

SOMBRILLA

WINTER 2010 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO



Football. It's Here.



The first football game is still several months away, but UTSA is already celebrating.
PHOTO BY MARK MCCLENDON

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Are You Ready?

UTSA football has been years in the making, carefully coordinated and deliberately shaped by a host of players. Now, with the first football game less than a year away, this is the season of dreams for the Roadrunners and a new day for the university.

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At UTSA, more than 14,000 students are the first in their families to attend college. That's almost half of the student population. These students face challenges and burdens far beyond just getting good grades.

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LETTERS



The Gift of Humanity

Congratulations on the depth of the article (Summer 2010 *Sombrilla*) that goes far beyond the consumer behavior analysis. As a daughter of Holocaust

survivors, I appreciate the emotional portrait of the victims, the intensity of the investigation and its diffusion. This research shows only one of many topics worth studying related to the Holocaust. Kudos to professors Tina Lowrey and

Jill Klein for their excellent investigation.
LILA GROSZ '98
San Antonio

I would hope that if the *Journal for Consumer Research* continues to pass on publishing the paper (on gift giving in Nazi concentration camps) that the authors will consider the *Journal for the Society of American Archaeology* or other anthropological offerings. This sounds like astonishing work with potential wide application.
ANDREW MALOF '01
Austin

This is a beautiful idea for research and I can't wait to see the end result. I've always been interested in the stories from the concentration camps, but I never thought about how the smallest works of kindness between prisoners meant so much to people, even years later. Thank you so much for this!
ARIELLE ARRINGTON
Jacksonville, Texas

Ambassadors of Goodwill

I am so impressed with the three students profiled in

your story (Summer 2010 *Sombrilla*). The future doctor, lawyer and scientist were no doubt born with big dreams of changing the world for the better. Now, this Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship (which I hadn't before heard of) has given them the opportunity to see the world and incorporate serving others into their chosen field. That these young people have had their careers shaped in part by UTSA speaks volumes for the university.
SHELLEY WARREN
Dallas

Looking Back

Please note that the date reported for the creation of our Roadrunner hand sign (Summer 2010 *Sombrilla*) was incorrect. I have no doubt that the Sigma Phi Epsilon were the creators as I was there at Wursthof that year. However, after playing golf with your two sources, Charles Guerra and Eddie Rios, at our second annual SigEp alumni golf tournament, it was concluded that the correct date must have been the fall of 1980. Thank you for making sure this piece of UTSA history is accurately reported. Go Roadrunners.
C. LEE ROGERS '84
San Antonio

Write Back!

We'd love to hear from you! How do you think we're doing? Got any comments about the stories you've seen here? What do you think about the new look? Contact us at sombrilla@utsa.edu. Or mail your letters to Sombrilla Editor, Office of Creative Services, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

SOMBRILLA

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Change is scary, isn't it?

It's also invigorating and thrilling. And maybe, just maybe, it forces you to think beyond the obvious, to stretch and grow.

Sombrilla has changed. We are bolder, with large colorful fonts and vivid photography. But though it may look different, the heart of *Sombrilla* remains untouched.

For 26 years, *Sombrilla* has told the UTSA story through strong writing and creative illustrations and photography. We've covered new university presidents, the thought-provoking research conducted by our faculty and the accomplishments of our students and graduates. We've followed our alumni long after they crossed the stage. And we've documented the university's metamorphosis from a mostly commuter campus with little student life to a thriving and bustling one with (yes, finally!) a football team.

Those things won't change.

The decision to give *Sombrilla* a facelift didn't occur overnight. For more than a year, we wrestled with what we would alter and how. Our main goal: to make the magazine reflective of today's UTSA. The last time *Sombrilla* was redesigned was in 2002. UTSA certainly isn't the same university that it was then.

How would you describe today's UTSA? We think it's vibrant, multicultural, youthful, academic and fun. That's what *Sombrilla* should be. And that's what it is now.

Probably the first thing you'll notice is our new cover. The big, white letters of the 2002 *Sombrilla* have been replaced by a hand-drawn, triple-line font, reminiscent

of the logo from the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico. That logo, based on traditional forms, was created to honor the Mexican culture. We use it now as a way to showcase the diversity inherent on our campuses. The lines are also a tribute to our namesake, the Sombrilla, UTSA's identifying landmark and architectural centerpiece.

Inside, you'll see shorter news items scattered throughout the front of the magazine, now called The Paseo. We felt that *paseo*, which is "stroll" in Spanish, was the perfect word to describe the journey we take you on as we highlight UTSA's pathway to knowledge and to Tier One.

In the back of the magazine you'll notice a more robust alumni section called Community. This section helps you reconnect with your classmates as well as with the university. And we now feature Alumni Association news so that you always have a way to come back home.

It's true that *Sombrilla* looks entirely different. But it remains your magazine, your way to dialogue with the university. That's something that simply won't change.

We hope you enjoy your new *Sombrilla*.

Saludos,

Lety Laurel

Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed.

—IRENE PETER, AUTHOR



The redesign of *Sombrilla* took several months. Pictured at left, the team from the Office of Creative Services reviews the first concept of the magazine. From left to right: Larry L. Lopez, Joe Michael Feist, Lety Laurel, Patrick Ray Dunn, Karen Thurman, Tom Palmer and Kristina Leh.

THE PASEO

A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS

“It comes down to tomorrow’s leaders and making a difference in how they think.”

Les Shephard is the director of the Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute and holds the USAA Robert F. McDermott Distinguished Chair in Engineering. PHOTO BY MATT WRIGHT-STEEL

The Energy Man BY LETY LAUREL

IT’S VETERANS DAY. LES SHEPHARD, WEARING AN American flag tie and eating lunch at his desk, is reflective. He’s thinking about Sept. 11, 2001.

For Shephard, director of UTSA’s Texas Sustainable Energy Research Institute, it’s personal. He spent almost 30 years tackling energy issues at Sandia National Laboratories in the name of national security. Even though there was nothing he could have done to prevent the attacks, he feels some responsibility.

“Veterans Day brings me back to 9/11 and what’s good for the country,” he said. “[At Sandia,] we were dedicated to exceptional service in the national interest. When that happened ... you take those things very personally.”

Eight months into his new job at UTSA, he’s still committed to doing what’s best for the country.

“It’s still service to the country, but it’s a different kind of service,” he said. “It comes down to tomorrow’s leaders and making a difference in how they think. I want to share with them the things I’ve learned, both the mistakes and the successes, and hopefully allow them to make a difference in the future.”

LOFTY GOALS

Hiring Shephard could be one of the most important moves for UTSA at a time when the university is vying for Tier One status, said President Ricardo Romo.

