

Sombrilla™

The University of Texas at San Antonio **MAGAZINE** Summer 2009
Vol. 25, No. 2

A black and white portrait of Ricardo Romo, a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the left with a slight smile. The background is dark.

**Ricardo Romo's
first 10 years at UTSA**



SUMMER 2009

Sombrilla™

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURES

18 HIS CAUSE, GREAT EFFECTS

During Ricardo Romo's 10 years as president, UTSA has evolved from a quiet, regional school with a handful of graduate degree programs to a vibrant academic center poised for national research university status. Friends and observers credit the ebullient Romo, UTSA's No. 1 cheerleader.

22 A FAMILY'S LEGACY, A SAN ANTONIO STORY

More than 150 years of Carter family stories are being told in letters, merchandise receipts and other documents that offer a treasure for historians and a unique look at the way life was lived on the frontier and in early San Antonio. The papers are now a permanent part of Archives and Special Collections at the UTSA HemisFair Park Campus.

26 THINK SMALL

When a revolutionary new microscope is installed at UTSA, the university will enter the nano race. The second-generation aberration-corrected microscope, made possible in part by the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, has breathtaking capabilities, according to physics and astronomy department chair Miguel J. Yacamán.

DEPARTMENTS

5 In the Loop

UTSA master's and doctoral students are providing free family counseling at the Sarabia Community Family Life Center; UTSA's Prefreshman Engineering Program is celebrating 30 years of providing minority students with an intense exposure to math and science; former Mexican President Vicente Fox discusses trade and immigration reform; plus more campus news.

12 Investigations

Gayle Nicoll, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture at UTSA, wants to see buildings that do a body good. Her work is all about how architecture can impact health and fitness; plus more research at UTSA.

14 Roadrunner Sports

Larry Coker, one of the decade's most successful college football coaches, wants to leave a legacy as the first football coach at UTSA. The former coach at the University of Miami is building a program from scratch and is gaining ground every day on his goal of a competitive NCAA Division I football team.

16 Syllabus

Professor Hamid Beladi has gained a reputation as one of the world's leading international economists. But in the classroom, it's all about collaboration and giving students the basics.

30 Class Notes

Updates on dozens of alums, plus profiles of Deputy U.S. Marshal Nelson Hackmaster, B.A. '99; Pompe disease advocate Tiffany House, B.A. '05, M.A. '07; and humanitarian Dianne Ayon, B.S. '08.

36 Looking Back

With Reflections as the theme, UTSA's 10th Alumni Gala will be held Aug. 15.

On the cover and on this page

Photos by Mark McClendon

Sombrilla Magazine

Summer 2009, Volume 25, Number 2

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Ricardo Romo, President

Editor: Rebecca Luther
Art director: Karen Thurman
Associate editors: Joe Michael Feist, Lety Laurel
Web designer: Larry Lopez
Contributors: Amanda Beck, James Benavides, Tim Brownlee, Christi Fish, Wendy Frost, Lynn Gosnell, Leigh Anne Gullett, Omar Hernandez, Kate Hunger, Jason B. Johnson, Jennifer Roolf Laster, Marianne McBride Lewis, Marcia Mattingly, Jenny Moore, Kris Rodriguez, Lorna Stafford
Photographers: Patrick Ray Dunn, Mark McClendon
Administrative associate: Rita Marquez
Assistant director of publications: Frank Segura
Director of publications: Elton Smith
Executive Director of Communications and Creative Services: Craig Evans

Office of University Advancement

Vice President for University Advancement: Marjie French
Associate Vice President for Advancement Services and Administration: Laura Murray
Associate Vice President for Communications and Marketing: David Gabler
Assistant Vice President for Development: Eric Gentry
Assistant Vice President of Alumni Programs: Jane Findling Burton

Sombrilla Advisory Board

Palmira Arellano '86
Ernest Bromley '78, '80
Renée Crittenden-Garcia '96
Marjorie George '84
Richard Lewis, UTSA
Rick Riordan
Noe Saldaña '91, UTSA
Melissa Fletcher Stoeltje '80, '87
Martha Treviño '97

Write back!

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

Sombrilla Magazine is published three times a year by the Office of University Publications, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. It is mailed without charge to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Phone: (210) 458-6043
E-mail: sombrilla@utsa.edu

WE'RE ON THE WEB
www.utsa.edu/sombrilla

Send address changes to sombrilla@utsa.edu.
If you want to be removed from the *Sombrilla* mailing list or prefer to receive *Sombrilla Online* only, send a message to sombrilla@utsa.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A sense of promise

When Ricardo Romo celebrated his 10th anniversary as president of UTSA in May, letters from well-wishers around the state and the nation poured in. Friends and colleagues including Frost Bank Chairman Tom Frost, former Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe and UT System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa all offered their congratulations. "I remember our conversation when you asked me if you should be interested in the position," wrote Peter Flawn, who served as UTSA president from 1973 to 1978 and now is president emeritus of UT Austin. "It's hard to believe it's been 10 years!"

His friends have plenty of good things to say about the work Romo has done in his 10 years at UTSA, even though Romo's record speaks for itself: Enrollment has increased by 50 percent in the past 10 years. Where once only three doctoral programs were offered, there are now 21.

Sure, there's still more to be done. Texas Higher Education Commissioner Raymund Paredes, who first met Romo when they were undergraduates at UT Austin and later served on Romo's dissertation committee at UCLA, talks of Romo's goals of improving undergraduate graduation rates and taking the university to national research university status.

"He created a new identity for UTSA. ... He created the foundation for the institution to think much bigger," said Paredes, adding that Romo also has created "a sense of promise and hopefulness" among the UTSA community.

But Paredes' favorite story about Ricardo Romo is a personal one. When Paredes' father died and his son was sorting through all his father's belongings, he found a scrapbook full of press clippings about himself, particularly after he became the Texas

Higher Education Commissioner. All the articles had been sent by Romo to the elder Paredes, along with handwritten notes that said, "Look how well your son is doing. Look at the great things Raymund's been up to." Until he found that scrapbook, Paredes didn't know how close his father and his friend had become.

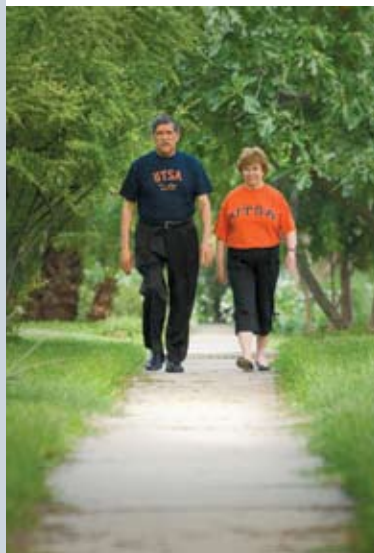
"Ricardo is my closest friend," Paredes said. "UTSA is lucky to have him."

UTSA is lucky indeed, and not just for the long list of things he's accomplished.

"If anything can exceed your distinguished record of achievement as a historian and president, it is your warmth, civility and deep passion for the San Antonio community," wrote University of California system President Mark Yudof, who formerly was chancellor of the UT System. "You have indeed proven that nice guys can still be great leaders."

Thank you, Dr. Romo, for 10 years of creating a sense of promise and hopefulness. And for being a nice guy.

—Rebecca Luther



UTSA President Ricardo Romo and his wife, sociology professor Harriett Romo, stroll through their neighborhood with typical UTSA flair.

in the LOOP

For the Love of Science

It was the summer of 1983 and two students from different high schools in San Antonio had plans that would change their lives. Instead of serving burgers or hanging out at the mall, the two committed to academic pursuits, studying in UTSA's Prefreshman Engineering Program, or PREP.

Rod Cantu and Agueda "Aggie" Garza found a challenging academic environment and a window on their future. And in between math and science concepts, they found each other. As PREP celebrates its 30th anniversary, Rod and Aggie are settled into rewarding professional careers and are celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary. They are the parents of two children, both of whom are PREP participants.

Raul "Rudy" Reyna, executive director of the program for the past six years, says the purpose of PREP is and always has been to provide primarily minority and disadvantaged students with intense exposure to math and science through a series of seven-week summer sessions, now in a four-year sequence.

PREP was founded in 1979 by UTSA math professor Manuel Berriozábal, who "had an incredible vision," Reyna says. "He saw that the demographics of the nation were changing and we had a large minority population that was emerging. And one of the things associated with that is a lot of the students in those areas did not have role models in engineering and science."

Originally geared to older students, PREP over the years has shifted to middle school. "For a

lot of them, by the time they get to high school it's too late; you know they've already missed the window of opportunity," Reyna says.

So PREP participants get to high school already familiar with basic logic, algebraic structures, engineering, physics, statistics and possibly pre-calculus and trigonometry.

As important as the academics, Reyna says, is PREP's emphasis on mentors/role models. College students, most of whom are minority or female, serve as mentors and tutors. "And then we have a career component where every day the kids get to hear a professional—an engineer, scientist, whatever—who talks to them about what they do in their careers."

Today, PREP has been duplicated on 30 campuses in 14 cities throughout Texas and at sites in California, Colorado, New Mexico, New York and New Jersey.

Reyna proudly points to the accomplishments of PREP students who have attended prestigious universities nationwide and now populate career fields from medical to research science, engineering to space exploration.

For Rod Cantu, now a principal engineer at San Antonio's Southwest Research Institute, PREP "was instrumental from an awareness standpoint." The college environment and the curriculum "gave me the confidence that I could pursue a college career," he says. Cantu earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University and a master's, also in industrial engineering, from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Aggie Cantu says that PREP allowed her to meet "kids who were



Left: The Cantu family, Bottom row: Rod and wife, Agueda "Aggie" Cantu. Top row: Children Rodrigo and Alexandria. **Below:** The first PREP class, 1979.



like myself. I realized I wasn't the only one who liked math and who had goals and objectives." Aggie received a degree in marketing from Texas A&M and now works for Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in San Antonio.

Encouraging their children to get into the PREP program "was a no-brainer for us," Rod says. "My wife and I are big proponents of the program. We value education, and this is a program aimed at minorities and helping them understand what's out there."

Their son Rodrigo has completed three years of PREP and

will be a junior at Antonian College Preparatory High School in San Antonio. Daughter Alexandria is in her first summer of PREP classes and will be a seventh-grader at Mount Sacred Heart School this fall.

Aggie Cantu will always remember PREP not only for its academics but also for the motivated and centered students she met, one in particular. "Definitely, yes," she says, laughing. "If you want a good husband or a good wife, it's a great place to go."

—Joe Michael Feist



Since its inception in 2007, the Sarabia Community Family Life Center has provided mental health care to 120 clients. Pictured (from left) are Robert Gee, clinical assistant professor in UTSA's Department of Counseling; Sue Clifford, a cohort in the counseling Ph.D. program; and Efraim Padilla, a licensed counselor who supervises the cohorts.

An Even Exchange

UTSA graduate students offer free counseling services to gain experience

It's a case of small talk sparking a big idea. In the fall of 2006, UTSA doctoral student Efraim Padilla was attending a cocktail party and fundraiser hosted by psychiatrist Fermin Sarabia. Padilla, already a licensed counselor, had met Sarabia when both worked at the Bexar County Center for Health Care Services.

"Dr. Sarabia was trying to raise donations for the Guadalupe Community Center, where he sits on the board," Padilla recalls. Lacking spare change, Padilla wondered aloud if the center offered mental health services. If so, he'd be glad to volunteer his skills as a professional counselor.

The Guadalupe Community Center (GCC), a sprawling complex located at the corner of Pinto and West Durango streets, is a

program of Catholic Charities of San Antonio that offers food and clothing assistance, after-school programs, chess tournaments, summer camps, even folkloric dance classes. At the time, it did not run a mental health clinic, though Sarabia said he had always wanted to provide this service for the vulnerable population served there. Hearing this, Padilla's response was instant. "How 'bout we create one?"

The timing was perfect. Padilla and four cohorts in UTSA's counseling Ph.D. program—Sue Clifford, Margaret Costantino, Martitza Lebron-Striker and Gabriel Vallejo—were looking for a practicum site, a venue where they could provide counseling under the supervision of an experienced clinician. If Sarabia would

supervise them and if Catholic Charities and the GCC would provide a space, they would get to work. As part of their training, graduate students in counseling are required to complete a total of 700 hours of practicum and internship experiences.

The students' initial set-up was modest. "We started in a small room that we shared with the ballet folklorico dancers, where there were costumes and candy and pickles and sodas," Padilla recalls. But clients—largely uninsured or underinsured working poor—found their way there. Inevitably, the project began to outgrow its space.

Enter the Stardust Club, a local foundation dedicated to improving the lives of families in the Guadalupe Community Center

area. The foundation donated \$5,000 to renovate a spacious room in the GCC into a reception area and small offices.

When the renovations were complete, the practicum site was officially dedicated as the Sarabia Community Family Life Center. Today, master's and doctoral students provide free counseling to families, couples, children and adults. Since its modest beginnings in 2007, the students have provided care for 120 clients—three quarters of whom are women.

"The demand is great," says Robert Gee, clinical assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Development's Department of Counseling. "For

us, it provides the clinical training for students with clients having real-world problems." Gee cites economic stressors, parenting and family relationships, substance abuse, criminal involvement, health concerns, marital issues, couple counseling and domestic violence as problems that clients seek help for at the Sarabia Center.

The Sarabia Center serves "people who fall between the cracks" of the health care system, Padilla says. "There [are] people out there who work, and their insurance doesn't cover psychotherapy. ... And they don't have Medicaid. They're the working poor."

Recently, the Sarabia Center has begun providing services off-site for families from

Parent Child Incorporated, Any Baby Can, University Hospital's Saucedo OB-GYN Clinic and the Guadalupe Home for pregnant women escaping abusive relationships.

One of the most exciting developments, say UTSA staff members, is an outreach counseling effort for families associated with the Wounded Warrior Project at Operation Homefront Village, a free housing development for those injured servicemen receiving rehabilitative treatment at area hospitals.

With continued support and a highly collaborative model, Padilla sees more growth for the Sarabia Center in the future, mirroring the growth of UTSA's counseling programs. The Ph.D. program in

counselor education and supervision, which started in 2005 with eight students, now has 28.

The dream that started the Sarabia Center continues. Sarabia, in conjunction with the Stardust Club, recently donated another \$10,000 to the center. Padilla hopes to see a "one-stop clinic" in place one day, where social workers, therapists, doctors, psychiatrists, nurses, along with students, are working with the community.

"People would hear about UTSA and hear about the Sarabia Center and know that if you want to get an experience doing community counseling with the Hispanic population, go to UTSA," Padilla says.

—Lynn Gosnell

Alumnus loses bid for presidency

James Nyondo, B.B.A. '05, lost a May 19 election along with five other candidates for president of his native Malawi to incumbent President Bingu wa Mutharika in what many observers called a flawed process due to a government-controlled media. Mutharika's ruling Democratic Progressive Party was also winning control of the country's parliament, while Nyondo was losing a concurrent race for a seat in parliament.

Nyondo, a 41-year-old lawyer and son of a tribal chief, ran on a platform of aid to the poor and anti-corruption. Malawi is a landlocked African country of 14 million that is grappling with the problems of a developing nation: population growth, HIV/AIDS, access to education and economic resources, and political corruption.

Nyondo arrived in San Antonio in 2003 to pursue a degree in business administration. While at UTSA and in travels throughout the United States, Nyondo soaked up knowledge about American culture, government and business in hopes of one day applying his knowledge in his home country.

Nyondo attended Chancellor College in Malawi and earned a law degree from the University of South Africa, in addition to his business degree from UTSA. He and his wife, Lusani "Brenda" Nemataheni, have two children.

Karen Roth, associate director of the UTSA Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success, became close friends with James and Brenda while they were in San Antonio, introducing them to the River Walk and Texas history and culture.

"When I met him, he told me that he was going to be president of his country one day," Roth recalled. "This was not the typical undergraduate."

