Ricardo Romo’s first 10 years at UTSA
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With Reflections as the theme, UTSA’s 10th Alumni Gala will be held Aug. 15.

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**On the cover and on this page**
Photos by Mark McClendon
W hen Ricardo Romo celebrated his 10th anniversary as president of UTSA, he addressed his 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 continue to invest in the position,” wrote Peter Flawn, who served as UTSA president from 1973 to 1978 and is now 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 31 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 Raymond 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.”

And for being a nice guy.

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

—Rebecca Luther
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. Sarabia, 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 space 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, Martha Lebron-Striker and Gabriell Villalobos—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 Sucedo OB-GYN Clinic and the Guadalupe Home for pregnant women escaping abusive relationships.

One of the most exciting developments, says 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 service members receiving rehabilitative treatment at area hospitals.

With continued support and a highly collaborative model, Padilla sees more growth for the Hispanic population, go to UTSA.”

—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.

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 land-locked 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 steeped 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, Luamzi “Brenda” Nematahari, have two children. Kenan Roth, associate director of the UTSA Toney Rieves 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, I told him 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 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 and 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 Zaire.
UTSAs Center for Archaeological Research are examining artifacts they recently discovered at a site dating from 3700 B.C. to A.D. 600. The artifacts were discovered during a three-month dig at Miraflores Park in San Antonio.

The researchers from UTSAs Center for Archaeological Research are examining artifacts they recently discovered at a site dating from 3700 B.C. to A.D. 600. The artifacts were discovered during a three-month dig at Miraflores Park in San Antonio.

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 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 orchestra 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.

“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.”

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
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.

C. Frederick, brother of UTSA librarians, organized the library pioneer in the loop excursion from 1990 to 2002. Kelly died in 2006.

At the ceremony, UTSA’s Vice Provost John H. Fredericks spoke about the dedication of the new library, which is named after Michael Kelly. The library is located in the new Renovation and Wellness Center on the Main Campus.

The new library is 54-feet high, with 16,000 square feet of space. It features four basketball courts, an indoor soccer gym, a juice bar, an indoor climbing wall in Texas, and an indoor track and demonstration kitchen. 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.

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Dr. Christine Johnson, UTSA’s vice president for academic and faculty support and former interim dean of the UTSA Libraries, said, “It is fitting that we remember Michael Kelly with this new library dedicated to him.”

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Stepping up

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

G aylle Nicoll has dedicated much of her research to finding what factors will most encourage people to take the stairs. “In a way, when she steps on an elevator, well … she feels a little guilty,” she says. “But I have to admit I feel like Martha Stewart baking a 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 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 work, we play mostly in buildings. And in so many 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 workday—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 grow 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 Roof Laster

Let there be light

For more than 30 years, UTSA associate psychology professor James Dykes has studied human visual information processing, with a particular interest in the way that the brain balances the firing of the two visual systems. Over that period, most of his research focused on two areas: photopic vision, how people view the world in the daytime, 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 lightproof 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 to simulate colors as seen 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

On the move

The Latino immigrant experience, especially Latinos of African descent, has long been of interest to Margarita Machado-Casas, an associate professor in the bilingual studies department. And a recent memorandum of agreement between UTSA and Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (IECU) 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.

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, bilinguality and/or multilingual development are examined. Of particular note, the study explores how identity shifts are negotiated after Afro-Latinos migrate to the United States.

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 activity.

Troyer maintains a nest of nearly 50 birds whose songs he listens to 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. Birdsong is used as a model for understanding how the brain controls 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.
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 Hecit 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. That’s how we’re expanding to include football for the first time.”

“Larry Coker is a big name,” Hickey says. “This is a huge opportunity for UTSA Athletics.”

Coker had a plan. Already he has hired three assistant coaches and brought in his first round of players. “I’m excited about playing in the Alamodome, calling it a big ‘wow’ factor. He knows he has his staff work on filling the stands, and he has his 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 quarter-backing, 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 was the Rose Bryant and American Football Coaches Association Coach of the Year 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 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 hard-to-gain a few more inches of ground. “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 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 game days. There was no adrenaline rush. There are no wins to enjoy or losses to endure when the games aren’t. “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 every day he sticks to the plan and works through the ups and downs, and you leave the stadium, and you really don’t know if you’ve won or lost.”