“Energy research has been one of UTSA’s top priorities, and Les brings a vast amount of experience and connections,” he said. “This institute is going to be globally recognized because it will tackle energy issues comprehensively.”

Shephard’s goal as director of TSERI is a lofty one: to unite representatives from industry, government and academia to explore alternative energy sources. He will investigate the best practices for the energy industry in the region, nation and around the world. The institute will receive \$50 million over 10 years from CPS Energy to research alternative energy and is tasked with involving every college at UTSA, as well as other centers and institutes, in doing so.

With a strong emphasis on collaboration, the institute will work within the Energy Research Alliance of San Antonio, a partnership among UTSA, Southwest Research Institute, CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System.

But what Shephard is most excited about is the opportunity to teach the new generation of energy experts, he said. In the spring, he’ll teach his first energy-related class, one that he developed. The class is called Sustainable Energy Systems—Realizing America’s Energy Future. It will explore national and global energy trends and the difficulties of meeting future energy needs with current practices.

“To me, my job is to ultimately help [students] create >>



“If you spend time at the university, you can see [UTSA is] a reflection of tomorrow’s America. The students are diverse, cosmopolitan, engaged and committed.”

—Les Shephard, DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, at its open house July 8.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$48.7m

total research spending for FY 2010



//IN BRIEF//

Orchestra, Kansas Rock

The '70s rock band Kansas, known for hits such as *Carry on Wayward Son* and *Dust in the Wind*, performed with the UTSA Orchestra in a benefit concert Sept. 17 in Trinity University's Laurie Auditorium. About 1,400 attended the concert, commemorating the band's 35th anniversary. It raised \$8,000 for music scholarships. The event was a musical milestone for the 70-member UTSA Orchestra, adding rock music to its repertoire. The students have performed classical symphonies, operas, jazz concerts and, most recently, mariachi with Mariachi Vargas.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$50m

will be invested by CPS Energy over 10 years to support energy research at UTSA

their own vision for who they are and what they are going to do as individuals when they leave the university," Shephard said. "Hopefully, sustainability will be a big part of that, because that in turn will help change the world and create leaders for the global community. That's my desire."

SIMPLY ORDINARY

Shephard has testified before Congress and led 1,500 employees at Sandia, one of the largest national security



Before arriving at UTSA, Les Shephard worked for nearly three decades at Sandia National Laboratories researching solar power and other alternative energy options. PHOTO BY RANDY MONTOYA, COURTESY OF SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES

"I think we have an inherent responsibility to enable those in other parts of the world to experience what we have and the joy it brings."

labs, for almost three decades. But at heart, he is an "average American," said Christine Olejniczak, business operations manager for the institute.

"He's not outside of the mainstream, so when he talks about problems and success, they are things that a lot of people can relate to because he's not living a life that takes place in any kind of extreme or fringe," she said.

Shephard is uncomfortable with the attention he has received since joining UTSA. He insists he's just an ordinary guy who doesn't really like to talk about himself. He earned both a master's degree and doctorate in oceanography from Texas A&M University because of his appreciation for the oceans and the environment. At A&M, the oil industry was a focus, so it was a natural evolution to concentrate on energy issues, he said.

Like many San Antonio residents, Shephard's home isn't solar powered. He drives a 2002 Jeep Wrangler instead of an electric car. His love of cycling, which stems more from its recreational and health benefits than its environmental ones, is evident in the bumper stickers on his Jeep and the vivid yellow Livestrong bracelet he wears. He purchased that bracelet while in France to watch the 2005 Tour de France.

"I'm just a regular old guy who enjoys life and enjoys what I'm doing and enjoys other people," he said.

In fact, it's his love of family and community that Shephard said drives him. Sitting on his desk is a cluster of framed pictures of his wife and high school sweetheart, Darlene, to whom he's been married for nearly 39 years, as well as pictures of his three children and one grandchild. A dry-erase board that hangs in his office holds Shephard's notes and, on the top left side, a message from his daughter written in red reading, "We [heart] Dad."

For Les and Darlene Shephard, an ideal Saturday is outdoors, with evenings spent at a local honky-tonk, drinking a cold beer with friends. They love to brag about their children, all of them educators, and their 5-year-old English sheepdog, Berkeley.

"Family comes first, his faith, his country," Darlene Shephard said of her husband. "He works really hard. He's very committed to whatever he decides to do. And it shows in his track record."

"Commitment is a big part of who I am," Shephard agreed. "It's my commitment to the country, commitment to what I'm providing to this institution

and city, commitment to my family and commitment to making the world a better place."

GETTING PERSONAL

Energy is the key to making the world a better place, Shephard said.

"I think energy and water, sustainability, clearly play a very important role [in the world]," he said. "It's well understood that energy is the key to economic prosperity and with that comes many other benefits—education, technology that serves society and a number of other things that are very important."

Despite a struggling economy, Shephard believes that the U.S. is in an enviable position.

"I think we have an inherent responsibility to enable those in other parts of the world to experience what we have and the joy it brings," he said.

And that's what he sees as his job, to spread knowledge to the rest of the world by educating the next generation of scientists and researchers. Once again becoming reflective, Shephard talks about his life—the decades he's shared with his wife, what he's learned along the way and all the things he has yet to do.

"You come to a place in life where the amount of time you have left versus the time you have spent here are disproportionate," Shephard said. "You start to focus on things you can do with the amount of time you have left so that you can make a difference."

Energy will continue to be a global challenge, he said, one that will outlive him. And so it's with the younger generation that energy solutions lie.

"We're creating citizen leaders," he said. "That fires my jets." \$



Mary E. McKinney (top right) taught at St. Margaret Mary Catholic School for five years before retiring. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Greatest Gift

Former schoolteacher leaves a legacy **BY LETY LAUREL**

MONTHS AFTER FORMER SCHOOL teacher Mary E. McKinney died, her financial records and personal correspondence sat in seven bright green woven baskets, piled hip-high in corners of an office at Jefferson Bank.

But even these boxes held few clues about McKinney, the San Antonio native who liked her privacy almost as much as her signature hot-pink lipstick. They certainly don't explain why she bequeathed millions of dollars to UTSA.

"She never said why she was giving to UTSA," said Robert E. Wehmeyer Jr., division president of trust and private asset management of Jefferson Bank and executor of the estate. "We certainly weren't aware of the bequest until we probated her will."