Nyondo's Christian faith is a driving force in his work and pursuit of education. After returning to Malawi in 2006, he started a ministry called

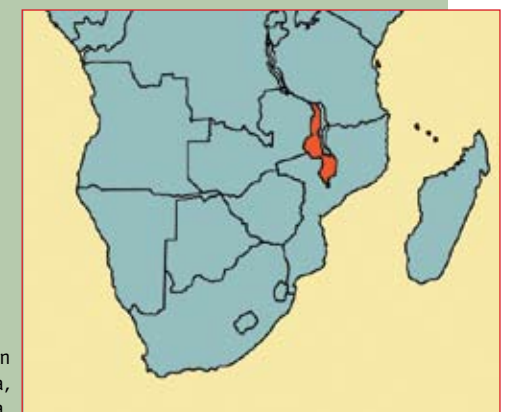
Servants of the Nation, an organization that promotes servant leadership in the country through grassroots efforts.

On the Servants of the Nation Web site, Nyondo writes, "I believe good leadership that truly serves the people is critical to bridging the divisive gap between the haves and the have-nots. The legacy of tomorrow is dependent on the servant-leadership of today. ... For this country to rise, we need safe government that looks out for all the people's well-being."

UTSA Professor Richard Gambitta led Nyondo in a political science independent study focused on legislative behavior. Gambitta became a mentor to Nyondo, showing him both the city's poverty and its wealth, as well as taking him to Austin to visit the Legislature in session and introducing him to state representatives, senators and staff.

"He was very surprised at the way the Legislature actually worked, the informality of it, compared to his own country's parliament," Gambitta said. "I told him, I am always surprised by it, too."

—Lynn Gosnell



Malawi is located in southeastern Africa, flanked by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia.

Vicente Fox visits UTSA, highlights leadership, trade, reform



Vicente Fox, former Mexican president, speaks at the Future Leaders Conference held at UTSA.

Following the visit to Mexico by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Mexican President Vicente Fox recently visited UTSA to present the keynote address at the Future Leaders Conference sponsored by the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute and the UTSA College of Business.

During his luncheon address to a crowd of more than 300 students, business leaders and elected officials in March, Fox discussed trade, leadership and immigration reform.

"The relationship between the United States and Mexico is complex and diverse," said Fox, who was accompanied by his wife, Marta Sahagún. "We are friends, neighbors and partners who worked together to build a future of understanding, economic growth and a better life for our citizens through NAFTA."

Fox said NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Alliance, was successful for Mexico. He noted that per capita income increased from \$3,500 to \$8,500 under the agreement. He also promoted his vision that the United States, Mexico and Canada should expand on their current trade agreements and



UTSA President Ricardo Romo and his wife, sociology professor Harriett Romo, stand with Vicente Fox at UTSA. Fox served as president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006.

develop a more cohesive relationship similar to the European Union.

"I believe that leaders are created in every single human being," said Fox. "The challenge is building leaders with ethics ... leaders with moral values. The leadership of this great nation should go back to exercising compassionate leadership. I am optimistic that the new leadership in this nation provides a new hope for change between the United States and Mexico."

Fox was president of Mexico from 2000 to 2006. His presidency addressed the issues of trade

relations with the United States, the drug trade, governmental corruption and civil unrest.

"The call of action is in the hands of our leaders now," he concluded in his speech. "I am not for open borders, but for an orderly immigration process. If we were wise enough, we would have solved the border issue by now."

The conference was established in 2007 to bring together university student leaders and young professionals to discuss issues relating to the U.S. Hispanic community.

—Wendy Frost

UTSA Looks East

By the end of the year, UTSA could become the state's third university to house a Confucius Institute dedicated to Chinese language, culture and history, in partnership with the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing (UIBE).

In March, officials from the Confucius Institute Headquarters in China approved UTSA's application to establish the local center. An agreement must now be signed between UTSA and the institute before final approval can be granted by the University of Texas System Board of Regents. Only two other Texas universities have Confucius Institutes, the University of Texas at Dallas and Texas A&M University-College Station.

If a local branch is approved by the UT System Board of Regents, it will be part of UTSA's new East Asia Institute, established in October 2008 to promote understanding of East Asian societies and culture through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchanges, and business development and cooperation, said Donald Lien, the Richard S. Liu Distinguished Chair in Business and director of the East Asia Institute. International businessman Richard S. Liu recently donated \$2 million

toward the East Asia Institute, making him the university's largest individual donor. Through Liu's Family Foundation, he has given UTSA a total of \$6.3 million.

If the Confucius Institute agreement is approved, it could fund \$100,000 yearly for up to five years for cultural programming, such as a Chinese film festival, martial arts demonstrations and Chinese orchestral performances, Lien said. To spearhead the program, the Chinese Institute Headquarters will provide 3,000 Chinese books and videos. Two Chinese language professors from UIBE also will teach Chinese language and culture classes at UTSA.

"The Confucius Institute will promote language, culture, society, business, politics—everything related to China," he said. "We're going to offer courses for our UTSA students, but also we're going to offer courses for the community."

There are 314 Confucius Institutes in a global network that includes 81 countries. The Confucius Institute Headquarters, located in Beijing and administered by the Chinese Ministry of Education, is a nonprofit educational organization.

UTSA archaeologists find 3700 B.C. artifacts

Researchers from UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research are examining artifacts they recently discovered that date from 3700 B.C. to A.D. 600. The artifacts were discovered during a three-month dig at Miraflores Park, east of Brackenridge Park in San Antonio.

The researchers were hired by the San Antonio design firm Rehler Vaughn & Koone to conduct an archaeological site inspection before construction of a pedestrian bridge over the San Antonio River from Brackenridge Park. What was expected to be a one-day observation turned into a three-month project, which CAR researchers completed in March.

"We found a lot of Early Archaic materials from approximately 3500 B.C., which are of significant interest, including two Guadalupe tools that were used either for woodworking or the defleshing of hunted game," said Jon Dowling, CAR project archaeologist. "It was a really small area that we expected would be open and shut quickly, but it turned out to be a treasure chest of archaeology."

"It's no surprise to us when we find evidence of prehistoric occupation along a fresh-water resource. It's an ideal place to live, whether it was 6,000 years ago or 100 years ago."

According to Dowling, the artifacts will be curated and analyzed so CAR researchers can quantify and synthesize the data for better comprehension and understanding.

Discovered artifacts include

- Ensor projectile point (spear point) from the Transitional Archaic period (200 B.C.–A.D. 600)
- Tortugas projectile point (spear point) from the Middle Archaic period or earlier
- Early triangular projectile point (spear point) from the Early Archaic period (3700–3600 B.C.)
- Remnants/segment of a historic relief dam used to stop flow into the old San Antonio Water Works Raceway (dam built circa 1877 or 1878).

To date, CAR has administered more than 500 contracts and grants. Research activities have focused on numerous prehistoric sites and historic archaeology at Spanish colonial missions, the Alamo, historic churches and forts, and early Texas settlements. Staff members also have conducted archaeological investigations in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Mexico, Belize, Africa, Turkey, Europe and South America. Results of these investigations are published in more than 300 volumes in 10 publication series.

—Kris Rodriguez



Renovation continues after UTSA archaeologists discovered artifacts dating from 3700 B.C. to A.D. 600 at Miraflores Park in San Antonio.

Among the items found were a point believed to be a killing tool, and a cutting stone.



Library pioneer honored

A stalwart in building UTSA's library was remembered March 5 at a dedication ceremony for the newly renovated Michael Kelly Commons staff area at the John Peace Library on the Main Campus.

Michael Kelly, who joined UTSA in the early 1970s, was the



first director and dean of the UTSA libraries, serving under four presidents during his tenure. While at UTSA, he chaired the Council of

Research and Academic Libraries in San Antonio and the UT System Librarians Organization from 1990 to 2002. Kelly died in 2006.

Washington, D.C., lawyer David C. Frederick, brother of UTSA Provost John H. Frederick, spoke at the dedication about the central role libraries play in the academic world and the contributions of library professionals such as Kelly.

David Johnson, UTSA vice provost for academic and faculty support and former interim dean of the UTSA Library, worked with Kelly for several years and credits him with building the library's initial collections under budget constraints. Kelly also was credited with instituting a student library resource fee that has enabled the UTSA Library to add to collections and staffing levels to support the growing university.

"Prior to his death, Mike asked that his friends make contributions to a staff development fund," said Johnson. "That money has been used to fund staff who are seeking to enhance their skills by earning college and professional degrees."

—Kris Rodriguez



Recreation and Wellness Center receives national award



Top: The Cardio Room looks out over the lazy river. **Above:** The rock-climbing wall at the Recreation Center is 54-feet high.

The National Intramural Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) recently honored the UTSA Recreation and Wellness Center at the Main Campus with the 2009 Outstanding Sports Facilities Award.

The center has the highest indoor climbing wall in Texas, four basketball courts, a juice bar, indoor soccer gym, lap pool, lazy river, indoor track and demonstration kitchen. Judges evaluate each facility on the intended and actual impact of the recreational program, unique aesthetic or architectural features, innovative construction materials or methods, technological benefits for the customer and correlation to the campus master plan and mission.

"We are thrilled that the Recreation Center was selected as one of the Outstanding Sports Facilities for 2009," said campus recreation director Laura Munroe. "We are very proud of our facility and pleased to be recognized by our colleagues as having one

of the outstanding facilities built or renovated within the last two years."

Five other schools from across the country also were recognized with the award. Additional 2009 winners are Colorado School of Mines Student Recreation Center, Springfield College Wellness Center, Stephen F. Austin State University Student Recreation Center, University of Texas–Pan American Recreation and Wellness Center, and University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

NIRSA began presenting the annual OSF awards in 1988 for creative, innovative designs of new or expanded facilities. Winners are considered a standard or model by which other collegiate recreational facilities should be measured and from which others can benefit. NIRSA selects and publishes information on the facilities as a resource for campus master planners, recreational sports directors, designers, architects, contractors and recreational sports students.

—Omar Hernandez

UTSA a leader in graduating Hispanic students



UTSA ranks No. 4 in the nation in the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanic students and No. 12 nationally in the number of master's degrees awarded to Hispanics, according to the May 2009 edition of *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine.

During the 2007–2008 academic year, the magazine surveyed the top 100 predominantly Hispanic-serving colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico.

"UTSA's vision to provide access to educational excellence is demonstrated once again in the *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* magazine's annual rankings," said UTSA President Ricardo Romo.

"To have ... our programs ranked in the top 10 among the nation's leading Hispanic-serving institutions shows UTSA continues on the right path to building the Next Great Texas University."

UTSA earned the No. 4 national ranking with 1,666 Hispanics out of 3,553 graduates earning bachelor's degrees, representing 47 percent of the graduating class.

UTSA earned a No. 12 national ranking for master's degrees awarded with 308 Hispanics out of 886 graduates, or 35 percent of the class.

For nearly 13 years, the College of Sciences has led the nation in the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanic students in the biological sciences. That trend continued with 169 undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics in the 2007–2008 academic year.

Additionally, the College of Architecture ranked first, awarding 73 undergraduate degrees. The Department of Health and Kinesiology ranked second in the parks, recreation, leisure and fitness studies program with 63 bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics.

—Kris Rodriguez

iBRAVO!

Faculty, staff and student achievements

The 2009 University Excellence Awards were given to a number of faculty and staff, including **Kelsey Bratcher**, assistant director of Risk Education and Alcohol and Drug Programs, Office of Student Activities, Rising Star Award; **Leticia Duncan-Brosnan**, executive director, Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success, Leadership Award; the Teacher Education Student Services Team, the Team Spirit Award; **Andrea Aleman**, administrative associate I and lecturer II, Department of Political Science and Geography, the Extra Mile Award; **Robert Garza**, Institute for Economic Development IT Operations manager, the Order of the Roadrunner Award; and **Ann Eisenberg**, associate dean, Honors College, and **Andrea Aleman**, Richard S. Howe Excellence in Service to Undergraduate Students Awards ... **Lilian Cano**, lecturer in Spanish (non-tenure track), and **Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba**, associate professor of Latin American studies (tenure track), received 2009 Distinguished Faculty Awards from the UTSA Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Association ... Outstanding Sophomore Scholarships were awarded to 10 first-year UTSA students as part of the UTSA Graduation Initiative. Each student received a \$5,000 scholarship toward tuition and fees for their second year at UTSA. Recipients and their majors were **Bonnie Caulfield** (interdisciplinary studies–elementary education), **Cassidy Chessner** (undecided), **Jon Edwards** (political science), **Joshua "Blue" Garcia** (biology), **Nick Garcia** (biology), **Prakash Mammen** (pre-business/accounting), **Nichole Montalbano** (criminal justice), **Rachel Skarke** (music studies), **Derek Smith** (kinesiology) and **Christina Starkey** (mathematics) ... **Marcheta Evans**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Counseling in the UTSA College of Education

and Human Development, has been selected to serve as president of the American Counseling Association, the world's largest counseling association with nearly 45,000 members. Evans will be named president-elect July 1; her term as ACA president begins July 1, 2010 ... **Cristina Forbes**, a UTSA senior business major, was awarded a Next Generation Leadership scholarship for the 2008–2009 academic year from American Humanics, UTSA's nonprofit management certification program ... UTSA sophomore **Devin Gibson** and senior **Joey Shank** were named to the Capitol One Bank/Southland Conference All-Academic Team for men's basketball ... **George Perry**, dean of the UTSA College of Sciences and professor of biology, has been named one of the world's top 100 Alzheimer's disease researchers, according to a study conducted by Collexis Holdings Inc. and published in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. The Top 100 list was released in the journal's March online edition ... UTSA debaters **Chris Thomas** (junior) and **Andy Montee** (junior) finished 14th in a field of more than 200 teams from across the nation at the Cross Examination Debate Association (CEDA) championship hosted by Idaho State University in Pocatello. Both were honored with CEDA's All American Debater Award, placing them among the top 25 debaters in the country ... **Akshay Thusu** and **Megan Graham** were crowned Mr. and Ms. UTSA 2009. The competition is sponsored by the UTSA Alumni Association ... UTSA's team from the Office of the Vice President for University Advancement won eight awards, including three grand awards, at the 2009 CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) District IV Conference. Awards went to the Office of Alumni Programs and the Office of University Publications.

Stepping up

Architect's research explores how buildings can do a body good

Gayle Nicoll has dedicated much of her research to finding what factors will most encourage people to take the stairs. So when she steps on an elevator, well ... she feels a little guilty. "I do use the elevators," she says. "But I have to admit I feel like Martha Stewart baking a Betty Crocker cake."

For Nicoll, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Architecture at UTSA, taking the stairs isn't just about burning off the calories from Betty Crocker brownies (or Martha Stewart's, for that matter). It's about the functionality of architecture. And her research, which explores how buildings can do a body good, may well change the future of American design.

The key, she says, is exploring "how buildings can impact health, both positively and negatively, and specifically how building design can promote health."

In other words, making staircases more convenient than elevators. Planning well-lit hallways so people will walk to one another's desks to talk rather than firing off an e-mail. Offering employees who want to bike to work a safe place to stow their bicycles. And providing shower facilities.

The connection between architecture and activity has never been more important, Nicoll argues. As people spend more time inside, design elements—even things as simple as heavy doors that don't open automatically—become a fitness factor for the folks who utilize that building.

That sort of thinking has attracted interest from architects, developers and

cities—including New York City, which is slated to launch design guidelines for active-living buildings in June based on Nicoll's research. Adopted by the city's director of building and design, the guidelines will be "strongly suggested" for Big Apple municipal buildings, with the hope that it will trickle down into the rest of the city's architectural and urban planning. The guidelines look at everything from opportunities for physical activity inside a building to the convenience of getting active on the streets that surround it. Nicoll, who received a grant to research whether the guidelines are also adopted more broadly in the area, will serve as a consultant for the initiative.

