris at lockyoleri@yahoo.com.

Maria "Letty" Martinez, B.A. in psychology, is a clinical research coordinator at Radiant Research in San Antonio. **Allison Sherman**, B.A. in psychology, is a new member solutions representative at USAA in San Antonio.

06 José A. Bird Jr., B.B.A. in information systems, is an IT associate programmer/analyst at USAA in San Antonio.

Carol Rosborough De Leon, B.A. in American studies, is an 11th-grade

advanced placement U.S. history teacher at Sam Houston High School in the San Antonio Independent School District. E-mail Carol at cdsatx@hotmail.com.

Audrey Gonzaba, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a bilingual pre-kinder teacher at West Oso Independent School District in Corpus Christi, Texas. Audrey and her husband, Vince, have one son. **Stacy Nicole Griffin**, B.B.A. in human resource management, is an employee relations recruiter at Zachry Construction Company in Houston.

Evea Lauren Haass, B.B.A. in finance, is an investment analyst for the Private Equity Group at USAA Real Estate Company in San Antonio.

Robert Matthew Hudnall, B.A. in political science, is an associate sales representative for Stryker Craniomaxillofacial in Shreveport, La.

Aimee Marie D. Mijares, B.A. in psychology, is a special education teacher at Stevens High School in the Northside Independent School District in San Antonio.

Amy-Marie Montellano, B.S. in mathematics, was featured in the June 7, 2007, edition of *Conexión*. The article, "Montellano crunches numbers at Southwest Research," highlighted her new position as an assistant specialist in the contracts department of Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio.

Cecilia "Cece" Mujica, B.A. in art, had her Fiesta 2008 poster accepted by the Fiesta Commission. Cece has also submitted a mural design for the Inclusion and Community Engagement Office at UTSA.

Eric Pinkham, B.B.A. in marketing, is a territory manager at Animas, Arizona,

a division of Johnson & Johnson.

Juan Ramon Rodriguez, B.S. in biology, is a cytotechnologist at Quest Diagnostic in Houston.

Laura Beth Rodriguez, B.S. in biology, married alumnus **Matthew C. Garcia**, B.B.A. in information systems '06, on Oct. 6, 2007.

Alec Michael Vasquez, M.P.A., is now working for USAA in San Antonio.

Mario A. Vasquez, B.A. in political science, is a member of the legal/ PAC board of directors at NuStar Energy, L.P. in San Antonio. Mario was recently voted to the board of directors of the San Antonio Symphony. He serves on the board of directors' advisory committee of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum and co-chairs the Mahendra and Kirti Patel Endowed Scholarship for Ethics and Humanity in Medical Education Committee, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Mario is pursuing his master's degrees in political science at UTSA.

IN MEMORIAM

Kimberlie Ann Ryniker '05, born July 14, 1970, died on Sept. 28, 2007, in Billings, Mont. Born and raised in San Antonio, she was the daughter of Gretchen Baker and Richard Ryniker. Kimberlie graduated summa cum laude from the UTSA Honors College with a bachelor's degree in biology, in addition to receiving several scholastic awards and commendations throughout her education. Her love for the outdoors, the mountains and wildlife drew her to Montana after she graduated.

Keep in touch

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

E-mail: alumni@utsa.edu

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

Fax: (210) 458-7227

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Spouse's Name (include maiden name)	Degree/Class Year (if UTSA grad)	
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City, State and Zip Code	Home Phone	
Place of Employment	Title	
May we include your title and employer in Class Notes? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Work Address		
City, State and Zip Code		
Work Phone	Fax Number	
Preferred E-mail Address (home or work)		
May we include your e-mail address in Class Notes? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If you do not want your Class Note posted on our Web site, check here. <input type="checkbox"/>		

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



“UTSA is very important to the community. Its quality educational offerings keep the community vibrant.”

As a working mother, Jeanie Wyatt says going back to school to pursue an advanced degree would not have been an option for her if it weren't for UTSA's College of Business.

Wyatt now is chief executive officer and chief investment officer of South Texas Money Management LTD, a company she began seven years ago. The private investment management firm, which has offices in San Antonio, Houston and Austin, manages financial assets for high-income individuals and corporations across the United States.

Wyatt says she is grateful to be a UTSA alumna. And as an employer, she also recognizes the importance of having a quality educational institution in the area. That's why the 1986 M.B.A. graduate makes it a point to give back to the university.

Wyatt currently serves as vice chair for development on the College of Business Advisory Council. The purpose of the council is to support the College of Business and, Wyatt says, to help raise the profile of the college in terms of objectives, growth and unique characteristics.

Wyatt supports the college in other ways, too. She recently donated a Bloomberg terminal to the business school's new trading room so students could learn firsthand about trading practices. She also underwrites a College of Business annual report to share information about the college's research, academics, programs and special events with alumni and others in the community.

“I am particularly grateful that UTSA and the College of Business exist in San Antonio,” says Wyatt.

As UTSA grows, support from alumni such as Jeanie Wyatt becomes even more important to the university. To learn more about giving to UTSA, contact the Development Office at (210) 458-5162.

ON THE WEB:
www.utsa.edu/development



Looking back

Love and nachos for sale

In these 1991 photos from Best Fest, Patrick York '93 and Amy Henderson '95 ham it up for the camera at the Sig Ep kissing booth. What was the going rate for a kiss back then? One smacker.

A long-running UTSA tradition organized by the Campus Activities Board, Best Fest celebrates the Halloween season and serves as a major fundraiser for the more than 70 registered student organizations who participate.

In recent years, the fall carnival has featured such activities as lip-sync contests, airbrush tattoos, fortune telling, mini golf, salsa dancing and a dunking booth.

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