Her estate gift, estimated at \$22 million, is the largest single private gift in university history. It is also the largest gift to be given in higher education in Texas this year. Included is a portfolio of stocks and municipal bonds as well as three parcels of ranch land in Frio and Atascosa counties totaling 5,240 acres. This lush but nondescript land, sprinkled with wildflowers and cacti, ponds and cattle—and, symbolically, roadrunners—also sits atop the Eagle Ford Shale, considered to be the most significant U.S. oilfield discovery in the last 40 years.

It wasn't until after McKinney died in November that the

importance of the property was discovered. The real estate portion of her gift alone is valued at \$13 million and includes surface rights and oil and gas rights to the three ranches. UTSA has signed a mineral lease for one of the Frio County ranches, entitling the university to a 25 percent royalty on production, and is working on similar deals on the other two properties.

The money will continue to fund The Felix and Elizabeth McKinney Memorial Scholarship Fund, created by McKinney in 1994 in honor of her parents.

University officials anticipate that it will help hundreds of students every year.

"Let me tell you, her gift is going to continue to be transformational," said President Ricardo Romo. "With the mineral rights, we expect that generous bequest will be giving to the university even more for many years to come. This will change the lives of generations of UTSA students."

MODEST BEGINNINGS

McKinney, who was born in 1930, grew up on the South Side of San Antonio. She was the only child of Felix and Elizabeth (Dee) Carnes McKinney. Her father was a locomotive engineer for Southern Pacific Railroad and her mother was a homemaker. Neither of them had a formal education, but they had a love of learning.

"They were determined to provide a university education for their daughter," Romo said. >>



//IN BRIEF//

Farewell, HSS

In November, the U.T. System Board of Regents approved renaming the Humanities and Social Sciences Building the McKinney Humanities Building to recognize Mary E. McKinney's estate gift to UTSA and the other contributions she made to the university throughout her life.

//IN BRIEF//

Latina Leader

Lisa Firmin, associate provost for faculty and student diversity and recruitment, was named a National Latina Leader by the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Firmin, who retired from the Air Force as a colonel in July, was honored for distinguished service in the U.S. Armed Forces. She was the highest-ranking Latina.

BY THE NUMBERS

30

New faculty hires
for 2010–11

“The purpose of the Bible is not to teach us how the heavens were made but how to go to heaven.”

—Francisco Ayala, EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGIST, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, AND WINNER OF THE TEMPLETON PRIZE, at the UTSA Provost’s Distinguished Lecture on April 28

//IN BRIEF//

We Salute You

UTSA is a friend to the military, according to *G.I. Jobs Magazine*.

The mag recently ranked the university among the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide for embracing veterans as students. UTSA had 1,342 vets enrolled during spring 2010 and 1,283 in 2009.

And they did. McKinney graduated from Trinity University in 1950 with a bachelor of arts and in 1952 received a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

“She was very interested in education and felt strongly that people should be well read and well educated and know what is going on in the world,” Wehmeyer said.

McKinney taught for 25 years in public and private schools around San Antonio, retiring from St. Margaret Mary Catholic School on the Southeast Side. After she retired, McKinney once again pursued her own education, enrolling in 11 post-graduate courses at UTSA from 1992 to 1996.

An avid reader who spent many hours in the John Peace Library, “she had one whole room [in her home] devoted to books; there were bookshelves even in the closet,” said Laura Gonzales, a trust officer with Jefferson Bank who worked closely with McKinney. Some of those books are now in UTSA’s rare books and Texana collections.

It was after receiving a C in her Chaucer class that McKinney gave up her hopes of earning a second master’s degree. She stopped attending classes, but continued to make her mark on the university. As the story goes, McKinney was waiting in line one day to register for classes. All around her were students talking about their struggles with financial aid.

“She had overheard them talking about the difficulties they were having paying their tuition,” said Betty Murray Halff ’76, former director of development for UTSA. “She was alarmed by that information and immediately wanted to do something that would help.”

Soon after, she developed the memorial scholarship. Her gifts to the university began modestly—her first one was \$4,000—but she made consistent gifts each year. By the time she died in 2009, her lifetime contribution was nearly \$250,000.

The McKinney ranch land had been passed down through her mother’s family. Her father slowly added to the acreage, using his life savings to purchase some parcels at \$10 an acre.

McKinney inherited her parents’ frugality along with the land. She also coveted her privacy, often preferring to give anonymously.

“She was such an independent lady, she hated for us to make a big deal over her,” said Marjie French, vice president for university advancement. “She downplayed everything.”

HOT-PINK LIPSTICK

McKinney was a petite woman who often appeared shy. But that was completely misleading, Halff said. “She was slight

in stature but strong in character and huge in moral fortitude,” she said.

In fact, those who knew McKinney said her signature lipstick was a rebellion against her father, who would never have approved of the bold color.

“She was poised, well-groomed and unassuming,” said Linda Lopez-George, executive director of development. “She was special.”

She also loved fashion. Often, she’d pepper women she encountered with questions about their handbags and shoes. But McKinney’s most important accessory was her cat, Francois.

“She’d wear him on her shoulder,” Gonzales said.

McKinney detested asking anyone for help because she



Mary E. McKinney’s estate gift to UTSA included three parcels of ranch land in Frio and Atascosa counties. The land sits atop the Eagle Ford Shale, considered to be the most significant U.S. oilfield discovery in the last 40 years.

McKinney ranch land totaling 5,240 acres

SAN ANTONIO

didn’t want to become dependent on it. Determined and strong with a lot of spunk, she also took kickboxing classes, often going to the gym four or five times a week.

In the two decades that she gave to UTSA, more than 100 students benefitted from her scholarship. She saved thank-you notes from those students—they were included in the seven green baskets containing her personal papers at Jefferson Bank.

In large script on notebook paper, one student thanks McKinney for helping her “achieve her dreams” without having to sacrifice more for her children. “Being a single mother and attending UTSA full time, this scholarship will help me to tend to our needs, which will in turn help me to study and concentrate with less of life’s little stresses,” it reads.

McKinney’s gift will continue to change lives, Halff said.

“How many students will carry her name and her parents’ name on their résumé going forward? Hundreds,” she said. “She will be memorialized in ways that she never imagined.” §

//IN BRIEF//

It’s Art, UC

Gallery 23, which will showcase artwork by students, faculty, staff and alumni, opened Sept. 1 in the University Center. The first exhibitor was UTSA President Ricardo Romo, whose photos taken during a recent trip to Africa capture the warmth of the people and the stark beauty of the continent and its animal kingdom. Gallery 23, which plans to host five exhibitions a year, is in UC 1.02.23, near the Fiesta Dancers entrance.