Making physical activity part of a building's plan is smart design, Nicoll says. "We spend 90 percent of our time indoors. We sleep, we play, we work mostly in buildings. And so in lots of ways, one wonders whether architects can influence the environment by making it healthier, by making a building less convenient and making it more active."

Something as simple as climbing 20 flights of stairs a week—think of it as four flights every work day—can have a dramatic impact on health, Nicoll says. "Taking the stairs is the greatest opportunity for physical activity that exists," she says. "Stairs don't require

special membership, or special clothing or special skills. But climbing them will improve your health."

So why don't more people do it? Mainly, Nicoll's research has found, because elevators are just so darn convenient. And stairs? Not so much. It's a chicken-and-egg situation: as elevators grew in popularity, architects could build taller buildings, and as buildings grew taller, elevators became more important. That meant architects tended to tuck the stairs away in an out-of-the-way corner, which meant people turned to the elevators, even when they were only going up or down a few flights.

That's bad for health and for architecture, Nicoll says. "Think back to these wonderful buildings with a grand staircase," she says. "The staircase was an important part of your sense of entry or exit in a building. It gave it drama."

—Jennifer Roelf Laster

Well-designed and well-placed stairs such as those in these UTSA buildings can impact health and fitness, says architecture professor Gayle Nicoll. Pictured are the Main Building (left and right) and the Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building.



On the move

The Latino immigrant experience, especially Latinos of African descent, has long been of interest to Margarita Machado-Casas, an assistant professor in the bilingual studies department. And a recent memorandum of agreement between UTSA and Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU) in Nicaragua has afforded her the opportunity to delve deeper into her field.

Bluefields, Wayne State University in Detroit and UTSA's College of Education and Human Development are collaborating in Bluefields' master's program in English education.

Bluefields is unique because of its diversity; a half dozen indigenous and African languages are used at the school, making it a perfect lab for Machado-Casas' work. She not only taught a course for the master's in English education program, but also was able to conduct a research study that addresses the migration, mobility and survival of Afro-Latino immigrants within the new Latino diaspora.

Recent scholarship has identified the rapid growth of migration to the U.S., particularly from rural and indigenous Latin American communities. Machado-Casas' study aims to explore personal narratives of Latinos who are of African descent and who reside in Bluefields, Nicaragua, and the United States.



An Afro-Latino child in a remote village in the Bluefields region of Nicaragua is one of many children who grow up in multilingual/multicultural environments and whose families and communities Machado-Casas is researching.

Ethnographic research methods, such as oral narratives, were used to collect detailed information about Latino family members and their lives. These research methods provided an understanding of both the Latino family experience and their interpretation of it, particularly in the context of migration.

In addition to migration histories, biliteracy and/or multiliteracy development are examined. Of particular note, the study explores how identity shifts are negotiated after Afro-Latinos migrate to the United States.

Let there be light

For more than 30 years, UTSA associate psychology professor James Dykes has studied human visual information processing: how people read, detect visual stimuli and view color.

Over that period, most of his research focused on two areas: photopic vision, how people view the world in the daylight, and scotopic vision, how it appears to them at night.

But about 15 years ago, new research interests developed for many researchers around the country, including Dykes, in the area of mesopic vision. Mesopic vision takes place at dusk, in between the photopic and scotopic levels of light.

To conduct the research, Dykes, funded by a \$143,000 Air Force Research Laboratory grant in fall 2007, set up a laboratory environment where black felt is placed over the walls and light-proof seals are applied around the doorways. Graduate students wear night vision goggles to record the responses of participants when they are shown colors on a computer monitor.

The computers are set at a lower level than what would be found at a low photopic range, as would be found in an office environment. Filters are added to progressively darken the monitors through the mesopic range and into the scotopic range. This allows the researchers to measure how acuity and color perception change as vision adapts from day through dusk to night.

According to Dykes, the Air Force is interested in the research because many of their flights take off at dusk and the cockpit displays are dimly lit to avoid detection by other aircraft.

"If a pilot can't tell what color his warning light is, then it can be a problem," Dykes says.

Dykes says the research is not only important to the Air Force, but the Department of Transportation is also interested because many accidents occur at dusk.

—Kris Rodriguez



Birdsong

From the pages of UTSA Catalyst

A small bird chirps a song somewhere in the trees above. The song plays over and over, and other birds join the chorus, each with its own unique melody. While these songs may conjure pastoral, peaceful feelings for many, for assistant professor of biology Todd Troyer they stir up thoughts of complex sequences of brain cell activity.

Troyer maintains a nest of nearly 50 birds whose songs he listens to not for pleasure, but in hopes of shedding light on the mysteries of the human brain.

After receiving his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley, Troyer accepted a postdoctoral position in the W.M. Keck Center for Integrative Neuroscience at the University of California, San Francisco. In 2007, he joined UTSA's Department of Biology and began using computational methods based on his background in mathematics to conduct research in the UTSA Neurosciences Institute.

Along with bats and aquatic mammals, birds are the only known animals to learn to "speak" the way humans do—by imitating adults. Troyer's research focuses on zebra finches, a small bird that is native to Australia.

Birdsongs are used as a model for understanding how the neurons that control learned behaviors work in human brains. Troyer says there are similarities between bird and human brains, both in speech development and in neurological diseases. There are two circuits in particular, he says: those that control learning and our ability to change behavior, and those that produce a certain behavioral task. In normal behavior, the two circuits are balanced; however, with some disorders, the ability to switch off the circuit for producing a particular task is impaired. Understanding how the brain balances the firing of the two circuits in birds' brains may help in understanding how to control Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and even Parkinson's disease.

—Amanda Beck

To read the full story and other stories about ongoing research from UTSA's College of Sciences, go to www.utsa.edu/catalyst.



UTSA Athletics Director Lynn Hickey (from left) and President Romo present a Roadrunner helmet to new coach Larry Coker and his wife, Dianna.

FIRST AND GOALS By Leigh Anne Gullett

Coker, Hickey have plans to score big with Roadrunner football

When Larry Coker took over the head coaching duties at the University of Miami in 2001, the athletics department was in the midst of an \$8 million expansion of the Hecht Athletic Center, adding a players' lounge and an outdoor terrace overlooking Greentree Practice Field.

When Coker took on the head coaching duties at The University of Texas at San Antonio early this year, the athletics department was expanding to include football for the first time.

They had a helmet.

"That's it," says UTSA Athletics Director Lynn Hickey. "That's how we're starting. I think we've actually added another helmet. Now I think we have two helmets."

Hickey invested the better part of this decade to start Roadrunner football. The road has been long and hard and promises to remain difficult. "It's going to be tough, and we're not doing it in the easiest of economic times," says Hickey. "But, hey, we've got a great university. We have a great student body that's 100 percent behind us, and we're going to go forward."

There is no players' lounge or outdoor terrace. There isn't a practice field or locker rooms

or posh offices—yet. What the Roadrunners do have is one of this decade's most successful college football coaches. With Coker quarterbacking, suddenly the end zone doesn't seem so far away. Yard-by-yard, Hickey and her coach think they'll make it there just fine.

"I have one of the most experienced coaches in America by my side helping me know how to plan this and to put things in place one step at a time," says Hickey.

Coker led the 2001 Miami Hurricanes to an undefeated season and a national championship. He earned the Bear Bryant and American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year honors for the feat. In the seasons that followed, he guided the 'Canes to another Bowl Championship Series title game and three BCS bowl games, finishing up with a 60–15 overall record.

He's coached Heisman Trophy winners and NFL greats (Barry Sanders, Eddie George, Thurman Thomas, Santana Moss, Jeremy Shockey, Ken Dorsey—the list goes on and on).

Now he's left a cushy ESPN analyst job for a nonexistent football program. Of all the options open to someone with Coker's impressive

résumé, why a university hanging by the chin strap of its lone helmet?

"The challenge, and the fact that it's an opportunity to do something that hasn't been done before," says Coker. "It's such a unique legacy to leave a program like this, but the other part of it is I see great potential here. You have to see the future, see the vision of what can be."

Coker's vision is a competitive Division I football program and a lot of young men earning an education. He knows the field stretched before him is fraught with obstacles, but he sees a path and, more important, he has a plan. Already he has hired three assistant coaches and been to more than 100 high schools on recruiting visits. Next year, he will add more staff and bring in his first round of about 25 redshirt players. Meanwhile, each day he does something for his football program, even if it has nothing to do with X's and O's. Some days he's a fundraiser. Some days he's a recruiter. Some days he's a PR man. But every day he sticks to the plan and works hard to gain a few more inches of ground.

While Hickey works on facilities, Coker and his staff work on filling the stands, and he has

no plans to skimp on his first Roadrunner recruiting class. "We're not selling ourselves short as far as the players we recruit," says Coker. "We're definitely trying to recruit Division I players."

Still, he's choosy about his players, and not just on the field.

"I like players with character," Coker says flatly. He expects his players to be responsible, go to class, be prepared and respectful. In short, he plans to surround himself with good people who work hard.

Of course, he's trying to recruit those players to a vision, not an actual existing football powerhouse. While there are no football traditions at UTSA, there is an advantage in the relative youth of the university. Lots of things are shiny and new. "It's a beautiful campus, a beautiful area of San Antonio," he says. "There's so much out here, so much new and so much going on and being built down here. There's just so much for students."

Coker is excited about the university. He's excited about playing in the Alamodome, calling it a big "wow" factor. He knows he has

He expects his players to be responsible, go to class, be prepared and respectful.

to wait two years before the Roadrunners get to play their first game. It's already been too long. Sure, he's had plenty of game days working as an analyst for ESPN in the two seasons since he left Miami. But those weren't his game days. There was no adrenaline rush. There are no wins to enjoy or losses to endure when the games aren't his. "I got to stand around and talk football," says Coker. "But the thing about being an analyst is you don't have the ups and downs, and you leave the stadium, and you really don't know if you've won or lost."

No wins and losses? That's no life for a man who always wanted to be a football coach. So, Coker started searching. The University of Texas at San Antonio, deep in the land of Friday Night Lights glory where football is king, was starting a program and needed a coach to lead the way. He could have gone anywhere, but to coach college football in Texas? "It just doesn't get any better than that," says Coker.

Imagine Hickey's surprise when Coker came calling. Her voice still betrays the shock she felt over the first phone message she received from the coach expressing his interest in the job. But

he was so easy to talk to, so nice, so sincere. She called more people and it seemed as though each person said the same thing. "Larry Coker is probably the nicest man I've ever met."

Knowing Coker would do things the right way, Hickey couldn't think of a better way to start a football program. "He's such a stable person and understands long-term goals," she says. "He's at a point in his career where he wants to do the same thing we want to do. He wants to build a program and leave a legacy. So I think the timing with his career, with the timing of what we want to do, is just a perfect fit."

Coker was just as impressed with Hickey. "She really has a detailed plan," he says. "She's really part of the intrigue, the interest I had in coming here."

The match has been made and the plans are in place. Now it's up to Coker and Hickey to move the chains and keep progressing toward that 2011 kickoff.

Coker has tripled his coaching staff and doubled his equipment (two helmets) since he took the job in April. Now somebody get this man a clipboard and whistle. He has practices to plan.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rockett one of best in

Southland Conference history
Senior All-America center fielder Michael Rockett put a stamp on one of the finest careers in Southland Conference history this spring, as he set league career records for at-bats, hits, doubles, runs batted in and total bases. The Sugar Land, Texas, native also set a UTSA all-time mark for runs scored. Rockett entered his final season in navy blue and orange with an impressive list of honors, including being a preseason first-team All-American, a 2008 second-team All-American, the 2008 SLC Player of the Year and a 2006 Freshman All-American.

Women's basketball captures second straight SLC Championship

Led by 23 points from sophomore guard Jordan Stark, the women's basketball team captured its second straight Southland Conference

Tournament Championship with a 74–63 victory over UT Arlington on March 14 at the Merrell Center in Katy, Texas. SLC Player of the Year Monica Gibbs and SLC Tournament MVP Onika Anderson chipped in with 19 and 18 points, respectively, as the Roadrunners earned their second straight NCAA Tournament bid with the win. In the NCAA first round, the No. 15-seed Roadrunners gave second-seed and Big 12 Conference Champion Baylor all it could handle before falling in overtime, 87–82. UTSA posted a school-record 24 victories, while Gibbs tied an NCAA single-season record with three triple-doubles.

UTSA men grab fourth consecutive indoor track and field crown

Behind individual titles won by seniors Will Vese (110-meter hurdles) and Tommy Wolfe (heptathlon) and juniors Teddy Williams (60

meters, 200 meters) and Johnathan Whittaker (high jump), the UTSA men's track and field team won its fourth consecutive Southland Conference Indoor Championship on Feb. 21 in Houston. The Roadrunners scored 120.5 points to easily out-distance runner-up UT Arlington (101) and became the first school to win more than three straight indoor titles since Lamar won six in a row from 1980 to 1985. Following the meet, head coach Aaron Fox was voted SLC Coach of the Year for the fifth time, while Williams was tabbed SLC Athlete of the Year and Outstanding Track Performer.

Mecke, Pawlaczyk tabbed SLC Student-Athletes of the Year

Junior Dana Mecke was named Southland Conference Student-Athlete of the Year for women's cross country and women's indoor track and field, while senior Ryba

Pawlaczyk collected the same honor for women's basketball. The award is presented to the one student-athlete who achieves excellence in both academics and athletics. All nominees must have earned at least a 3.2 GPA and demonstrated athletics achievement for at least two years at the nominating institution. Mecke carries a 3.95 GPA in mechanical engineering. She won the conference's cross country, 800 meters and mile crowns and anchored the distance medley relay to top honors. Pawlaczyk maintains a 3.32 GPA in biology and clinical lab, and is ranked second in the league with 1.7 blocks per game. She has averaged 10.8 points and 9 rebounds per contest.

What's the latest?

Go to www.goutsa.com for the latest in Roadrunner sports.

Compounding interest

Economics professor stresses both research and teaching

By Jenny Moore

Flip through the course syllabus of International Economics and you will immediately notice something about Professor Hamid Beladi. His teaching philosophy is an important component of the course. From day one, students are invited to work in partnership with one of the nation's leading researchers in the fields of international economics and globalization.

"I approach my courses as collaborative activities between the student and myself. We are all in the classroom to learn. I just have a bit of a head start on the material," Beladi says.

The class, offered to undergraduates in the fall and spring, is designed for students who have taken two other economics courses and want to understand the micro-foundations of international trade and finance. The course attracts students not just from the business school, but also from other areas of study who want the tools to understand and analyze economics from an international perspective.

For some undergraduates, the rarity of having a professor who believes research and teaching are complementary and equally important is an enormous opportunity.

"It is not often that you find a professor who is an accomplished researcher as well as an exceptional teacher," says Jennifer Bigler, a senior majoring in geography and minoring in global analysis. "Professionally, the knowledge I'm gaining from Dr. Beladi gives me a better understanding of the forces which affect the international state system. Hopefully this better understanding will help me be more realistic in what I offer the world after graduation."

Beladi has established a worldwide reputation as a leader in the field of international economics. He is the editor of the *International Review of Economics and Finance* and *Frontiers of Economics and Globalization*. He serves as associate editor of the *Review of International Economics*, working and editing alongside other world-renowned economists such as Carl Chen and Paul Krugman, winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Economics. He has published more than 150 papers in refereed academic journals with topics focusing on international economics and globalization.

For the 2005–2008 period, he was the highest ranked researcher in the College of Business, and in 2009, in the area of research excellence, was named the Col. Jean Piccione and Lt. Col. Philip Piccione Endowed Research Award recipient.

An advocate of multidisciplinary research, he is involved in scholarly research on international trade theory and policy, analysis of international joint ventures, global financial issues and environmental policies.

"I trust that my research has brought professional recognition not only to the economics department, but also to UTSA," Beladi says.