“Larry Coker is probably the nicest man I’ve ever met,” Hickey 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’s really a detailed plan,” he says. “That’s Larry’s real 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 make the moves 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 March. Now somebody get this man a clipboard and whistle. He has practices to plan.

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

W

FIRST AND GOALS

By Leigh Anne Gullett

Coker, Hickey have plans to score big with Roadrunner football

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rockett one of best in Southland Conference history

Senior All-America center Rockett put a stamp on one of the finest careers in Southland Conference history as he ended his spring as he set league career records for assists, blocks, rebounds and total bases. The Sugar Land, Texas, native also set a SLC all-time record for blocks. He ended his final season in navy blue and orange with an impressive list of honors, including being a pre-season first-team All-American, a 2008 second-team All-Southland 50 percent player and All-Southland Freshman of the Year.

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, TX. SLC Player of the Year Monica Gibbs and SLC Tournament MVPyria Littles had 25 points 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-seeded 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 her 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 Wells (heptathlon) and juniors Teddy Williams (60 meters, 200 meters) and Johnathan Whitaker (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 (105) 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

Juniors 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. Mecke carries a 3.95 GPA in mechanical engineering. She won the conference’s cross country, mile and 4x800 meters and anchored the distance relay to top honors. Pawlaczyk maintains a 3.32 GPA in biology and chemical lab, and is ranked second in the league with 1.7 miles per game. She has averaged 10.8 points and 9 rebounds per contest.

What’s the latest? Go to www.gouta.com for the latest in Roadrunner sports.
Compounding interest

Economics professor stresses both research and teaching

By Jenny Moore

Up 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 self. 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 is 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 novelty 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 minor 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 getting students to think in terms of international economics.

"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 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 supporting 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.”

Less 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.

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

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, ship to the University of Texas at Austin. The only four-year institutions in the city were private, and with two affordable public institution or stay at home and attend community college. Yet, trying to achieve more, not necessarily for yourself, but for that all students, regardless of background.

Marymount University, where he received a master's in history. He earned a track scholar-ships, a record that lasted 41 years. He continued his education at Loyola University of New Orleans, 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 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 84 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.

“Student engagement is a key to our success. I like walking across campus at different hours of the day and seeing engaged students, 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 say ‘holly moley, 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.

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 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 84 bachelor’s, 47 master’s and 21 doctoral degrees.

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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

A 19th century home by famed Texas architect Alfred Giles was Marble 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 children 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 pensmanship 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 is the family tree and it’s a good thing we’ve been properly preserving it,” says journalist and UTSA professor Linda Ferguson. “We’re collecting them to put on display so people can see what it is like living in a romance novel.”

The Carter family papers provide a fascinating look back at how things really were. “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’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 charitable contributions at jails and 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 Port 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 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.

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papers stored away in trunks remained untouched by anything but silver-fish 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 and the streetcar that ran through the city. With one, he says, were sworn haphazardly across the attic floor for decades.

Most families throw away groceries 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 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 sealed 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 keeping 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.’”

One person’s junk, another’s treasure

In an age of text messages, e-mails and Twitter, people’s lives aren’t written 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.”

There is going to be less output to try to collect in a physical form. “Who writes letters as much as we used to?” Wittenbach asks. “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.”

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

Fielding San Antonio.
Here, we follow some of this lineage.

At the heart of the Carter family papers are those written by Aline B. Carter, Port Laureate of Texas in the 1940s, in diaries, manuscripts and letters. She often wrote of her ancestors and their sometimes tumultuous adventures in Fielding San Antonio. Here, we follow some of this 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 (1859–1938) and William H. Roebuck (1817–1907), Aline’s great-grandparents, were married in 1862 in Tennessee. They moved to San Antonio when 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 Roebuck’s death, Elizabeth married Henry Chapman Canterbury, with whom she had four children.

James Wilson Roebuck, son of Elizabeth and Wilson Roebuck and Aline’s great-grandfather, served in the Civil War and later became a wholesale and retail dealer in general mercantile in El Rio Grande.

Sarah Elizabeth Riddle Eager (1862–1947), daughter of Elizabeth and Wilson Roebuck and Aline’s grandmother, married Robert Eager of Edinburg, Texas. She died in 1939.

Florencio Eager Robinson (1840–1900), Aline’s aunt, was a popular member of San Antonio society and avid reader. She was married to U.S. Army Major Harris Lee Roberts.

An artist who had studied in New York, Florence illustrated her great friend Clara Driscoll’s book titled by the Women of the Alamo.