PHOTO COURTESY RICARDO ROMO



BY THE NUMBERS

No.1

Ranking of Hispanic graduates in biological sciences and architecture programs by *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*



The Reality of Hope

BY RUDY ARISPE

TEN YEARS AGO, JILL GRAPER HERNANDEZ was at a crossroads in life, so much so that her thesis director in graduate school at Texas A&M University noticed a change in her personality, although it was nothing odd or disruptive.

"One day, he pulled me out of class," Hernandez said, "and he said, 'Graper, what are you doing? You need to decide if these choices you are making are going to be the beginning of you or the end of you.'"

He then suggested that Hernandez read the works of French existentialist Gabriel Marcel (1889–1973). Existentialism, Hernandez said, is an idea that we exist, fundamentally, as bodies. Therefore, any type of experience we have when we think about our place in the world begins with our body—and the limitations of the body.

Marcel's philosophy within existentialism is that a meaningful life can be found despite living in a dark and depressing society marred by war, disease and poverty, and complicated by technology and globalization.

His words struck a chord with Hernandez, who went on to earn her doctorate in philosophy in 2006 from the University of Memphis.

"It's weird to think that things like that are life changing, but they are," she said. "Marcel was the first person in philosophy to be able to do that to me."

Marcel's writings had such a profound effect on Hernandez

"The notion of hope is hot, but we don't know what it means...It can give heat to our dreams."

that the assistant professor of philosophy is currently on leave from her academic duties at UTSA to work on her book, which will be titled *An Ethics of Hope: Evil, God, and Virtue in the Work of Gabriel Marcel*.

Marcel's works, Hernandez explained, had been relatively unknown for decades. But a new interest in his beliefs emerged a few years ago, specifically his notion of hope as "opportunities

to flourish," the professor said. The re-emergence of Marcel coincided with the 2008 presidential campaign, in which Barack Obama campaigned on the theme of hope.

"Today, [Marcel's] work is in vogue," said Hernandez, who has been teaching ethics, history of philosophy, and philosophical literature courses at UTSA since 2007.

"This book is going to be the first that borrows from his literary and personal correspondence."

Although two books have been written on Marcel's thoughts pertaining to metaphysics, *Aspects of Alterity* (2006)



Gabriel Marcel

"When you have faith that's matched up with that creative hope, then you're able to create opportunities not only for yourself but for other people to be impacted and make this world better."

by Brian Treanor, and *The Vision of Gabriel Marcel* (2008) by Brendan Sweetman, Hernandez said nothing has been written on his ethics, "which is what [my] book is about. And his notion of hope, but not what we understand hope to be."

Her book, she said, will complement the previous books and appeal to students and professionals interested in pluralist philosophy, philosophy of religion and continental philosophy. The writing will be tailored toward someone with a basic knowledge of philosophy but who is not familiar with Marcel.

"I think there are several reasons why [it will be] a great book," Hernandez said. "The notion of hope is hot, but we don't know what it means. This will give people a notion of what hope can do. It can give heat to our dreams."

"It will show people the reason that faith without doing something is wishful thinking. When you have faith that's matched up with that creative hope, then you're able to create opportunities not only for yourself but for other people to be impacted and make this world better."

Hope, as Marcel saw it, has a foundation in reality. For instance, if a person stayed out all night even though he had a test the next day, you might tell that person, "I hope you do well on your test," without any serious consideration that the person will pass his test.

"One of the reasons people are disillusioned with that term is because they equate hope with optimism or wishful thinking. Wishes can be ungrounded, but hope should be grounded in something real," Hernandez said.

An example of real hope versus wishful thinking can involve having better health. People who are overweight, diabetic and have high blood pressure must join hope to action and take steps to affect real change in their lives instead of just wishing they were healthier. They can start by exercising



Jill Graper Hernandez

were philosophical rivals, Hernandez said, because Sartre was an atheist and a leftist and Marcel was a Christian theist. Moreover, they were competitors as playwrights, political commentators and scholars.

"Sartre was a type of pop-culture icon, and was able to parlay that to [deserved] success in all of these areas, and Marcel simply wasn't, and couldn't," she said. "And I think that whereas Marcel was deeply disconcerted by Sartre's fundamental atheism, it's unclear as to whether their adversarial relationship was grounded on this, or this was simply another way that it expressed itself."

Popular or not, Hernandez found just what she was looking for in Marcel's writings.

"This is poetry to me," she said. "I could write about his works all day long."

Once complete, Hernandez will start pitching the book to publishing houses.

She "hopes" the book will be successful, and that's hardly wishful thinking. ☺



//IN BRIEF// Fighting Hunger

UTSA participated in Canstruction, a national competition that helps feed the hungry through a design-build concept. Harrison Pierce, Samantha Singel, Albert Franco, Johnmichael Storey, Audra Biediger and Stephanie Estrada, all UTSA Honors College and College of Architecture students, set up the display, titled "Wrangling Hunger," Aug. 29 at North Star Mall. Through efforts by the UTSA Alumni Association and H-E-B, the team had 4,000 cans of food to build the design, which were later donated to the San Antonio Food Bank.



"Education is not just an expense line on a budget, but an investment in the future strength and vibrancy of our state. Without increasing educational attainment rates in long-underserved areas like San Antonio, the border region and the Valley, Texas and our country cannot remain strong."

—President Ricardo Romo at his Oct. 6 State of the University address

BY THE NUMBERS

9

number of UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award recipients from UTSA in 2010

"I just want to thank Jerry Jones and the entire Dallas Cowboys organization for giving me the opportunity to fulfill a childhood dream."

—**Teddy Williams**, UTSA'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYER in a press conference after signing on with the Dallas Cowboys July 29.

BY THE NUMBERS

30k

number of students enrolled for 2010–11



//IN BRIEF//

Keep Your Shirt On

A couple of months ago you could lose your shirt on campus and, if you were lucky, it would show up in the Lost and Found office in the Physical Plant Building, where you could claim it. No longer. The Lost and Found stopped accepting all clothing items because "the office was always stinking like a locker room," said Tracy D. Merritt, administrative associate for the UTSA Police Department, which oversees the Lost and Found.

SPORTS BRIEFS

VOLLEYBALL

Under the direction of head coach Laura Neugebauer-Groff, who will be inducted into the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame in February, the UTSA volleyball team appeared in the NCAA Tournament for the second time in the program's history and first since 2000. The Roadrunners advanced to the NCAA Tournament, where they lost to Texas in the first round, after holding off Central Arkansas in five sets to win the Southland Conference Tournament Championship.