That research has a direct advantage for the students and UTSA as a whole as it aims toward national research university status. "The interaction between quality faculty and students ultimately results in graduates who obtain better jobs and positions in society," Beladi says.

But in the classroom, his top priority is giving students the basics.

So how does collaboration between student and professor work? As Beladi will tell you, teaching is a creative art that requires constant adjustments and modifications.

Here he is mid-semester, holding court in his own theater:

Speaking in a loud, clear voice, Beladi begins a sentence about low-wage labor and trails off, creating space for the students to finish with the key phrase or concept he wants them to remember. It's simple and creative, the two basic principles of his teaching philosophy.

Each class begins with a review of material already covered and then moves seamlessly ahead with new concepts. "The material is all common sense," Beladi says. Forget math or equations. And he has a disdain for multiple

Because of San Antonio's unique geography and minority student population, he is pleased by his students' ability to relate to issues such as migration and international relations.

choice tests, favoring instead short papers, take-home exams and problem sets that permit students to explore subjects at their own pace.

Over the course of the term, Beladi walks undergraduates through the basics of tariffs, protectionism, trade policy, exports/imports, trade blocs, and supply and demand while giving them a thorough sense of real-world economics. "I really want them to learn something," he says.

To keep students from sinking into their seats, he builds on each concept like a storyteller, adding supportive yet directive phrases such as, "Are you with me?" or "I really just want you to listen. Just follow the story!" Afterward, to fix the information more fully in the students' minds, he says, "Chew it up and digest it" or "Now I need your help. Let me test you for a second." Lest anyone become confused or overwhelmed, he will caution students: "This is very simple. It's not rocket science."

To keep students on their toes, Beladi involves them in the smallest decisions. Mid-lecture, for example, he stops a discussion on international trade to ask a student in the front row which color of chalk will best highlight the point he is making on the chalkboard. "White chalk, or orange?" he asks.

"Orange" replies the student. However small a gesture, similar tactics keep the students alert. Attendance is high. Students arrive early, clamoring to know Beladi's opinion of the federal government's recently approved economic stimulus package. They come regularly to office hours.

Students such as Phillip Carroll are drawn to the class because Beladi translates economic concepts into real-world situations, citing his own research. "A lot of the professors forget that students don't know anything about

economics," says Carroll. "Professor Beladi explains things in a lot of different ways."

To get away from the idea that teaching is a solo performance by the instructor, Beladi's students are expected to participate regularly, even to redirect the conversation.

"The vast majority of students—especially undergraduates—in my courses will never become producers of scholarship in international trade theory and policy," he says. "So my responsibility is to cultivate in students a keen reflective thinking and critical analytical capacity in order that they can be responsible, well-informed decision makers."

Research (production) and teaching (distribution) are so intertwined for Beladi, there's no separation between the complex research he does with other academics and the simplified explanations he offers to students in jeans and T-shirts. And he has published on this topic as well, encouraging universities to find value in both research and teaching as a way of investing for the future.

"Research without teaching becomes unintelligible and uncommunicative," Beladi explains. And teaching without research causes academics to become disengaged from an ever-changing body of knowledge in their field.

While Beladi doesn't expect his students to become leading researchers, he believes UTSA students are well equipped to become responsible citizens and leaders. Because of San Antonio's unique geography and minority student population, he is pleased by his students' ability to relate to issues such as migration and international relations.

"If asked to summarize my philosophy of teaching into one word, it would be respect," says Beladi. Through an earnest dedication to undergraduate learning, Beladi is both advancing scholarly research and helping students become more productive, socially conscious people. Whether they pursue economics as a career choice is unimportant, he says. What really matters is that they become more aware of themselves and their position in the world.

Senior geography major Bigler says the Beladi effect is working, one student at a time.

"Personally, I am a better citizen because I now have a much better understanding of what international trade means to the United States," she says. "Better informed citizens equal stronger democracies."

A photograph of Ricardo Romo, the fifth president of The University of Texas at San Antonio, sitting in his office. He is a man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. Behind him is a large bookshelf filled with books. To his right is a desk with various papers, a pen holder, and a small clock. The title "HIS CAUSE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "Great Effects" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script with a gold outline.

HIS CAUSE *Great Effects*

UTSA ACHIEVES RECORD-BREAKING GROWTH, ACADEMIC SUCCESS UNDER SCHOOL'S FIFTH PRESIDENT

It's Fiesta in San Antonio and thousands line the river for the Texas Cavaliers River Parade, part of the city's annual weeklong celebration honoring the heroes of the Alamo and San Jacinto. A beautifully decorated barge floats by carrying a lively country-western band. The singer leads the crowd in a ballad. But the singing soon turns into cheering as the crowd recognizes the man with the microphone. It's Ricardo Romo, fifth president of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

It's not uncommon to see Romo singing at various events, discussing his artistic photographs or stopping to chat with students between classes. His down-to-earth, friend-next-door character is the reason he is well known and well liked at UTSA, in San Antonio and everywhere he travels.

"It's not something that he stages for publicity, he just really enjoys people," says his wife and UTSA sociology professor Harriett Romo. "When we go places and he stops and gets gas somewhere, he'll start talking to the person across the way getting gas, and they'll talk for 10 minutes. I think he breaks the mold for everything. He's a unique person and a very special person."

Along with charisma, Romo's foresight and love of education have propelled UTSA to new levels of academic excellence, growth and maturity. Under his leadership, the university has shed its commuter-campus image and is now poised to become a national research university.

Intersecting paths

Romo's story begins on the West Side of San Antonio, where few graduated from college and many lived through economic hardship. But on the streets of Romo's beloved Prospect Hill neighborhood, he learned perseverance, discipline, a strong work ethic and loyalty. Beginning when he was 6 years old, hours outside the classroom were often spent working in his family's grocery store.

His work ethic and focus are evident in his leadership style, says A.J. Rodriguez, deputy city manager for the City of San Antonio and a 1999 M.B.A. graduate of UTSA.



Harriett and Ricardo Romo, at home next to their latest art acquisition, a work by Chicano artist César Martínez.

“It’s in terms of being humble and being thankful for what you have. Yet, trying to achieve more, not necessarily for yourself, but for that same part of town that he grew up in and the rest of the overall community,” he says.

When Romo graduated from Fox Tech High School in 1962, like many other San Antonio students, he had to make a choice when it came to college—either leave his hometown to pursue a four-year degree from an affordable public institution or stay at home and attend community college. The only four-year institutions in the city were private, and with two other siblings attending college at the same time, private school was just too expensive an option.

Always a strong athlete as well as student, he earned a track scholarship to the University of Texas at Austin.

“I was very fortunate because I had a track scholarship, it was all done for me,” Romo says. “And frankly, I don’t know how I could have done it otherwise.”

Even as a high school student who was advised by one of his high school counselors to forgo attending college, it was obvious to Romo that there was a need for an affordable public university in his hometown. But his path would take a few enlightened turns before he could return home to do something about it.

Romo graduated from UT Austin with a bachelor’s in education. While there, he became the first Texan to run the mile in less than four minutes, a record that lasted 41 years. He continued his education at Loyola Marymount University, where he received a master’s in history. He earned his Ph.D. in history from UCLA.

He returned to Texas in 1980 to teach history at UT Austin before becoming a vice provost for undergraduate education. When he took UTSA’s helm in 1999, he promised access to excellence in education for all students, regardless of background.

He has delivered on that promise over the last decade, says Cathy Obriotti Green, vice president of Zachry Group, Inc., and member of the

university’s Development Board. She worked closely with Romo during her six-year tenure on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

“I think that one of the great things about Dr. Romo is that his agenda was for UTSA and not for himself,” she says.

When Romo began advocating for UTSA to become the state’s next top-tier university, she says, he did that because he thought the school was ready and that it was the right thing to do.

“He wasn’t looking at it to say ‘are people going to look favorably on this or unfavorably and how might it impact my professional career,’” she says. “When you can be liberated by the fact that you’re not actively job seeking with every ‘admin’ decision you make, and you couple that with leadership qualities, it’s amazing what can happen.”

Romo’s ties to the city and his academic vision have made a difference in the university’s success, supporters say.

“He has transformed the institution,” says Raymund Paredes, Texas Commissioner of Higher Education. Paredes first met Romo while they were both students at UT Austin. “UTSA was an obscure, regional public university. I don’t think the people in San Antonio thought very much about it. But Romo created a whole new identity for UTSA.”

In the decade since Romo became president, he has seen the university morph from deserted hallways in the afternoons to an almost around-the-clock bustling campus recognized for innovative research and community programs. When he accepted his post, there were three doctoral programs. Now there are 21. Under his leadership, four colleges grew to eight plus a graduate school, and sponsored programs and research increased from \$7.7 million to more than \$51 million. And in 2008 alone, UTSA contributed more than \$1.2 billion to the economy.

“We do have a culture change here,” Romo says. “We have a new attitude about who we are, and there is an increasing new perception from the outside about who we are.”

What the university has become is a reflection of the man who leads it, say Romo’s supporters. And how he did it, Paredes says, is by creating

excitement for education that is palpable campuswide and statewide.

“UTSA has flourished under the astute leadership of Ricardo Romo,” says longtime friend Mark Yudof, president of the University of California system. “His broad vision and steadfast adherence to excellence and access has seamlessly guided the San Antonio campus to new heights of prominence.”

Repeatedly, Romo has successfully secured funding from the University of Texas System and the Texas Legislature for needed improvements, and students have voted for higher student fees to pay for more. Each time they do, they’re putting their trust in him that he will make the best decisions for the university.

“I don’t know how many university presidents you see who actually appear giddy about their work,” says Green. “He is just a happy university president. You can tell instantly that he loves the job, he loves his faculty, he loves the students, and he loves the campus.”

Just another Roadrunner

Visit a local taqueria during the week and you’re likely to see Romo there, chatting with other customers over breakfast tacos. During Fiesta, he hands everyone he encounters a UTSA Fiesta medal.

And walk down university corridors with him and he’s likely to enthusiastically greet students by name or send an occasional compliment about a shirt color—always the school colors of vivid orange and blue—to those passing by.

Romo’s touch is personal, and that’s what makes the difference, Paredes says. “He’s an extremely gregarious, positive individual. He doesn’t get discouraged. Most of the time, when he runs into a problem like everybody does, he figures out a way to fix it. And I think that sense of optimism and promise has been contagious, both on campus and in San Antonio.”

In his pocket, Romo carries around sets of cards. On them, he writes comments he collects from students about needs on campus. One student thinks there needs to be more parking. Another student wants more staff. Yet another wants more accessible on-campus living. Everything is jotted down for consideration.

“He is a very focused individual, and he’s extremely intelligent and wise, but his demeanor is so disarming that it really takes all kinds of barriers down and you’re able to really talk to him one-on-one,” says Rodriguez.

At all times, Romo seems to listen and care, say his students.

“When I first came to college, I thought the president of the university was this kind of almighty person who didn’t associate with students, just this stereotypical CEO who has so much business that he doesn’t come out and actually talk to students,” says Christina Gomez, Student Government Association president in 2008–2009.

“So when I did meet him it was a shock that you could just talk to him about everything, and he wants to listen and tell these funny stories. He’s able to talk to you and make you feel that you’re not talking to the most important person at this university, you’re just talking to another Roadrunner,” she says.

“There’s a genuine warmth about him that attracts people,” says Jan Steger, Romo’s chief of staff. “He’s a grand leader and a legend in his own time. People follow him around—he’s like the Pied Piper. People like being inside his circle.”

Two celebrations, two milestones

As Romo celebrates his 10th year at UTSA, the university celebrates a milestone of its own. This year marks the 40th year of the university’s existence. When construction began on 600 acres just south and west



Guest speaker Sonya Elissa Medina (left), special appointee for the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation, sits with Romo at a campus event in April.

of Interstate 10 and Loop 1604, the land that would become the UTSA campus was surrounded by meandering ranchland and grazing cattle. Today, it is surrounded by homes, a thriving mall, eateries, stores and a theme park.

Just as the city around it grew, UTSA itself has blossomed. The first official class held only 670 graduate students taught by 52 faculty. Today, enrollment is more than 28,400. There are 132 degree programs, including 64 bachelor’s, 47 master’s and 21 doctoral degrees.

A decade ago, Romo sat poised in his new office on the fourth floor of the John Peace Library. Asked what he hoped to achieve in his tenure

at UTSA, he said his mission was to make UTSA a flagship institution for South Texas and provide access to higher education for everyone.

Today, sitting behind his desk on the top floor of the university’s five-year-old Main Building, Romo says he couldn’t have dreamed then that

so much could be achieved so quickly.

“A university ... is a knowledge industry, and we learn from each other and we push each other and it only happens if we are prepared to engage each other,” Romo says.

“Student engagement is a key to our success. I like walking across campus at different hours of the day and seeing students engaged, sitting at tables talking to each other, sitting with a laptop in front of them trying to figure out an engineering problem. That’s what a campus should be.

“And when I see that, I then say ‘holy moly, we all have been successful.’ We are achieving something wonderful. It is happening,” he says.

Edith McAllister, a prominent San Antonio resident and university supporter, says, “Ricardo Romo has been a role model for all of us in what dedication, determination and hard work can do. He has accomplished so much. He deserves to be congratulated on the 10 wonderful years he has given to the university and the community.” ★

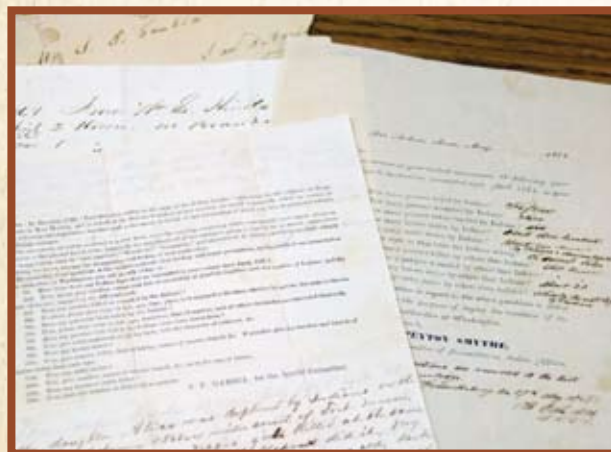
WEB EXTRA

See Romo’s life in pictures. Go to www.utsa.edu/sombrilla for a photo slideshow.

A FAMILY'S LEGACY, *A San Antonio Story*

More than 150 years of Carter family stories are coming to life in letters, receipts and diaries

BY
LETY LAUREL



Top: Maverick-Carter house, shortly after its completion in 1893. Photo courtesy of the Witte Museum, San Antonio.

Middle: One of Aline B. Carter's diaries, this one dated 1913.

Bottom: As a member of the Indian Depredation Committee in the mid-1800s, Aline's grandfather, Robert Eagar, collected reports on killings, kidnappings and theft of cattle and property sustained by Texans in Indian raids.

A 19th century home by famed Texas architect Alfred Giles was Marline and Paul Carter's playground in the 1960s and '70s. With its piles of dusty, old and unopened trunks in the attic and antique toys dating back to the turn of the century, it was a perfect haunted house for kids with wild imaginations.

Little did the siblings know that 40 years later, the house would become known as San Antonio's treasure chest for the secrets kept within those dusty, old trunks.

Inside, sometimes on parchment as thin as sewing pattern paper, are thousands of personal thoughts elegantly and carefully scrolled with a penmanship not often seen today. There are letters to brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers, sometimes about a new silk dress or about the death of a family member. There are telegrams, some still tucked away in their original envelopes, sent by sons serving in wars. And there are detailed reports of wives and daughters killed in violent Indian raids.

The Carter family papers are now a permanent part of the Archives and Special Collections at UTSA and are available for free to the public for viewing and research. Already at more than 4,000 pieces, the collection is still growing as the family steadily empties the attic at the historic Maverick-Carter house at 119 Taylor Street.