Blanche Eager Badger (1867–1947), twin sister of Florence and Aline’s mother, married Frank J. Badger. They had two children, Charles and Blanche (1900–1960) and Aline.

Fannie Henrietta Eager McCollough (1899–1972), Aline’s aunt, married Edmund J. McCollough in 1938. He was a partner of Banning & McCollough Wholesale Druggists in Galveston. They had three children.

Aline Badger Carter (1902–1972) was widely known for her published works as a poet—she was the Poet Laureate of Texas from 1947 to 1949—but she also had a keen interest in art, music, philosophy, religion and astronomy. Known as the “Angel of Art,” Aline was widely admired for her charity work. In 1945 she married Henry Chapman Carter (1893–1960), a well-known San Antonio lawyer.
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 funny? 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 Yacaman.

“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 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 better and more efficient and cheaper, as well as developing better armor for military vehicles and creating improved anti-bacterial. Nanoparticles of silver already are used as an antibacterial in developing better armor for military vehicles and creating improved anti-cancer treatments.

“Nanoparticles is one of the great ways to fight bacteria, but then of course there are many others—include finding a substitute for pricey silicon crystals that can be used to make better and more efficient and cheaper, as well as developing better armor for military vehicles and creating improved anti-bacterial,” says Bruce Nicholson, chair of the department of biochemistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. “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 Yacaman’s, Paul notes a discovery 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. Yacaman found that the Maya blue, as it had come to be called, contained clay with nanoparticles of metal that kept the blue intact for centuries.

“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? Yacaman 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.

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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.

“The fact that he is getting the new aberration-corrected microscope was a great bonus, although I would have come anyway even if he didn’t 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 to microscopy fire power at UTSA to trading up from a Volkswagon to a fine Maserati.

“Once the level of detail you have to have for 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.”

A magnet for students

The chance to work under Yacaman 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.

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“A great device to use in 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 offers such resolution that it’s sort of way above what anyone can imagine.”

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The chance to work under Yacaman 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.

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Nelson Hackmaster, ’99

Right place, right time

The story of how Nelson Hackmaster ’99 joined the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) has nothing to do with his asthma, his favorite fictional heroes or the fact that finding fugitives is on his 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.S. in criminal justice at UTSA. The right place, specifically, was the office of Patricia Harris, then an associate director 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 undeclared senior who was finishing up a degree interrupted by a year-seminar in the Air Force, applied and was accepted into the 26-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 become known for its role in enforcing the Adam Walsh Child Safety and Security Act, which provides for the establishment of a national sex offender registration program.

“Over the past several years, we’ve had more and more articles documenting the severity of offenders, the need to designate sex offenders, the large number of sexual predators – particularly in the state of Texas,” Hackmaster says. “There’s something for everybody depending on your likes and talent.”

A self-described Navy brat, Hackmaster was born in Spain and spent time in Cuba and other locations before his family settled in Alief, Texas, where he finished high 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 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 2006, Hackmaster was head of the Border Operations Unit, which launched the so-called “FAST” initiative, a new program designed to help kids understand and appreciate the principles of engineering. The group’s goal was to help kids understand and appreciate the principles of engineering.

Hackmaster’s current assignment is as a liaison between the U.S. Marshals Service and the San Antonio region and additional studies at the University of Texas Health Science Center’s Allied Health Faculty. Capitol in TriBeCa. Susman is studying English, and Alexis Leigh Susman were married March 21 in New York. Henry is a graduate of MacArthur High School.

Caleb Royal, B.A., is a programmer analyst with CPS Energy. She is a 2009 ATHENA Young Professional Award finalist. She was recently named coach of the year at Steele High School in Cibolo, Texas. She completed a term as president of the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County in Fort Worth, and has served as a legislative assistant at the Washington Market since 2008. Prior to seminary, she had careers in strategic planning, grant making, programs and policy activities. Tammy has worked more than 15 years in state and local mental health areas providing psychiatric care, computer training and workshops, employment coaching and job development, program development and advocacy services. She is the outreach program director for the Mental Health Association of Tarrant County in Fort Worth. She was a graduate of MacArthur High School.

She works primarily in pen and ink, employing her technical background in architecture and buildings. Caleb, owner of Royal Architecture, is interim chair of the Depart- ment of Occupational Therapy at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Susman is studying English, and Alexis Leigh Susman were married March 21 in New York. Henry is a graduate of MacArthur High School.