SOCCER

The Roadrunners earned their first NCAA Tournament berth but fell to top seed and national overall No. 2 seed Portland. The team won the Southland Conference Tournament after finishing third in the conference, the highest in school history. UTSA finished the regular season with a school-record 12 wins and tied their most conference wins mark with six. Freshman defender Anka Grotle was named First Team All-Southland while senior Chelsea Zimmerman, senior Allison Dillon and freshman Maria Jose Rojas were named to the second team. Senior Laurel Dierking and sophomore Dacia Webb were named Honorable Mention all-conference.

CROSS COUNTRY

The men and women

finished third and fifth, respectively, at this year's Southland Conference championships. Juniors Cole Reveal (eighth place) and Albert Cardenas (ninth) and freshman Samantha Fish (10th) earned all-conference honors with their top-10 performances.



WOMEN'S GOLF

Sophomore Paola Valerio led a record-breaking outing at the Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Championships, Oct. 8–10, in Knoxville, Tenn. Valerio finished fifth in the tournament and broke UTSA's 18- and 54-hole scoring records, firing a 66 and 212, respectively. The team also broke the school's 18- and 54-hole scores with a 287 in the final round for an 886 total.

MEN'S GOLF

UTSA closed out the fall season on a high note, finishing fifth at the Kauai Collegiate Invitational on Oct. 24–26, in Lihue, Hawaii. Senior Lewis Chong, junior Payne Wilkie and freshman Ryan Werre all finished in a six-way tie for 19th place.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UTSA was picked to finish first in the Southland's West Division by both the league coaches and sports information directors. In addition, junior guard Whitney York was named Preseason First Team All-Southland while senior forward Ashleigh Franklin and sophomore guard/forward Judy Jones were named to the second team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Senior Devin Gibson was named to the Preseason

SOFTBALL

Despite being in the off-season, the softball team had a busy fall. Head coach Lori Cook's squad played four weekends of exhibition games to get ready for the spring campaign. The team also went to work off the field, raising more than \$3,000 for the South Central Texas Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society while participating in the annual Light the Night Walk in downtown San Antonio.



PHOTOS COURTESY JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

All-Southland Conference First Team and the Roadrunners were picked to finish fourth in the West Division by the league's sports information directors and fifth by the coaches. Gibson, a three-time all-conference pick, enters his final campaign with 1,104 career points, which ranks ninth in school history, and also appears on five additional UTSA career top-10 lists.

UTSA TO HOST NCAA SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

UTSA will host the NCAA Men's Basketball Southwest Regional on March 25 and 27 at the Alamodome. This marks the 13th NCAA championship event, including the fifth men's regional, the school has hosted in the past 15 years.

—UTSA ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

ECLECTIC COLLECTION

Rowland's iPod is packed with 8,000 songs from every genre imaginable. Put it on shuffle and you'll hear heavy metal, hard rock, screamo, soft rock, opera and country. Before a big game, she'll usually listen to a tune by metal rockers Bullet for My Valentine.



PAGE-TURNERS

Her two favorite books are the romantic war novel *Dear John*, by Nicholas Sparks, and the classic story of childhood loss, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls.



HER GUY

Rowland keeps a poster of her favorite athlete, English footballer David Beckham, on her bedroom wall. "I think he's a great solid athlete, one of the best of his era. And of course he's good looking, so...."



ALWAYS ON

She wears three bracelets on her right wrist—always. One says, "I love boobies," meant to increase breast cancer awareness. The others say "Live to Love" and "Music Saves Lives." The only time she doesn't wear the bracelets is during practice and games. She'd wear them even then if they were allowed.



ALL THE RIGHT MOVES

Dance shoes and foot undies are reminders of Rowland's other passion. If she weren't playing volleyball, she'd be in a dance studio somewhere practicing jazz, lyrical, modern, hip-hop and ballet moves. "I miss it," said Rowland, who danced throughout high school. "I'm hopefully going to get back to it when volleyball is over."

WHAT'S LEFT?

Rowland always, always, puts on her left sock, left shoe and left kneepad first. She said it just feels weird if she doesn't.

SPOTLIGHT
Kendra Rowland

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

KENDRA ROWLAND DIGS ATTACKS AND KILLS. The outside hitter started all 34 volleyball matches for the Roadrunners in fall 2010 and led the team in attacks (1,343) and kills (422). A 5-foot-11-inch senior out of Deer Valley High School in Antioch, Calif., Rowland slammed home 10 or more winners in 27 contests while seeing action in 130 sets. She was named the Southland Tournament's Most Valuable Player as the Roadrunners captured the conference championship.

Off the court, Rowland is a 3.5 GPA communications major who has been named to the Southland Conference's all academic squad the past three years. After graduation? The energetic, outgoing Rowland is decidedly undecided about a career. Perhaps straight to a media job. Maybe grad school in journalism. Or even law school. "I've also considered the CIA," she added. "I really kind of want to be a spy." \$



photos by **Mark Sobhani**

It's the season of dreams
for the Roadrunners.
by **Joe Michael Feist**

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME...

It was a sticky July morning

in front of the Convocation Center on UTSA's Main Campus when head football Coach Larry Coker suddenly morphed into the Roadrunners' head cheerleader. ¶ "Are we ready?" Coker demanded loudly, like a general before the battle. "Are we ready for football? ¶ "BIRDS UP!" ¶ The 30 or 40 people gathered around—administrators, faculty, students and staff about to depart for a tour of football facilities at the Alamodome—obediently extended their arms and flashed the Roadrunners' hand sign. ¶ "Now here's the hard part," Coker teased. "I yell U-T and you yell S-A. Ready?" ¶ U-T! S-A! U-T! S-A! U-T! S-A! ¶ The raucous cheer echoed through the Sombrilla, bounced off the Alamo and wrapped itself around the city of San Antonio. ¶ **FOOTBALL. IT'S HERE.**

Football and college life are as interconnected as blood and bone in the American mind. College memories, for many, revolve as much or more around gridiron battles on idyllic autumn afternoons as they do on chemistry labs and English 101.

But football was never inevitable at UTSA, despite the university's being located in a football-loving region of a football-crazy state. As one administrator said, UTSA was created in 1969 to be an inexpensive alternative for students who wanted a good education but couldn't afford or qualify for other Texas schools. The keep-costs-down, no-frills approach meant the university had to remain a commuter campus with no dorms and few student activities, especially expensive ones like football.

In 1999, UTSA got a new president, Ricardo Romo, and a new athletics director, Lynn Hickey. At the time, neither thought football was feasible.

"Football was still the 'F' word back then," said Brad Parrott, senior associate director of athletics.

But after a year or so, Parrott added, attitudes began to change. Words and phrases such as "Tier One," "research intensive" and "school of first choice" were heard around campus. More and more, administrators and community leaders began to feel that moving UTSA forward would require a more traditional college experience. And that, among other things, meant football.