For generations, the trunks sat untouched and now serve as perfectly preserved time capsules chronicling one family's life on the frontier in the 1800s and on to the 1990s. More than 150 years of family stories, letters, diaries, photographs and maps were stored away, and they all give insight into one of the first Anglo families to settle in San Antonio, as well as the development of the city itself.

"You're supposed to go out with the old and on with the new, but this worked out so much better for us...because five generations go by and all of a sudden you actually have this time capsule, and then it's worth



looking back to see how life was in San Antonio," says Paul Carter. "It lets you peek back in time on how things really were."

It was that recent realization that prompted the family to donate the papers and create the Carter Family Endowed Library Fund. And the value is immeasurable, says David Johnson, history professor and vice provost for academic and faculty support.

"There is so much there," says Johnson, also a published historian. "It's so diverse. There are business papers from a relative who was in El Paso. There are wonderful letters from the late 1860s that are associated with the re-establishment of the frontier after the Civil War. There are all those reports about Indian depredations, attacks on settlers—there are some really gripping documents there."

"Many of these documents have not been seen in public for 100 plus years, and they have this immediacy and sometimes poignancy and tragedy that make them extraordinarily attractive as subjects for study."

The White Angel

The house at 119 Taylor Street sits almost hidden in the midst of modern development. Bracketed by businesses and a downtown parking lot, and across the street from Municipal Auditorium, its pointed rooftop just barely peeks out between surrounding trees and buildings.

But when Aline Badger Carter and her husband, Henry Champe Carter, purchased the house in 1910 from William Maverick, son of one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the San Antonio River cut right behind it. There were no buildings or bright streetlights to obstruct Aline Carter's view of the planets and stars from the observatory built on the rooftop. That's where she housed her 1918 telescope, which, for several years, she used to predict eclipses for the local newspaper.

Aline Carter, known as the White Angel of St. Mark's Episcopal Church because of her trademark white flowing organdy dresses, as well as for her

Aline's son, David Carter, and his son Paul reminisce about Aline's passion for science, religion, literature and the welfare of others. They're sitting in the third-floor attic of Aline's home, surrounded by items collected by the family for more than a century.

charitable contributions at jails and with orphans, was passionate about learning. She eagerly explored topics ranging from science and poetry to religion. In her house she kept animal fossils and geological specimens, which remain in the attic today.

"She was a scientist and a naturalist," says Paul Carter, her grandson. "She always thought that science allowed you to discover God's mysteries."

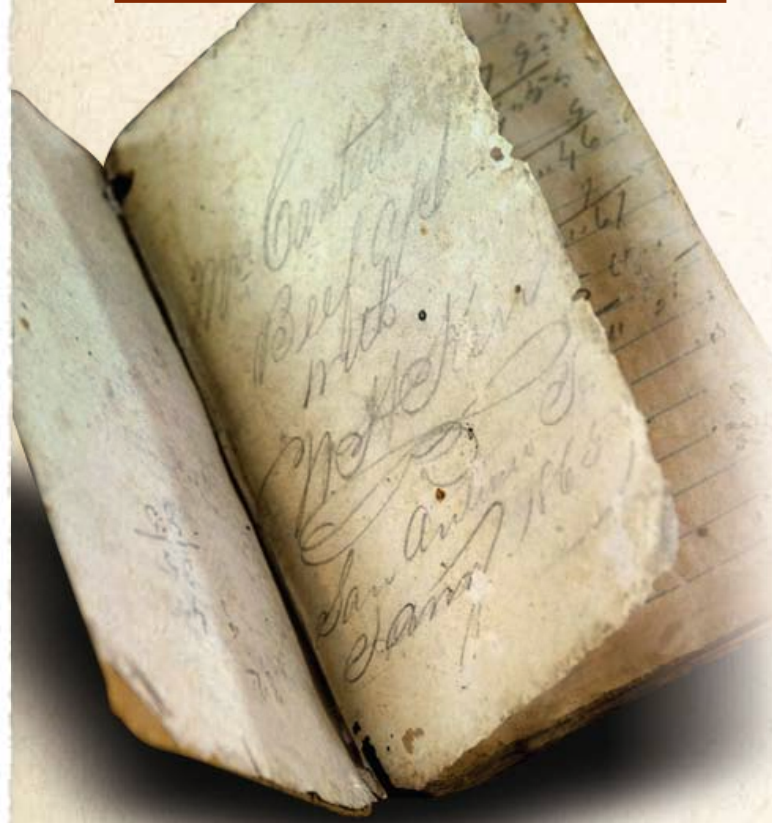
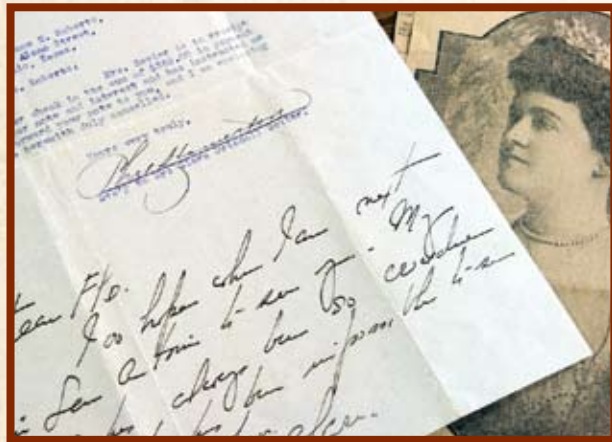
But Aline Carter is perhaps best known as Poet Laureate of Texas from 1947 to 1949. A distinguished author, she published two books and, before her death in 1972, was working on a thousand-page historical fiction novel about the life of her grandmother, Sarah Riddle Eagar. The manuscript is part of the collection now housed at UTSA's archives.

Aline's husband, a well-known Texas attorney and former president of the State Bar Association of Texas, was 31 years older than his wife. And, as family stories go, they were so deeply in love that they frequently left each other love notes scattered throughout their home. Love notes will also be in the collection.

"We're collecting them to put on display so people can see what it is like living in a romance novel," Paul Carter says, quoting from one: "When I whisper Aline, all the ecstasies of heaven and earth are mine.' That's the kind of thing he would leave around the house."

H.C. Carter died in 1948. Having given much of their wealth to charity, Aline Carter was forced to convert her home into apartments, which she rented out after his death.

After she died, the house sat empty and eventually fell into disrepair. Ceilings leaked. Dust and bugs took over. And throughout, the priceless



Top: Aline's son, Frank Carter, often wrote his mother letters. Each of her sons addressed their mother with the French endearment "mon ange," meaning "my angel." **Middle:** A 1931 correspondence between Florence Eagar Roberts, Aline's aunt, and Clara Driscoll, who is credited with saving the Alamo. Also pictured is a 1906 newspaper clipping of Driscoll. **Bottom:** Aline's great-grandmother, Elizabeth Canterbury, kept logs of beef purchases in the 1860s.

papers stored away in trunks remained untouched by anything but silverfish in the third-story attic.

"I didn't think my mother was a materialist enough to save love letters," says her son, David Carter. He only recently found out about the love letters sent to his mother, whom he and his brothers grew up calling "my angel" in French. And, like his mother, he has a collection of all the letters his wife ever sent. "It's a problem with the family," he says about collecting.

But his daughter says the collection has had a huge impact on her. As a teenager, Marline Carter, now Lawson, would sneak glimpses into her grandmother's old diaries. When she was in her 20s, she pilfered one and read it from cover to cover.

"It opened up a whole new life for me," she says. "I always looked at them and read them, but it wasn't until I actually took some things and had a chance to study them that I understood that this is a true piece of amazing history of San Antonio and an interesting woman that was a part of it."

Paul Carter says he hopes to keep his grandmother's charitable work, scientific contributions and poetry alive by converting the house into a museum and making his family's papers available to UTSA for the public.

"She was unique and progressive, so that's why we want to keep that theme going," he says. "We're hoping to perpetuate that and celebrate it."

Leaving a legacy

Walking in the attic on a recent spring afternoon, Paul Carter picks up a yellowed *San Antonio Daily Express* from 1888. The pages are intact, though delicate. Illustrated pictures of downtown San Antonio show storefronts that look remarkably similar to today. Newspapers like this one, he says, were strewn haphazardly across the attic floor for decades.

Most families throw away grocery bills as soon as they're recorded in the checkbook, but the Carter family wasn't like most families. Bills and receipts from grocery stores, candle makers and the meat market are among their collection. Records like those help reconstruct a neighborhood. Bills have letterheads with the names of companies and addresses that have long been paved over by streets and other modern development.

"That's the value in these sorts of papers in terms of reconstructing and to understand San Antonio's history," UTSA historian Johnson says. "This is the real stuff that makes history vivid."

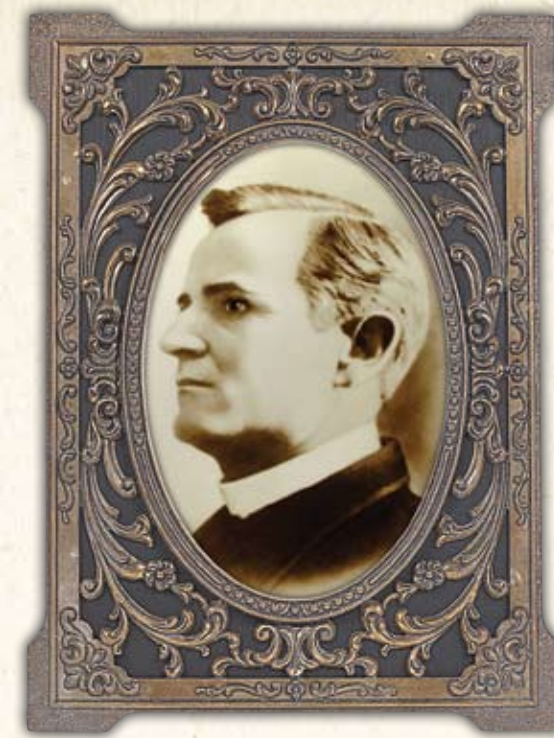
Relics like these are rare, he says. As a city, there seems to be a massive historical loss of memory since the Battle of the Alamo. What records do exist are scattered among various archives throughout the state. But in this one attic, he found a treasure he only hoped existed before.

"I have always said this city is probably full of attics full of family papers, and nobody is doing anything with them," he says. "I walked into the Carter family's attic and it was like, for a historian, finding the mother lode. It was just kind of an 'Oh my God' moment."

And now that history is available to anyone who wants to see it. Located at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures at 851 Durango Blvd., the Archives and Special Collections officially opened in 1997 and has amassed more than 300 other collections, ranging from Mexican manuscripts from the 1500s to original Fiesta San Antonio Commission photos of the 1920s.

The Archives and Special Collections also serves as the repository for the university's materials about San Antonio, women and gender, authors and the political activities of the city's Mexican American community since World War II. Recently, the archives has begun digitizing collections, capturing Web sites and has also released a blog and two Twitter feeds.

Stefanie Wittenbach, assistant dean for collections, and Mark Shelstad, head of the Archives and Special Collections, say as the library's collections grow, so too does the number of people who use it for research. Last year, the library answered about 800 e-mail requests and nearly 300



Aline B. Carter and her husband, Henry Champe Carter.

people visited the Archives and Special Collections. As recognition of the archives increases, they hope that more San Antonio families will consider donating their original documents to the UTSA Library.

One person's junk, another's treasure

In an age of text messages, e-mails and Twitter, people's lives aren't written out on notebook paper anymore. Diaries have been replaced by My Space blogs. The use of language has changed. Penmanship has changed. As more information becomes digital, there is less to feel and hold.

"It's emotional," says Shelstad about opening letters unread for more than 100 years. "To actually sit down and look at the type of handwriting and feel the paper too, there's a very textural thing about being able to look at some of these archives. You don't get that just anywhere."

And as time goes on, there will be fewer opportunities, Wittenbach fears. That presents new challenges to preserving a family's legacy.

"I don't know what will be around to collect in another couple of generations," Wittenbach says. "Who writes letters as much as we used to? There is going to be less output to try to collect in a physical form."

And that's what makes the Carter donation so important, Johnson says. Finding something so intact and far ranging was "kind of like finding El Dorado," he says of the collection. "It was like treasure hunting, and this really is a treasure."

Like his ancestors before him, Paul Carter keeps everything. Take his first cell phone, so big it resembles a field World War II radio. Instead of being nestled in a dusty trunk on the third floor of his grandparents' home, he keeps it in a barn. The horses are long gone. Stacks of other collectibles like the phone surround his first car, a 1960 VW Beetle.

"It's like I just can't let it go," he says. He used to feel guilty about it. He used to think eventually he'd get to throwing everything away. But now, he says, he feels justified in being a pack rat.

"Sadly, [the reaction to his family's papers] is reaffirming and it's making me worse," he says. And so, "The theme continues. And there will be somebody coming down the line that says 'Oh my gosh, I'm so glad you still have that.'"

AT THE HEART OF
THE CARTER FAMILY
PAPERS ARE THOSE
WRITTEN BY
ALINE B. CARTER,
POET LAUREATE OF TEXAS
IN THE 1940s. IN DIARIES,
MANUSCRIPTS AND
LETTERS, SHE OFTEN
WROTE OF HER
ANCESTORS AND THEIR
SOMETIMES TUMULTUOUS
ADVENTURES IN
A FLEDGLING
SAN ANTONIO.
HERE, WE FOLLOW SOME
OF HER LINEAGE:

WEB EXTRA
Peek into the Carter's
third-floor attic and see
what other treasures have
been uncovered in a slide-
show narrated by Paul
Carter. Go to www.utsa.edu/sombrilla for more.

Elizabeth Mary Menefee (1820–1900) and **Wilson I. Riddle** (1811–1847), Aline's great-grandparents, were married in 1841 in Tennessee. They moved to San Antonio where Wilson was already established as a merchant and owned several lots in La Villita. He was captured by the Mexicans in 1842 and released early the next year. After Riddle's death, Elizabeth married **Harvey Canterbury**, with whom she had four children.

James Wilson Riddle, son of Elizabeth and Wilson Riddle and Aline's great-uncle, served in the Civil War and later became a wholesale and retail dealer in general merchandise in Eagle Pass, Texas.