Tammy Tezne, B.S., is psychology, was named artist of the month in April by the Brush Country Art-Crafts Club, owner of Royal Framing in Plano. Tezne 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, Cal- bolt spent time in Athens, Ga., where he worked in a dental lab. Eventually, he moved back to his home- town of Plano to open his own business.

Raymond Rivers, D.I., is electrical- engineering major at UTSA, B.A. in business, and is the owner of Bury + Partners. Prior to Bury + Partners, Rivers worked at Jacobson Carter Bury where he was a project manager. He is also a licensed engineer in the states of Texas, North Carolina and New Mexico. Cathy Starnes, B.A., is the director of Development and Counseling. Victoria Wilson, B.A., is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin for 1980, and was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Austin for 15 years. She served them by providing programs for alumni.

The Alumni Association will honor two alumni with Alumni 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 SWCO. The Distinguished Service Award recipient is Alfonso Barrientes III, group vice president, warehouse operations and Mexico supply chain for H-E-B. Table sponsorships are available at Diamond level for $5,000; Emerald level for $3,500 and 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 ’88, Honorary chair are Yolanda ’92 and Robert Cottenden. Yolanda is vice president for the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Dressed 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.

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“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.”

—Lynne Goellnitz

Nelson Hackmaster ’99
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. The journal’s annual selection honorees are those who are making a difference in San Antonio’s business and civic community.

Nancy E. Ozuna, B.B.A. in accounting, M.A. in accounting, is a principal at the San Antonio office of Grant Thornton LLP. Nancy specializes in providing retail and commercial clients with guidance to clients in the commercial service industry.

Robert A. Chavez Jr., B.A., in mechanical engineering, is vice president of Commercial Development for HEB, a San Antonio-based engineering firm. Chavez is the current president of the Alumni Association. He is co-founder and is a UTSA alumni member.

Daisy Zimmerman, B.M. in mechanical engineering, is a founder and principal of Daisy Zimmerman Engineers in San Antonio. He is designing and project manager for the firm, and is responsible for managing for the firm’s business and financial needs. He is currently president of the UTSA Alumni Association.

Philip Washington Jr., B.B.A. in finance, is a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual. He has over 20 years of experience working with clients in San Antonio. He is a member of the UTSA Alumni Association.

Kathryn (Kassy) Sanchez, B.A. in mechanical engineering, is a vice president of Commercial Development for HEB, a San Antonio-based engineering firm. Kassy is the current president of the Alumni Association. She is a UTSA Alumni member.

Debbie Hernandez, M.S. in higher education, is a program specialist at Texas Tech University. She serves as the director of the Texas Tech University Career Center and is a member of the UTSA Alumni Association.

Tracey Rau, B.A. in English, is national campaign strategist for the National Council of La Raza. Tracey worked in Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign and subsequently for the Young Democrats of America. She was named one of the “1000 Young Americans” for the Year by the American Young Democrats. She is co-founder of the organization and is the director for the industry.

Kasulaya (Kassy) Sanchez, B.A. in mechanical engineering, is a vice president of Commercial Development for HEB, a San Antonio-based engineering firm. Kassy is the current president of the Alumni Association. She is a UTSA Alumni member.

Debbie Hernandez, M.S. in higher education, is a program specialist at Texas Tech University. She serves as the director of the Texas Tech University Career Center and is a member of the UTSA Alumni Association.

Prior to joining Firstmark, Brad spent federal campaigns across the Southwest. Marc was a field director for the official Texas Flying Zine. He is an advocate for health care reform and is a member of the Texas Health Care Association, the trade group for the industry.

Anthony Ancira, B.B.A. in accounting, M.S. in economics, is a Young Professional Award finalist. He is the founder of Ancira Nissan. April is a 2009 ATHENA Award recipient.

The journal’s annual selection honorees are those who are making a difference in San Antonio’s business and civic community.

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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, 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 VEDES. 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 Nations Human Rights Council. The orphanage has 58 girls, ages 3 to 17, and the school has approximately 500 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 sales and services, says she was inspired to do volunteer work by her parents, Maria and Arturo Ayon. 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

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. The United States Congress and Texas have used his consulting work 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

For more information contact the UTSA® Alumni Programs.

E-mail: alumni@utsa.edu
Fax: (210) 458-7227
Web site: 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/
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.