"After being here a while," Hickey said, "and understanding the needs not only of this campus but of this community and all of South Texas, for us not to go forward would have been the wrong thing."

Quietly, Hickey and Parrott began laying the groundwork for Roadrunners football. They traveled the state visiting other programs as well as athletic conference officials, learning what it would take to field a team. And, to be in Title IX, or gender equality, compliance should football become a reality, the school added women's golf in 2004 and women's soccer in 2006.

The push for San Antonio football picked up steam in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Because of damage to the Superdome, the NFL's New Orleans Saints set up practice facilities and offices in San Antonio and played some of their home games in the Alamodome.

Behind the scenes, city officials and community leaders lobbied hard to get the Saints to relocate permanently to San

Antonio. When those efforts fell through, attention shifted hard to UTSA.

Why couldn't UTSA be San Antonio's team?

Hickey also set up an athletics advisory board of alumni and business leaders, and football was a constant topic.

"We talked for a long time about the long-term goal of football, what was the right time," said Jim Mickey '78, a member of the committee and UTSA's associate vice president for alumni programs and marketing. "The timing had to be right."

Hickey agreed. Crucially, so did Romo.

Even though he's "among the most avid fans of college football," Romo said, "I wanted to make certain that we added a football program at UTSA only when the time was right and we could pay for it. My priorities have always been focused on building a first-class research university that provides students access to a complete university experience."

Romo, said Hickey, "did an outstanding job kind of holding us back until all the pieces were in place."

The concept of UTSA football got a boost with the release of a feasibility study in November 2006. The report by Carr Sports Associates in Gainesville, Fla., outlined the steps UTSA needed to take to implement football. High on the list was fundraising.

In 2007, the idea of football picked up steam. In November, at the dedication ceremony of the Biotechnology, Sciences and Engineering Building, Romo unveiled UTSA's strategic plan, "A Shared Vision: UTSA 2016." Meant to propel the university toward national research university status, it was one of the academic pieces Romo wanted to have in place before football was added.

Just two months earlier, UTSA students had overwhelmingly approved a referendum supporting the expansion of the athletics program and doubling the athletics fee.

The vote was key for Romo. "I decided it was the time to move forward," he recalled.

A little more than a year later, in December 2008, the University of Texas System Board of Regents gave the go-ahead. The plan not only approved football, but also called for the building of an \$84 million athletics complex, dubbed Park West, for football practice facilities and stadiums for soccer, track and field, baseball, softball and tennis. Football games would be played in the Alamodome.

In the pipeline at the time was \$22 million in bond >>

"It's kind of hard to rally around a math class."

BEAR BRYANT, the late University of Alabama head coach, explaining the need for college football

UTSA football players have been using Northside Independent School District's Dub Farris Stadium for practices. The first practice was held in September.



“This isn’t going to happen overnight... But we’re in the process of having a **GOOD PRODUCT.**”



Players prepare to scrimmage at Dub Farris Stadium, Oct. 13.

money approved by Bexar County and City of San Antonio voters, all for facilities. And UTSA launched a five-year, \$15 million drive to support operations.

With momentum on UTSA’s side, Hickey wasted no time beginning a national search for a football coach. She found one.

March 6, 2009, the anniversary of the day the Alamo fell, was the highest point yet for UTSA football. The school had snagged one of the best-known names in the game, Larry Coker, as its first head coach, and he was being introduced to a cheering crowd in the University Center.

“That place was rocking,” recalled Mickey, adding that he’d never seen anything like it on the UTSA campus. “It was national news.”

After all, Coker, an Oklahoma native, had guided the Miami Hurricanes to the 2001 national championship while earning national Coach of the Year honors. He’d compiled a phenomenal 60–15 record. He’d been out of coaching for three years, working as an analyst for ESPN, and was eager to return, drawn to the challenges and potential at UTSA and the chance to leave a legacy.

“We went from a program with dreams and aspirations to instant credibility when we hired Coker,” Mickey said. “We could never have done better.”

The new coach embarked on a whirlwind schedule while changing hats daily. One day he was a fundraiser, the next a PR man, fanning dreams and recruiting fans as much as players.

If there was any doubt he was building from scratch, his surroundings on campus drove home the point. The football staff is housed in a nondescript modular building. No sign announces their presence. The flurry of activity inside, for the most part, goes unnoticed.

SETTING A CULTURE

SEATED IN HIS OFFICE LAST SUMMER, COKER LOOKED relaxed and confident in khakis and a blue UTSA polo shirt. Out front, a digital clock is counting down the days, minutes and seconds until the first game’s kickoff in the Alamodome, Sept. 3, 2011. The contest will be against Northeastern (Oklahoma) State University, which happens to be Coker’s alma mater.

“I don’t think that’s a coincidence,” he said, smiling.

Asked about his day, Coker said he’d already spent time setting up study halls and academic counseling for his new players, had a lunch with community leaders and met with his coaches.

“We’re setting a culture here,” he said. “There are no older players. We’re in the process of building this program. We’re going to build it the right way [academically].”

His enthusiasm moved to a higher level when he glanced down at his playbook.

“It’s going to be a multiple offense,” he said. “We’re gonna have a lot of spread-type things but also a lot of power offense, too.”

“I expect us to be better than what people think we’re going to be.”

“We’re in the process of building this program. We’re going to build it the right way [academically].”

In Formation

HALFTIME PROMISES TO SCORE WITH NEW MARCHING BAND



Imagine a football game in Austin without the sounds of *The Eyes of Texas* or in College Station without the Fightin’ Texas Aggie Band. Can’t do it, can you?

That emotional link between the game and the iconic songs of the university played by a marching band is something Ron Ellis, UTSA’s director of athletic bands, is bound and determined to create in San Antonio.

The immediate goal, he said, is to have a

150-member marching band and color guard rocking the Alamodome for the first game on Sept. 3, 2011.

“When you think college athletics, nothing rivals [the moment] when the team runs out of the tunnel and the fight song cranks up,” Ellis said. “It’s a culture; it’s an environment. It’s an American tradition.”

Ellis spent 20 years at the University of Central Florida in Orlando and

was the director of athletic bands at UCF from 2004 until joining UTSA last summer. His experience extends to live entertainment on a broader scale as well.

He has worked as band choreographer, conductor or adviser for TV and HBO series and as a performer and music director for *Disney’s Very Merry Christmas Parade* ABC television special since 1989. He will continue to serve as a music director at Walt Disney Attractions Entertainment in Orlando.

Ellis said he was attracted to the UTSA job as soon as he heard how the decision to have a band was made.