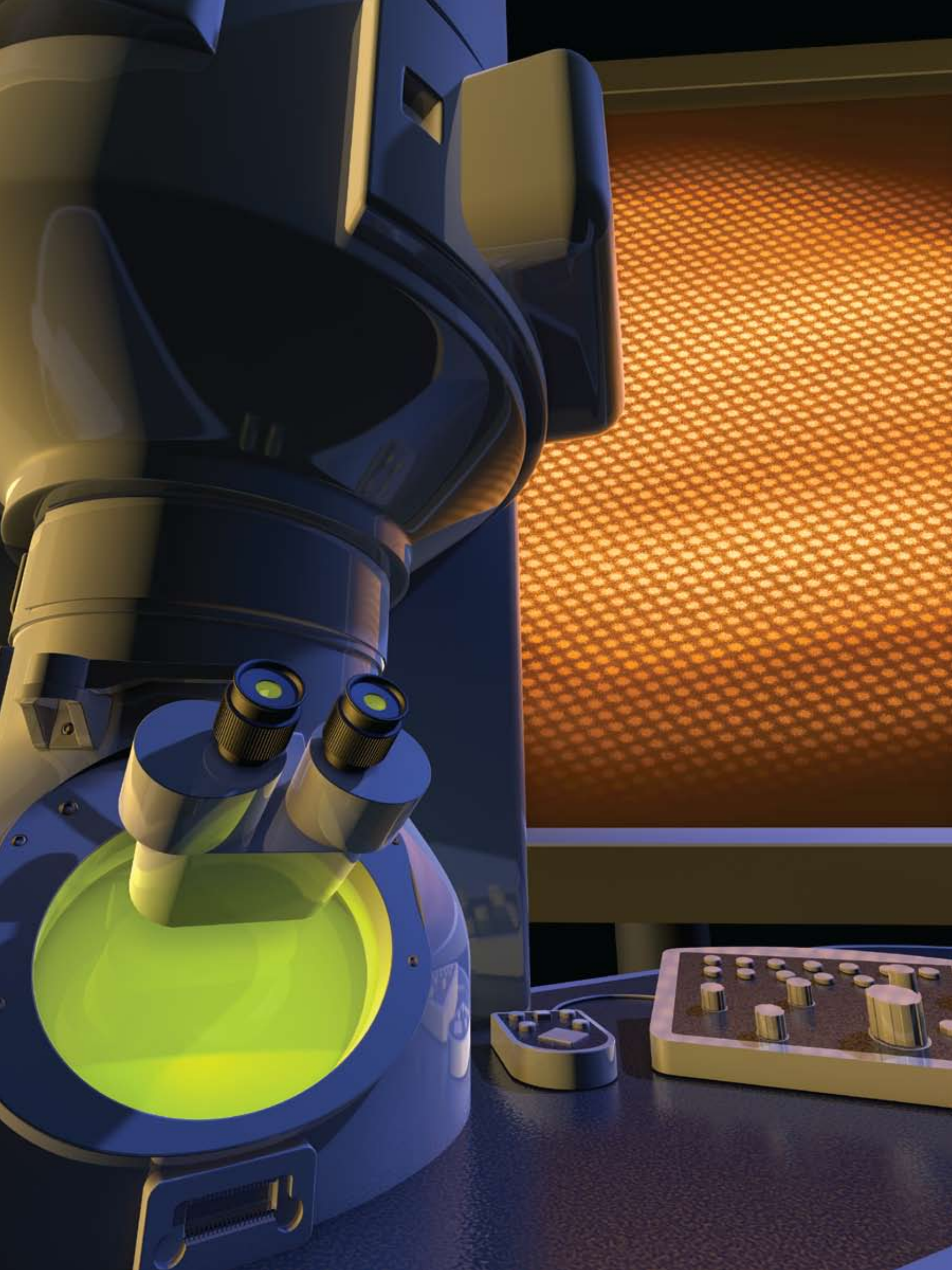
Sarah Elizabeth Riddle Eagar (1842–1947), daughter of Elizabeth and Wilson Riddle and Aline's grandmother, married **Robert Eagar** of Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1867. They had three daughters: Florence, Blanche and Fannie. Sarah was a member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and managed the Alamo in the early 1900s. She lived at 434 South Alamo St. until her death in 1947 at age 105.

Florence Eagar Roberts (1867–1969), Aline's aunt, was a popular member of San Antonio society and avid world traveler. She was married to U.S. Army Major **Harris Lee Roberts**. An artist who had studied in New York, Florence illustrated her good friend Clara Driscoll's book titled *In the Shadow of the Alamo*.

Blanche Eagar Badger (1867–19??), twin sister of Florence and Aline's mother, married **Frank J. Badger**. They had two children, Charlotte Blanche (1893–1906) and Aline.

Fannie Henrietta Eagar McCullough (1869–1971), Aline's aunt, married **Edward J. McCullough** in 1890. He was part owner of Mensing & McCullough Wholesale Druggists in Galveston. They had three children.

Aline Badger Carter (1892–1972) was widely known for her published works as a poet—she was the Poet Laureate of Texas from 1947 to 1949—but also had a keen interest in music, art, philosophy, religion and astronomy. Known as the "White Angel," Aline was widely admired for her charity work. In 1915 she married **Henry Champe Carter** (1861–1948), a well-known Texas attorney. They had three sons: Henry Champe Jr., Frank and David.



Think Small

UTSA enters the nano race with the addition of a revolutionary new microscope

By Kate Hunger

What tool promises to advance research in an untold range of subjects, from cancer therapy to solar panels, electronics to archaeology?

This isn't a trick question or even a riddle, but the answer does boggle the mind: This fall, a microscope with the ability to show atoms more clearly than ever will arrive at The University of Texas at San Antonio. When it does, it will be just the second of its kind in the world, according to the company that makes it. The other sits in Japan, in the factory of manufacturer JEOL, a global supplier of scientific instruments that specializes in electron microscopes.

The Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation this winter gave UTSA \$1.2 million, the final amount needed to purchase the second-generation aberration-corrected electron microscope nicknamed "Helenita" for foundation president Helen Kleberg Groves. UTSA physics and astronomy department chair Miguel J. Yacaman, a renowned electron microscopist and nanotechnology researcher, says the capabilities of this microscope, the best aberration-corrected microscope at a U.S. university, are legion. What makes the instrument so useful is its improved resolution and its ability to correct distortion, a problem Yacaman compares to the skewed effect of fun-house mirrors at a carnival.

"What you want is that your microscope doesn't distort the real image," he says.

It packs additional features that make researchers swoon, such as the ability to analyze the chemical makeup of a sample and to reconstruct two-dimensional samples into three-dimensional images.

Three other powerful microscopes arrived in the Advanced Microscopy and Nanotechnology Lab on the Main Campus last year. The trio—a scanning electron microscope that shows three-dimensional images at high resolution, and two atomic force scanning probe microscopes that can measure the surfaces of nanoparticles—were funded with an \$822,000 gift, also from the Kleberg Foundation. These new tools already have exponentially grown the lab's sophistication and capabilities and offer their own specialized functions.

"There was no high resolution machine at UTSA," Yacaman says. "There was no chance to look at nanoparticles on a scanning microscope. ... We didn't have atomic force microscopes before in the university."

The aberration-corrected microscope "is going to be the first one of this kind in the United States, and it will allow researchers in many fields ... to do work at the very high resolution level," he explains. When it joins the lab, including the three other Kleberg-funded microscopes, the new microscope "will make [the lab] one of the most important microscopy facilities in the world," he says.

And researchers in a host of fields, including materials science, chemistry, biology, industry and pathology, will be able to take part.

It's a small world

It can be hard for the non-nano expert to fathom the tiny particles that are the bread and butter of researchers in this field. A nanometer is a billionth of a meter. Still fuzzy? A strand of human hair is about 20,000 nanometers in diameter. Fingernails grow one nanometer per second.

The ability to see small has evolved over the centuries, from the advent of optical microscopes in the 17th century that use light to make small things viewable, to the development of electron microscopes before World War II. Light has its limitations and can only go so far in resolution, but electrons, with their shorter wavelengths, go much further. Electron microscopes continued to improve over the years as well. But at the level of this new microscope, the potential for new discoveries is enormous, says Yacamán.

“Once you can see the atoms, you can learn a lot about how the matter is formed,” he says. “It’s a whole new ballgame.”

Just what kind of ballgame? Yacamán refers to the Hubble Space Telescope’s launch in 1990 as an example of a whole new world opened up. With the detailed and frequent images it provides, the Hubble has advanced our understanding of the universe, including the danger of cometary impacts, the evolution of galaxies and details of stellar death, according to the Space Telescope Science Institute.

“When they sent the Hubble to space, the number of discoveries that came from the Hubble were enormous,” he says. “So we expect with this microscope to have tremendous discoveries in the nano world.”

The Hubble telescope provides another example of the benefits of aberration correction, explains Ulrich Dahmen, director of the National Center for Electron Microscopy at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif. The Hubble experienced its own aberration that required a space launch to correct, he explains. And the difference between the images from before and after that fix was obvious.

“What you see is a very clear difference in ... how clearly you see the stars in the galaxy,” he says.

Under the microscope

Cancer research stands to benefit tremendously from the new technology. Researchers hope to design localized treatments that target cancer cells without causing damage to surrounding healthy tissue, as happens with conventional radiation treatment. Other applications—and there are many—include finding a substitute for pricey silicon crystals that can be used to make solar panels more efficient and cheaper, as well as developing better armor for military vehicles and creating improved antibacterials. Nanoparticles of silver already are used as an antibacterial in products, but Yacamán says there is more to be learned about them.

“Nanoparticles is one of the great ways to fight bacteria, but then of course we have to check on the negative effects it might have,” Yacamán says. “We need to design better materials for all kinds of applications, and one of the ways to do it is we have to know the atomic structure to really design a new material.”

College of Sciences Dean George Perry is planning to use the aberration-corrected microscope in his own research on oxidative stress and Alzheimer’s disease. Having such an instrument on campus is going to attract high-quality faculty whose research interests dovetail with the microscope’s features, he says.

“It will make it much easier for us to recruit top scientists,” he says. “It offers such resolution that it’s sort of way above what anyone can imagine.”

Gaining a tool as sophisticated as the aberration-corrected electron microscope at a university is a notable achievement, says Dahmen of the Berkeley National Lab.

“There’s no better way of illustrating your commitment to excellence in research,” he says. “A world-class machine like that shows you are willing to provide the support and infrastructure to give the best tools to your faculty.”

The microscope is making its debut at UTSA because of Yacamán’s reputation and longstanding relationship with the manufacturer, as well as the interest and support of the university, colleagues agree.

“Professor Yacamán is a world-class microscopist,” says Donald Paul, professor of chemical engineering and director of the Texas Materials Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. “This is going to be a very important tool for UTSA,” he continues. “I can easily envision there will be a number of people from Austin to use the microscope there.”

A former colleague and past collaborator of Yacamán’s, Paul notes a discovery of Yacamán’s in the mid-’90s that garnered widespread attention. He explained the longevity of the brilliant blue paint used by the Maya 1,000 years ago that had been baffling archaeologists and researchers for years. Yacamán found that the Maya blue, as it had come to be called, contained clay with nanoparticles of metal that kept the blue intact on ruins for centuries.

The new microscope will allow Yacamán to revisit Maya blue and perhaps resolve yet-unanswered questions.

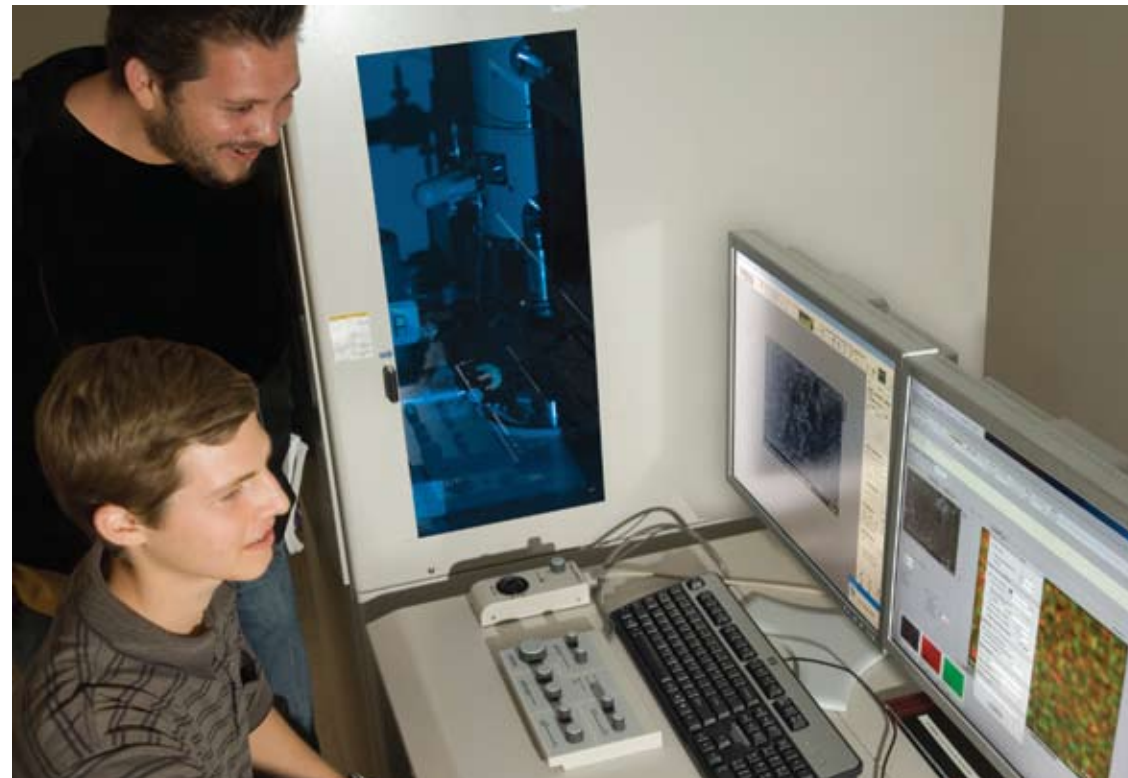
“We are going to study Maya blue at ultrahigh resolution,” Yacamán says. “There is still some controversy on the subject that we will resolve with this machine. Discoveries like this will be common with the new machine.”

The microscope will be installed over a three-month period in the new engineering building, where the Advanced Microscopy and Nanotechnology Lab will be moving, and is expected to be fully functional by the end of the year. The plan is to make the microscope available to researchers around the country who will be able to access it remotely.

“They send a sample, we load the sample,” Yacamán says. “This instrument should be working 24 hours [a day]. The idea is to make it a Texas machine and eventually a USA machine.”

“When they sent the Hubble to space, the number of discoveries that came from the Hubble were enormous. So we expect with this microscope to have tremendous discoveries in the nano world.”

—Miguel J. Yacamán



A trio of powerful microscopes arrived in the Advanced Microscopy and Nanotechnology Lab on the Main Campus last year. They were funded with a gift from the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation.

A magnet for students

The chance to work under Yacamán drew Alvaro Mayoral to UTSA. One of the Spanish postdoctoral fellow’s projects is making and analyzing metal nanoparticles that could be used in cancer and HIV research and semiconductors. He is using the new scanning electron microscope for his analysis.

“The fact that he is getting the new aberration-corrected microscope was a great bonus, although I would have come anyway even if he did not get that,” Mayoral says, adding, “I don’t think there’s a better place you can go” to pursue doctoral studies in microscopy or nanotechnology.

Before the trio of Kleberg-funded microscopes arrived last year, UTSA researchers were using a two-decades-old microscope with limited capabilities. “We could magnify to 60,000 times, and after that we were having trouble seeing things,” says David Olmos, facilities manager of the lab.

The scanning electron microscope has ramped that up to 2 million times magnification. Olmos compares the mighty progression of microscopy firepower at UTSA to trading up from a Volkswagen to a fine Maserati.

“At the nano level you have to have resolution because yeah, you can create all these little stars and particles of stuff that we’re going to be using for research, but unless you can look at them, what are we going to say? ‘Well, they’re in there ... but we can’t see them?’ ” he says. “And the new microscope will take it to even a higher level.”

The lab also operates on a philosophy of empowering researchers, from undergraduates on up, to use equipment themselves, says Olmos. Already, some students have become adept at running the new equipment.

“Here it’s a user facility,” Olmos says. “That’s the way research is done.”

Rolando Valdez, a UTSA senior majoring in physics, is gratified by the role he is able to play in research using up-to-date equipment on his own. He recognizes the level of learning he is attaining.

“I think it’s a great place to be,” he says. “I feel like I’m a key player” in some of the projects.

Getting word out about these new resources at UTSA is important, says Bruce Nicholson, chair of the department of biochemistry at the

University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Researchers will then consider how their own work might be enhanced and what previously out-of-reach questions might be answerable with the new technology.

UTHSCSA and UTSA already have been talking about collaborating on a drug discovery, development and delivery initiative that could tap into state funding for cancer research.

“Nanoparticles could be designed to emit heat and kill cancer cells,” Nicholson says, explaining the role of Yacamán’s lab in the collaboration. “It’s a directed missile instead of a huge nuclear bomb that will wipe out the whole city.”

To that end, UTSA assistant professor of physics Lorenzo Brancaleon is using the new scanning electron microscope and one of the new scanning probe microscopes in his research of small light-activated drugs and their effect on protein structures, one potential project in the collaboration between UTHSCSA and UTSA. He anticipates improved contrast in his samples using the aberration-corrected microscope.

Brancaleon is hoping that such research will improve the experimental cancer therapy known as photodynamic therapy, which uses light to turn on these drugs and kill cancer cells. The therapy already has shown the ability to bring relief of symptoms; the therapy shrinks tumors and can bring a much better quality of life to patients with terminal cancer, he says.

“If someone can’t swallow because the tumor is in the esophagus and the food won’t go down,” the therapy can help, he says. “So they can eat again, so they can swallow again.”

The ability to see small has evolved over centuries to the point that scientists now can conduct their research and innovate solutions on a truly tiny scale. The nanoworld appears to be the new frontier, and UTSA is poised to push these explorations as never before.

“The support of the Kleberg Foundation to UTSA has permitted a quantum leap on the instrumentation for nanotechnology,” says Yacamán. “UTSA was far behind UT Austin or Rice on equipment for the physical sciences, and all of the sudden we are in the race.”★

UTSA Alumni Gala celebrates its 10th year

The 10th annual Alumni Gala is Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Westin La Cantera Resort. The theme for the gala is Reflections, in honor of alumni who reflect the past, the present and the future of UTSA. Money raised at the gala provides scholarships for UTSA students. A portion of the proceeds from the gala also benefits programs and services for alumni.

The Alumni Association will honor two alumni with Alumnus of the Year awards: Linda Foster M.A. '76, principal of Alamo Heights High School, and Cindy Jorgensen M.B.A. '00, senior vice president and chief financial officer of SWBC. The Distinguished Service Award recipient is Alfonso Barrientez III, group vice president, warehouse operations and Mexico supply chain for H-E-B.

Table sponsorships are available: the Diamond level for \$5,000; the Emerald level for \$3,500; and the Ruby level for \$2,500. These sponsors will have a student scholarship named for them for the 2009–2010 academic year. The Sapphire level is \$1,500 and individual tickets are \$125. Each table seats eight.

This year's chair is Yvonne Fernandez '85. Honorary chairs are Yolanda '92 and Robert Crittenden. Yolanda is vice president of leadership programs for the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Dress for the evening is black tie optional for men and cocktail attire for women. To make a reservation, go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/gala or call (210) 458-4133.



78 Victoria B. Griffin, B.M. in music, was installed in February as minister of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, in East Texas. Victoria received her master of divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2008. Prior to seminary, she had careers in corporate management, organizational development and counseling. Victoria was ordained as a Presbyterian elder in 1980, and was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin for 15 years. She was ordained there by Mission Presbytery.

82 Burma Hyde, B.A. in anthropology, was recently profiled in the *Wilson County* (Texas) *News*. Burma has long been active in the Alamo Area Council of Governments, serving as the regional development tourism specialist. Her pet project has been the Alamo-La Bahia Corridor, a thriving trade route during the Spanish colonial era. Through AACOG, Burma helped grow grassroots rural tourism programs surrounding the corridor and the Camino Real. **Vernell Walker**, M.A. in education, has been named dean of professional and technical education at San Antonio College. She had served as interim dean for the past year, after serving as the chair of the business department from 1990 to 2007. Vernell became a faculty member at SAC in 1982 and was the first female member of the management department, now business. The professional and technical education division consists of 11 departments in the college as well as three programs in arts and sciences departments.

84 Henry Salinas Samelson, B.A. in English, and Alexis Leigh Susman were

married March 21 in New York. Henry is an abstract painter whose work has been shown at Sunday L.E.S., a Manhattan gallery. He is also an administrative assistant at the Washington Market School in TriBeCa. Susman is studying for her master's in social work at New York University. She graduated cum laude from Harvard.

86 Jeff Clarke, B.S. in electrical engineering, is vice chairman for global operations for Dell, and also continues to head the company's business client product group. **Larry Faulkner**, B.S. in occupational therapy, is interim chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at the College of Allied Health Sciences at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. Larry joined the Tennessee school in 2004 and recently completed a term as president of the science center's Allied Health Faculty Organization. Prior to his Memphis position, he served four years as assistant professor at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong. Larry holds a Ph.D. in health and rehabilitation sciences from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's in biomedical engineering from the University of Dundee in Scotland.

88 Steven Jungman, B.B.A. in management, is vice president of Recruiting and Client Services for TalentScout in Houston. Steve is responsible for the creation of customized client recruiting programs, business development, as well as client relations. He is a founding member and president of the Houston chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professionals and is actively involved in the Society of Human Resources Managers.

90 Maudel Nolan Hardie, B.A. in criminal justice, manages Hardie & Associates Realtors, a full-service real estate brokerage firm in San Antonio. She is a member of professional and business associations and is also the trustee and scholarship chair for the Constance Allen Heritage Foundation for Lifetime Learning.

92 Doran McMahon, M.B.A. in business, has been named principal of a new mechanical, engineering and plumbing practice launched by Austin-based Bury + Partners. Prior to Bury + Partners, Doran worked at Jacobs Carter Burgess, where he was a project manager. He is a licensed engineer in Texas, North Carolina and Nevada. **Cathy Starnes**, B.B.A. in finance, is the CEO of Employee Benefits Consulting Division of Southwest Business Corporation. Cathy is a 2009 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalist.

93 Shantha D. Gunawardena, B.F.A. in art and design, is president of Killis Almond & Associates Inc. Shantha, an 18-year employee of the company, purchased the architectural design firm in October 2008. He served as a project architect with the firm and was responsible for field coordination, design, construction documents and consultant coordination. Some of the projects he was involved with include the rehabilitation of the Sarasota Opera House in Sarasota, Fla., the Dr. W.W. O'Donnell Performing Arts Center at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, and the LaSalle County Courthouse in Cotulla, Texas. Shantha also is a part-time professor in the architecture department in UTSA's College of Architecture.

Tammy Heinz, B.S. in psychology, is working for the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health as a liaison between consumers of mental health services and their families and the foundation's strategic planning, grant making, programs and policy activities. Tammy has worked more than 15 years in state and local mental health arenas providing psychiatric care, consumer training and workshops, employment coaching and job development, stigma reduction and advocacy services. She is the outreach program director for the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County in Fort Worth, Texas.

Ken Langston, B.F.A. in art and design, is president of KB Home's Central Texas region. Ken is a San Antonio native and a graduate of MacArthur High School.

96 Sandra P. Hernandez, B.B.A. in information systems, M.S. in information technology '03, is a programmer analyst with CPS Energy. She is a 2009 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalist.

97 Mary Ellen Trevino, M.B.A., is the founder and owner of P3C Corp. in San Antonio. She is a 2009 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalist. **Janie Terrazas**, B.B.A. in marketing, moved back to San Antonio from Los Angeles to become the Texas field producer for the weekly syndicated entertainment shows *American Latino TV* and *Latination*, which highlight accomplishments of Latinos in the arts, politics, entertainment and business. Janie also has been an on-air correspondent with the shows for the past few years.

98 Mark C. Freeland, B.A. in criminal justice, has been named assistant vice

president of Kleberg Bank in Corpus Christi, Texas. Mark has more than 10 years of experience in banking and financial management.

Bob Francisco, B.B.A. in general business, is director of golf at the Dallas Fort Worth Marriott Hotel and Golf Club at Champions Circle. Bob has more than 12 years of experience in the golf industry and has been a member of the Professional Golfers Association of America since 2002.

90 Karen Ann Wade, B.S. in kinesiology, is the owner of Stafford Dance Center in Stafford, Va. Karen grew up in San Antonio and began dancing with the Dorothy Keck Dancers at the age of 3. She became a principal dancer at 14 in tap and jazz. While at UTSA Karen worked with many at-risk and developmentally challenged youth. She recently offered an adaptive dance class for youths with Down syndrome. "I've been in dance programs where if you didn't fit the mold, you couldn't participate," Karen says. "Kids with different abilities get said 'no' to all the time, and their parents do as well," she says, adding that she wants to make a positive difference.

Caleb Royal, B.S. in biology, was named artist of the month in April by the Brush Country Art Club. Caleb, owner of Royal Frame Works in Pleasanton, Texas, works primarily in pen and ink, employing a stippling technique. After college and additional studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Caleb spent time in Athens, Ga., where he worked in a dental lab. Eventually, he moved back to his hometown of Pleasanton to open his framing business.

00 Raymundo Rivera, B.S. in electrical engineering, M.B.A. in business '04, and **Alane Alvarez de Rivera**, M.S. in civil engineering '00, have written and self-published *Rocks, Jeans, and Busy Machines*, an illustrated children's book meant to help kids understand and appreciate the principles of engineering. The husband and wife team are native San Antonians. "Over the past several years," Alane says, "we have read more and more articles discussing the increasing shortage of engineers within our country. This trend should cause concern because engineers are responsible for maintaining our infrastructure and keeping the U.S. a leader in technology." The couple hope their book will be the first in a series of books on different fields of engineering.

01 Cathy Magee Glunt, B.S. in health, is a teacher and head volleyball coach at Steele High School in Cibolo, Texas. She was recently named coach of the year by the *San Antonio Express-News*. Cathy was an all-district performer in volleyball and basketball and ran track at Spring

Nelson Hackmaster, M.B.A. '75

Right place, right time

The story of how Nelson Hackmaster '99 joined the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) has nothing to do with the agency's storied history, its famous fictional heroes or the fact that finding fugitives is on the daily to-do list.

"It was just good timing, a case of being in the right place at the right time," says Hackmaster, who earned his B.A. in criminal justice at UTSA. The right place was, specifically, the office of Patricia Harris, then an associate professor of criminal justice.

Harris had just received an information packet promoting a unique cooperative education program with the Marshals Service called the Centralized Student Career Experience Program. Hackmaster, an undergraduate who was finishing up a degree interrupted by a seven-year stint in the Air Force, applied and was accepted into the 16-week work-study program.

As a work-study student, Hackmaster received training in a wide range of areas, including warrant operations, handling inmates and learning investigation strategies. Upon completion of the co-op program and a four-month stint in the USMS basic training academy, Hackmaster was wearing the badge of a Deputy U.S. Marshal.

With approximately 3,300 men and women on its rolls, the Marshals Service is the country's oldest federal law enforcement agency. Its storied history began with the appointment of 13 marshals by President George Washington in 1789. Since that time, the service has chased counterfeiters, fought legendary Western outlaws such as the Wild Bunch and the Dalton gang, made history in the O.K. Corral, chased bootleggers and enforced civil rights laws.

In addition to apprehending murderers, sex offenders, gang members and other fugitives, the modern-day U.S. Marshals run the federal witness security program, protect federal judicial officials, manage and dispose of seized property for all federal law enforcement authorities and publicize a "15 Most Wanted" fugitives list. In 2006 Congress designated the USMS as the lead agency in enforcing the Adam Walsh Child Safety and Protection Act.

"I think one of the things that helps us attract potential applicants to the USMS, aside from our long and colorful history, is the many hats we wear," says Hackmaster. "There's something for everybody depending on your likes and talents."

A self-described Navy brat, Hackmaster was born in Spain and spent time in Cuba and other locations before his family settled in Ashford, Ala., where he finished grade school. A brief stint in community college led to



his joining the Air Force, where he worked as a lab technician in the 325th Medical Group out of Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Fla. In 1997, he came to San Antonio with his wife, Melissa, a military nurse. The couple have two children.

Hackmaster's first assignment as a deputy U.S. marshal was in Del Rio, located in the 68-county Western District of Texas, a district that shares 600 miles of international border with Mexico. There, he worked on "a lot of immigration cases." From 2003 to 2008, Hackmaster was headquartered in Waco. It was there that he worked on several high-profile cases, including one in which marshals apprehended a habitual sex offender after a yearlong investigation.

"The one thing that stands out to me in this case is that when [the offender] was finally extradited back to Waco, I ran into him at the McLennan County Jail. He had no idea who I was but after chasing him for so long I knew everything about him. I took the time to stop and introduce myself. It was a pretty rewarding introduction," Hackmaster recalls.

Hackmaster now holds the title of assistant chief deputy U.S. marshal for the Western District of Texas, overseeing the Waco, Austin, San Antonio and Del Rio divisions of the Marshals Service. Although reluctant to be singled out for any of the successful operations in which he has been involved, Hackmaster takes pride in "taking folks off the street who could come into contact with your friends or family."

—Lynn Gosnell

Seven UTSA alumni named *Business Journal* rising stars

Seven UTSA alumni were selected by the *San Antonio Business Journal* for inclusion in its 40 Under 40 Rising Stars list, published in December 2008. The journal's annual selection honors those who are making a difference in San Antonio's business and civic community.

93 Nancy E. Ozuna, B.B.A. in accounting, M.P.A. in accounting, is a principal in the Hanke Group PC. Nancy specializes in providing retail company and employee benefit plan audits to clients in the commercial services industry.

97 Rob Killen, B.A. in political science, is a partner of the law firm Kaufman & Killen Inc. Rob is a land use attorney specializing in development rights, creation of special districts, annexation, zoning and governmental relations. He's actively involved in community organizations and is a UTSA Alumni Association board member.

Mary Ellen Trevino, M.B.A. in finance, is the founder of P3S Corporation, a business that works with federal clients in awarding contracts to small businesses. Mary Ellen is a former federal executive with the U.S. Department of the Treasury Franchise Fund–FedSource.

98 Charissa Barnes, B.B.A. in general business, is president of OIS (Official Inspection Stations), a group of seven state vehicle inspection sites in San Antonio. Charissa is a member of the Entrepreneurs Organization, is on the advisory

board of the Alamo Area Council of Governments and is active in the Texas State Inspection Organization, the trade group for the industry.

00 Kaushalya (Kausi) Subramaniam, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is vice president of business development of INTEC, a San Antonio engineering firm. Kausi is the current president of the Alamo Asian American Chamber of Commerce and is involved in other civic ventures.

01 Danny Zimmermann, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is co-founder and principal of Cleary Zimmermann Engineers in San Antonio. He is a design engineer and project manager for the firm, and is responsible for managing the firm's business and financial affairs. He is currently president of the UTSA Alumni Association.

06 Phillip Washington Jr., B.B.A. in finance, is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. He's on the board of the Alamo City Chamber of Commerce and is active in the San Antonio Area African American Community Fund.

Hill High School in Longview, Texas.

Brad Meley, M.B.A. in business, is the vice president of commercial lending for Firstmark Credit Union in San Antonio. Prior to joining Firstmark, Brad spent nine years as a vice president with Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union. He ran his ninth marathon last year.

02 Anthony Gutierrez, B.A. in political science, is deputy executive director of the Texas Democratic Party. Anthony, an El Paso native, has worked on state and federal campaigns across the Southwest.

03 Matthew Grunstra, M.S. in environmental science, Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering '08, has been appointed as a new Earth and Mineral Sciences faculty member at Pennsylvania State–Beaver, effective fall 2009.

April Ancira, M.B.A. in business, is vice president of Ancira Chrysler Jeep and Ancira Nissan. April is a 2009 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalist.

Ke'Ana Antoinette Hardy, B.A. in communication, and Brandon Bailey, were

married Dec. 31, 2008. She is employed by Southern Methodist University. He is attending the University of Texas at Arlington and is employed by Century-21 Judge Fite Company in Dallas. The couple live in Dallas.

04 Robert A. Chavez Jr., B.M. in music, is the author of *Tito Puente and the Mambo: Crossing Musical Borders*. The book examines historical, cultural and musical perspectives relating to the mambo and Tito Puente's influence on this genre and American popular culture as a whole. Robert has had a long career as a trumpeter, international jazz and Latin music arranger/composer, music educator and jazz ensemble director with 24 years of experience in the United States Army Band Program, professional bands, universities, private schools and private studio.

05 Scott Metzger, M.A., in economics, is the founder and operator of Freetail Brewing Co. in San Antonio. The micro-brewery/pub features a number of craft

beers, pizza, salad and sandwiches. The German-style brewpub is a communal place, Metzger says, adding that beer "is a great way to make a new friend." The Freetail name was chosen by Metzger to honor the official Texas flying mammal, the Mexican free-tail bat.