“When they first announced they were going to have football, someone said in a meeting, ‘Who’s going to do halftime?’ And someone said we’ll just have some high school bands come in.

And apparently the students got real upset and kind of led a revolt to Student Affairs and said, no, we want our own marching band,” Ellis said. “That’s a dream situation.”

Ellis said one immediate challenge is fundraising. “A marching band is a big-ticket item,” he said. “A sousaphone is expensive.” Then come town hall information sessions, recruiting, auditions, procuring instruments, getting uniforms designed and made, and writing arrangements and movements.

Two of the highest-profile elements of a marching band—the school fight song and the look of the uniforms—are a priority.

UTSA’s fight song, *Go Roadrunners Go*, was written in 1982 by Joe Stuessy, director of the Division of Music, and Alan Craven, director of the Division of English,

Classics and Philosophy. (The pair also wrote the alma mater, *Hail UTSA*.)

Go Roadrunners Go, Ellis said, is being totally reworked.

“It’s got a melody, it has some harmony, but the arrangement is not good [for marching],” he said. He’ll add a countermelody, change the key and revamp the introduction.

As far as uniforms, Ellis said he’s a proponent of having the clothing reflect not just the school, but also the community at large, its culture and history.

A rousing halftime show, “with the commitment and energy of the UTSA students who are representing their school in front of tens of thousands of people, creates a sense of community pride that is unmatched in live performance,” he said.

“It’s going to be amazing.”

—JOE MICHAEL FEIST



FROM LEFT: Referees prepare to officiate a scrimmage at Dub Farris Stadium; Coach Larry Coker encourages players after scrimmage; a player's reaction shows that football is as much a mental game as a physical one.



But, as he's done since the day he was hired, Coker immediately sounded a note of caution. "This isn't going to happen overnight. We're not Texas or the University of Oklahoma or the Dallas Cowboys. And you're not going to see that from Day One. But we're in the process of having a good product."

QUESTIONS AND MODELS

A FOOTBALL TEAM, FOR A UNIVERSITY, IS FAR MORE than X's and O's, blocking and tackling. It's the focus of student spirit and pride. It's part of that traditional college experience administrators talk about.

In June 2010, a committee representing various university constituencies and chaired by John Kaulfus, associate dean of students, began looking at game day and homecoming activities at other universities. The question: How will UTSA make football most relevant and exciting for students?

"We want to do this right," Kaulfus said. "What fits UTSA's personality? What fits San Antonio's personality?"

Kaulfus' committee began discussing options and researching traditions and logistics at other schools, particularly those that play their games off campus, as UTSA will.

"I don't believe in reinventing the wheel," he said. "There are a lot of questions. How do they get students to the venue? How do they handle security? How do they handle student misconduct? As everyone knows, the Alamodome is going to sell beer [at games]. How are we going to approach it?"

One university that UTSA immediately identified as a model—both for game day activities and the football program itself—was the University of South Florida in Tampa.

"South Florida went through what we're going through 15 years ago," Hickey said. "They're in a good-sized city, Tampa. Demographically, the make-up of the campus is very similar—a majority minority campus. And they added football and then made the move from [Football Championship Subdivision] to [Football Bowl Subdivision] very quickly. They don't have a facility on campus. They play in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers'

stadium. There are just a tremendous number of parallels."

Romo, Hickey, Coker and others visited South Florida to listen and learn. University officials also have made football fact-finding trips to Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Central Florida, Old Dominion, Georgia State, Colorado State, Houston and other universities.

Kaulfus said that even though UTSA games will be played downtown, "we still want to do things on campus, such as the pep rallies, that will involve the on-campus community."

Exactly what the homecoming activities will be is unknown, but homecoming will definitely move from spring to fall. There will be two homecomings in 2011, he said.

What is certain is the constant buzz around campus.

"You hear it all over campus. 'When's football starting? When's football starting?'" said Kaitlin McGaughey, a junior double major in information systems and infrastructure assurance and a member of the Kaulfus committee. "Everyone's pumped up and it's like, why can't it be fall of 2011 right now? Because I want to go to a game! I want to go tailgating!"

McGaughey, also the president of the Panhellenic Council, the governing body for all UTSA sororities, keeps the schedule in her car so she can count down the days to the first game.

Perhaps reflecting the mythic role football plays in college life and American culture, McGaughey said she understands other sports, but "I KNOW football."

And she knows what she and her sorority sisters will be doing Sept. 3.

"We're going to scream our heads off."

OPENING DOORS

IT'S NO SECRET THAT AT SOME UNIVERSITIES sports and academics are seen as competitors, both for attention and for dollars. And football players at some schools are dubbed mini-professionals who can hardly be called students.

UTSA officials insist those things won't happen here.

"We have to keep everything in perspective as we're building this program," Hickey said. "The student-athletes are here to get a degree. The university is here to educate students."

Football, she said, will open doors for UTSA that otherwise stay locked.

"We're that community engagement piece. ... But to put the pressure on an academic department to go out and

try to have the same visibility that we're creating right now with football, and then therefore they're going to bring all this funding in for everybody else, it's not the way our culture works. I'm not saying that's right, but that's how it is."

John Frederick, UTSA's provost and vice president for academic affairs, said football "will contribute to the general school spirit and campus community environment that's essential to Tier One."

And it will be a rallying point for the wider community as well, he added, which usually translates into support for both athletics and academics.

While some faculty may be skeptical, Frederick said, he's "heard more supportive comments than anything."

Romo said the university is already benefiting from football even before the first snap.

"The excitement right now in the community regarding UTSA is contagious, and football has helped fuel that excitement," he said.

He pointed out that in 2009, eight percent of entering freshmen graduated in the top 10 percent of their class. This fall that number increased to 11 percent. One of the reasons, he said, is football, because it enriches campus life and the college experience.

Frederick agreed. "The kind of students we're trying to attract," he said, "value the kind of environment that includes athletics."

REVERIES

THIS IS CLEARLY THE SEASON OF DREAMS FOR UTSA football. And there are no small dreams.

Players and coaches are dreaming of touchdowns and blitzes, long passes and a punishing ground game.

Fans are looking for tailgating recipes and imagining what U-T! S-A! will sound like in the Alamodome.

It's the time for dreams, the time when UTSA football T-shirts proudly proclaim "Still Undeclared."

Next year will mark a new season, and the T-shirts will sooner or later be out of date. But that's a good thing. UTSA will have arrived.

"There's just something about a Saturday football game," Mickey said. "Football has always been king in Texas. That's just the way it is."

Birds up! \$

"Everyone's pumped up and it's like, why can't it be fall of 2011 right now?"