Staci Marshall, M.A. in adult and higher education, is a program specialist at the Leadership Louisville Center in Louisville, Ky. Staci has worked in training and development since 1998 and has expertise in engineering organizational development strategies.

06 Emmy Ruiz, B.A. in English, is national campaign strategist for the National Council of La Raza. Emmy worked in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and subsequently for the Young Democrats of America. She was named Rookie of the Year by the American Association of Political Consultants.

Kirsten W. Corda, M.A. in adult and higher education, recently lobbied members of Congress and the Obama administration on behalf of the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education. Kirsten, a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University, went to Washington with other association representatives to make sure adult education programs were addressed in the federal stimulus package.

Mario Vazquez, B.A. in political science, is supervisor of the contract administration department at NuStar Energy, L.P. and also serves on the board of directors of NuStarPAC, NuStar's political action committee. Mario was recently appointed to the board of directors of KLRN. He also serves on the San Antonio Symphony board of directors and is co-chair of the Mahendra & Kirti Patel Endowed Scholarship at the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio.

07 Catherine Austin, B.B.A. in finance, is the owner of Run Wild Sports, a running specialty store in San Antonio's Pearl Brewery complex. The store offers running shoes, apparel, hydration equipment and healthy snacks.

Marisol Peralez, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, was named Distinguished First-Year Teacher by the Judson Independent School District. Marisol is a fourth- and fifth-grade resource teacher at Spring Meadows Elementary School. Her role is to be a resource for the faculty, staff and administrators and to provide interventions for special-education students.

Tivy Whitlock, M.A. in adult and higher education, has been appointed to the state Committee on Licensing Standards by Texas Gov. Rick Perry. The committee makes recommendations for policy and statutory changes that relate to licensing standards and facility inspections. Tivy, of Mico, Texas, is a continuing education specialist for Northeast Lakeview College. **Mariela "Mayte" Martinez**, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, has been honored as

a 2009 Northside First Year Educator. She teaches at Villarreal Elementary School.

08 Terry Dean Bates, B.A. in communication, was profiled in a February column by Ken Rodriguez in the *San Antonio Express-News*. The column chronicled Terry's journey from homeless drifter and drug addict to college graduate at age 52. Terry says he found help, friendship and eventually sobriety after attending a service at Travis Park United Methodist Church.

Liz Bowers, B.B.A. in management, is working with Terry and Cyndy Bartelli on a new Web site devoted to inexpensive dining in San Antonio. 5DollarDining.com is a repository of local restaurants offering sit-down dining for \$5. It also lists restaurants that offer more expensive, \$10 meals.

IN MEMORIAM

78 Martha Carolyn Schultz Hicks, B.A. in sociology, M.P.A. in public administration '88, passed away Dec. 13, 2008, at her home in Grey Forest, near San Antonio, at the age of 72. A Floresville, Texas, native, she married Edward Ross Hicks in 1956. The couple did two tours of duty in Germany, had three children and settled in San Antonio in 1971. Martha was a real estate broker, a Girl Scout leader for many years, and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the American Business Women's Association. In her free time, Martha loved gardening and reading, and was an avid San Antonio Spurs fan. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church of Helotes, Texas.

Pamela McLain, M.A. in education, died March 20, 2009, at age 57. Pamela had a 35-year career in education, teaching in Cotulla, Poteet, San Antonio, Waco, Houston and Arlington. For the past 23 years, she was a reading specialist at Passmore Elementary in Northside Independent School District, San Antonio.

79 Elizabeth E. Hallmark, B.B.A. in management, passed away March 15, 2009, at age 78. An Oklahoma native, Elizabeth graduated from Alamo Heights High School and co-chaired the school's 60th reunion. Elizabeth dedicated herself to the San Antonio State School and its Volunteer Services Council. As a family member she was active in the Parent Association for Retarded Texans. She received multiple awards for her volunteer services, including Volunteer of the Year for the State of Texas bestowed by then-Gov. Ann Richards.

Barbara Louise Murray Zachary, M.A. in education, passed away March 25, 2009, in San Antonio at the age of 58. She was born in Brady, Texas, and graduated from Melvin High School. She received degrees from Texas Tech University and UTSA. In San Antonio, Barbara worked for Baptist Student Union at San Antonio College, Child Protective Services, and

Tiffany House '05, M.A. '07

Changing lives

Tiffany House was just 11 when she was diagnosed with a rare and often fatal disease called Acid Maltase Deficiency. Doctors told her she wouldn't live into her 20s.

Now 26, House has been called a medical marvel, bucking her prognosis and leading a full life. She is president of the Acid Maltase Deficiency Association, created in 1995 by her parents, Randall and Marylyn House, to assist in funding research on her disease, often called Pompe disease, and to promote knowledge of Pompe. She is also a board member of the International Pompe Association and is the patient representative to the Food and Drug Administration, fighting to extend treatment possibilities to all patients.

"As I see it, when you are dealing with a disease as rare as Pompe, it is vital for patients to learn how to advocate for themselves," says House, who received bachelor's and master's degrees in English from UTSA. She's now in her second year of law school at St. Mary's University and was the first president of the school's Evening Student Bar Association.

Pompe disease is a double-recessive genetic disorder that causes progressive muscle weakness. It is caused by a deficiency of acid alpha-glucosidase, a lysosomal enzyme that breaks down glycogen, converts it to glucose and is required for normal muscle development and function. It occurs in about one in every 40,000 births and affects approximately 5,000 to 10,000 people worldwide.

Most babies with the disease die from cardiac or respiratory complications before their first birthday. House was afflicted with the delayed onset form of Pompe, which is less rapid but also fatal.



Patients who develop symptoms while they are young typically die by the second or third decade of life.

By the time of her diagnosis, House's lungs were functioning at 40 percent of normal. She was given a breathing machine to wear nightly. Her health rapidly declined. But the family never gave up. Shortly after House's diagnosis, her parents created the Acid Maltase Deficiency Association and gathered together a team of researchers from around the world who were working on the disease.

Four years later, they learned of a clinical drug trial in the Netherlands that would eventually change their daughter's prognosis, and her life.

"In 1995 there was nothing, no cure for the disease," House says. "But by 1999, they started trials in the Netherlands. It was the only place they were treating [the] late onset form of the disease."

House was accepted as the first patient to try an experimental enzyme replacement therapy, using first rabbit's milk then Chinese hamster ovary cells to replenish

the acid alpha-glucosidase enzyme her body was lacking.

"It was all very surreal," she says. "There was nothing else to do, so we went with the flow."

In all, the Houses spent \$4.6 million of their own money to fund her treatment and research. And it worked. Not only was the disease halted, but her stamina has also increased. House is able to talk about facing life in the next decade.

Treatment for the disease is now available in the United States, but on a limited basis. Patients routinely get turned away. So House continues advocating for treatment for others, juggling law school, family and friends. Still, she doesn't consider herself a marvel or a savior.

"I haven't done anything spectacular," she says. "All the credit goes to my parents for forming the organization and by getting scientists together to start things. They showed me you don't just give up. You try to find the solution."

—Jason B. Johnson

Presa Community Center where she also served on the board of directors. She worked for the Department of Human Services for 28 years where she administered and managed the food distribution program to schools and day care centers throughout Texas. She retired in January 2009 and received an award as Honorary Commissioner of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

81 Glenn Robert Crain, B.B.A. in accounting, died Dec. 14, 2008, in Bloomington, Ill., after a battle with cancer. He was 52. Glenn spent time as an interpreter and translator in the Far East while in the U.S. Air Force. He worked as a computer analyst and section chief at USAA in San Antonio and held a similar job at State Farm Insurance in Bloomington.

Lisa P. Carlson, B.B.A. in management, passed away Jan. 17, 2009, in Houston at age 54. She was born in San Angelo and moved to the Houston area with her family when she was young, before going to the small town of Cut and Shoot, Texas. While she was in San Antonio in the 1980s, she worked as director of marketing for the 1776 Inc. restaurant company, formed by local entrepreneur Cappy Lawton. In 1986–87, she was the president of the San Antonio chapter of the American Marketing Association. Later in her career, she was marketing manager for the mergers and acquisitions group of NCNB-Texas bank in Dallas. Then she was vice president of marketing for Community Credit Union in Plano before leaving to help found a company, PowerBase Marketing. Lisa moved back to Houston in 1997 and began working for Royal Dutch Shell. She ultimately rose to the position of global director of marketing for Shell Fast Lubes, a position that took her to Europe, China, Australia and Latin America. She served on the board of the UTSA Alumni Association.

Diana Josephine Rivas, B.B.A. in accounting, passed away on Jan. 23, 2009, at age 68. Diana was a graduate of Jefferson High School in San Antonio and attended Incarnate Word College before graduating from UTSA. She was a certified public accountant and had her own tax business.

83 Mary Rosalie Cervantes, B.B.A. in accounting, died Jan. 6, 2009, at age 55. She was a registered nurse for over 10 years. She later returned to school to pursue a degree in accounting from UTSA. She was employed by USAA as an analyst.

84 William A. "Dub" Nash IV, B.B.A. in finance, passed away Feb. 20, 2009, at the age of 47 after a long battle with ALS. Dub played for the inaugural tennis team at UTSA. He had a career in finance and real estate where he worked

Dianne Ayon '08

Following her heart to Africa

For most, a tragedy such as the Rwandan genocide may elicit a sympathetic moment of sadness or a charitable donation. But for Dianne Ayon it drew an investment of heart and hands to help survivors of the brutal 1994 conflict.

Ayon, 22, has just returned from a four-month stint at Urugo St. Joseph, a Catholic orphanage and primary school in Kigali, Rwanda, that houses some of the countless children whose parents were murdered. For Ayon, it was a blessed opportunity to live out the tenets of her religious faith.

"My faith is what led me to come to Rwanda," says Ayon, who grew up in a devout Catholic family. "I remember how we would pray together as a family. ... It was this faith that my parents passed on to me, and the selfless giving of strangers and friends that inspired in me a love for the less fortunate."

To make the biggest impact she could through volunteerism, Ayon requested a mission posting to a Third-World country severely affected by poverty when she signed up with Volunteers International for the Development, Education and Service of young people, or

VIDES. The program is run by the Salesian Sisters, a Catholic religious order, and places volunteers in missions across the globe.

The Rwandan genocide began on April 6, 1994, and saw up to 800,000 Tutsis killed by Hutu militia over a hundred-day span. Most of the killing was done using clubs and machetes, with as many as 10,000 killed each day in the small central African nation, according to the United Human Rights Council.

The orphanage has 58 girls, ages 3 to 17, and the school has approximately 550 students. Ayon taught kindergarten each morning and spent the rest of the day helping other teachers with their classes and helping the girls learn English. But just as satisfying is the time she spent outside of class cooking, doing laundry, playing games and singing songs with the girls who live there.

Ayon contrasts her own happy childhood with the horrors endured by the girls in the orphanage. "These girls are so young and already carry such heavy burdens of pain and suffering," she says. "Many have seen their parents killed before their eyes, some have mothers or fathers who have gone crazy after losing so many loved ones during the genocide."



Most people who lived through the genocide find it "too painful ... to speak about the horrible things they saw and experienced, but their suffering is evident," Ayon says.

Ayon, who graduated from UTSA in 2008 with a B.S. in community health, says she was inspired to do volunteer work by her parents, Maria and Arturo Ayon, who are also UTSA alumni. Her father, who is a professor of physics at UTSA, and her mother, who is director of a learning program at Colonial Hills Elementary School in San Antonio, showed her the importance of helping others through the sacrifices they made to provide for Ayon and her siblings, all of whom attended UTSA.

Now that she's returned to San Antonio, Ayon is searching for a career path. She hopes to teach at a Catholic high school and return to college to work on a master's degree, perhaps in a medical field or theology.

But whatever she does, Ayon says, the children of Rwanda and her experiences of a simple lifestyle there will always be in her heart.

"Everyone can give of themselves, as we have all been blessed with different gifts and talents," Ayon says. "Mother Teresa used to speak of the importance of every single person. 'What I can do, no one else can ... and what you can do, no one else can.'"

For more information on Urugo St. Joseph, visit www.vides.us.

—Jason B. Johnson

for Commerce Savings Association and Reitmeyer Investment Company.

88 Linda Nell Cochran McLean, M.A. in education, of Biloxi, Miss., passed away on March 27, 2009, at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston at the age of 57. Linda was a public school administrator, having served Texas public schools in San Antonio, Dripping Springs, Conroe and Nacogdoches, where she retired as assistant superintendent.

91 Joana L. Clark Schaefer, B.B.A. in accounting, 52, passed away March 4, 2009, in Fort Wayne, Ind. She was employed at Wal-Mart.

93 Ana L. Rodriguez Carter, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, passed away Feb. 5, 2009, at age 47. Ana taught middle

school science at Alan B. Shepard Middle School in San Antonio and served as head of the science department. Ana was a member of Bat Conservation International and was proactive in educating others on their positive environmental impact.

96 Joan Baker Paul, B.A. in history, passed away Feb. 19, 2009, at age 78. Born in New Jersey, Joan traveled to numerous Air Force duty stations in Europe, Asia and the U.S. with her husband, Norman L. Paul. In addition to raising four children, Joan worked for many years at various civilian personnel offices. After her retirement from civil service, she decided to go back to school, and at the age of 65 received her bachelor's degree from UTSA. After Norman's death in 2001, Joan moved to Kingwood, Texas, and

in 2003 married Richard Pennell. Joan loved traveling, painting and gardening, and playing bridge with her many friends at the Kingwood Country Club Ladies Bridge Club.

98 Salvador Talamantez Jr., B.S. in computer science, passed away on Dec. 1, 2008, at age 48. He was born in Pleasanton, Texas, lived in San Antonio and graduated from East Central High School in 1978. He served in the Army and retired in 1994. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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

E-mail: alumni@utsa.edu

Fax: (210) 458-7227

Write: Office of Alumni Programs
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Log on: www.utsa.edu/alumni/profile/

Meet Dr. Dana Forgione

Working to Make Healthcare Affordable

Dr. Forgione is the Janey S. Briscoe Endowed Chair in the Business of Health. A distinguished academic and pioneer in healthcare financial management, his research and writings are leading change in the business of healthcare both in the United States and throughout the world. His consulting work is used by the United States Congress and Texas in formulating policy.

Your support allows scholar practitioners like Dr. Forgione to make a difference at UTSA, nationally and internationally. Together we will address local and global challenges that affect all of us as we build **the Next Great Texas University.**

Learn more at
utsa.edu/give
UTSA®



Right: Wayne Terry '85, Pat Clynes '89 and Jim Mickey '78 stand with pride as Pat receives the Alumnus of the Year Award at the UTSA Alumni Gala in 2000.

Below: Rene Escobedo '84, incoming president of the Alumni Association, congratulates Alicia Treviño '86, outgoing president.



Looking back

Gala times 10

The UTSA Alumni Association will celebrate an important milestone this year—the 10th anniversary of the Alumni Gala. Started in 2000, the gala was the idea of then-association president Alicia Treviño '86. She had successfully developed the event model for the American Institute of Architects San Antonio chapter and was eager to see it come to fruition at UTSA.

Several things came together to make it a success. By the year 2000, there were enough graduates to justify an upscale event to raise scholarship funds. BalloonFest, which had been a main fundraising event for the association, was vulnerable to bad weather and was labor intensive. The association wanted a stylish and sophisticated event where it could present its two most prestigious awards, Alumnus of the Year and the Distinguished Service Award.

The gala has grown every year. The 2000 gala was held at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, and Lisette Murray '89 was the first chairwoman; honorary chairs were Aimee '78 and Ernest Bromley '80. This year the gala chairwoman is Yvonne Fernandez '85, and honorary chairs are Robert and Yolanda Crittenden '92.

—Jane Findling Burton

The 10th annual Alumni Gala is Saturday, Aug. 15, at the Westin La Cantera Resort. To make a reservation, go to www.utsa.edu/alumni/gala or call (210) 458-4133.