To purchase tickets or for other information, go to www.utsa.edu/2011.

Almost half of UTSA's students are the first in their families to attend college, beginning a journey in...

Uncharted

TERRITORY

by **Lety Laurel**



PHOTO BY MATT WRIGHT-STEEL

Carolina Frias grew up watching her dad slog to work in paint-covered jeans and a work shirt. Her friends' fathers wore business suits and carried briefcases. Hers carried a toolbox.

At night, he returned home slouched with fatigue, paint stuck to his eyelashes and hair, jeans ripped and shirt soaked with sweat.

He had wanted to be a doctor. Instead, Jorge Frias had to quit school in the fourth grade to help take care of his brothers and sisters. His first job was peddling snow cones, hot dogs, gum and corn—anything that would sell on the streets of Mexico. He also shined shoes for spare change to take home and support his family.

Jorge now runs his own remodeling business in Belton, Texas. It's his money that pays for Carolina to attend UTSA. He wants a different life for her and her two younger sisters. A better one.

So Carolina, just 19 years old, is expected to change the trajectory of her family. As the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college, she knows she's not cramming for college exams and writing essays just for her own sake. It's for her entire family, she said.

"I really just want to make my parents happy. They've gone

go to for help with classes, financial aid and degree plans.

"Not everybody is at the same starting line," said Laura I. Rendón, professor in the College of Education and Human Development's educational leadership and policy studies department. Also a first-generation college graduate, she has researched access and retention of low-income first-generation students for 20 years.

"There are problems with finances, they don't know what questions to ask, they don't know who to turn to when they have questions about college. Very importantly, going to college for them is significant because they're assuming a new identity, one that is not present in the family—one of a college-educated person. They sometimes struggle with that. It makes them different from the rest of their family."

They also feel like they're different from their classmates, said Leticia Duncan-Brosnan, executive director of the Tomás Rivera Center for Student Success.

"Research will tell you first-generation students have difficulty getting integrated into the community so they don't get involved socially or academically. It's a whole different world for them and they feel like outsiders," said Duncan-Brosnan, herself a first-generation college graduate. "Family members don't understand what it takes to get through college. The expectation is high to financially contribute to the family."

The stress is so high, in fact, that the decision to remain in school or drop out is usually made within the first six weeks of class, she said. And all too often, students decide to return home.

First-generation college students are far less likely to obtain a degree compared to students whose parents went to college, said Anne-Marie Nuñez, assistant professor in the educational leadership and policy department. Even if they share similar academic preparation, finances and college experiences, students who are the first in their families to attend college receive degrees at lower rates, she said.

"First-generation students really need a lot of help in terms of gaining what sociologists call cultural capital and social capital, which are the resources and skills that are related to understanding what going to college is like," said Nuñez, who has been studying the population for 13 years. "They need help with even just the daily navigation of college, how to interact with faculty and how to make the most of their college experience."

Procopio Garcia did make it through the first six weeks of school, but just barely. The freshman architecture major spent those critical first weeks borrowing books from classmates because he couldn't afford to buy his own. When he couldn't borrow, he turned in assignments late.

For him and his family, his move from Edinburg, Texas, to UTSA was a sacrifice, but a necessary one. With a disabled father who can't work and a mother who's employed as a custodial supervisor at a high school, the family of six pulls in less than \$30,000 a year.

>>



Sophomore Carolina Frias is one of more than 14,000 UTSA students who are the first in their families to attend college. Recently, she traveled to her family's home in Belton, Texas. Her father, Jorge Frias, built the three-bedroom home himself. PHOTOS BY MATT WRIGHT-STEEL

through so much," Carolina said. "I feel like if I don't go to college, I'm going to be a big disappointment. He worked so hard to get that money to send us to college. That's all he wanted."

At UTSA, more than 14,000 students are the first in their families to attend college. That's almost half of the entire student population. These students come to college carrying more baggage than pillows and clothes, researchers say. They carry the responsibility of being pioneers and role models for younger siblings as well as the expectation that they will continue to help with finances and other home responsibilities.

What they face on campus is no easier. Without a parent or sibling to ask for guidance, they often don't know who to





Freshman Procopio Garcia's move from Edinburg, Texas, to UTSA required a financial sacrifice from his family. The family traveled to San Antonio to take Procopio, who is without a car, grocery shopping. PHOTOS BY MARK SOBHANI



“I had family support. ... But my mom went only one semester. I thought I was going to get down here and go back [home] right away. I thought I was next.”

CHLOE JOHNSON,
a sophomore
political science major

Although Procopio received scholarship money, there's still the cost of books, housing and food to consider. “I'm barely making it,” he said. His efficiency apartment is bare except for two twin beds, a desktop computer on a utilitarian desk and a small chest of drawers. Waving a hand around the room, he said everything but the extra bed belongs to his roommate.

“My parents right now don't have enough money to be taking care of themselves over there and to be taking care of me over here.”

Procopio decided he was college-bound when he was in middle school. Neither of his parents completed high school, but like Carolina's family, they pushed their four children to do better. But then his father fell 20 feet off an oil rig at work. His shattered femur and the bolt that got embedded in his cranium meant college was no longer guaranteed for his son.

“You know, I used to have those big expectations [about school] and a big imagination,” he said. “But after my dad's accident, I was like, I don't know if I'll be able to go to college because I need to help out. But they told me that they wanted the best for me and to get a better education than them.”

“It's all going to be worth it at the end of this. Not only will I have a degree and maybe a secure job, but I will also be able to help them out with their financial stuff.”

Carolina also wants to complete college to help her family. Her parents and two sisters live in the same small three-bedroom house that her father built by himself. Her handprints are embedded in the concrete porch; her gold-framed *quinceañera* portrait hangs prominently over their living room couch.

They sacrificed so much for her to go to school, she said. She wants to be an orthodontist so she can pay them back. But she's sacrificed, too. In high school, she took enough dual credit and AP courses that she entered college last year as a sophomore.

The former prom queen juggled school work with cross-country, band, color guard and soccer. Her days began at 5:40 a.m. with track, and ended when soccer practice was

over at 9 p.m. Often, she'd stay up until 1 or 2 a.m. doing homework for the next day. When it came time for college applications and financial aid forms, she filled those out in what little time she had left in the day.

“You don't understand what it's like to have to do everything by yourself,” she said. “Where I am from, all my friends, all their parents went to college and all their siblings went to college. I do feel like it was harder for me.”

But her parents nudged her, sometimes not so gently, to apply to as many schools as she could. She was accepted into every one of the seven colleges she applied to.

“My mom would ask, ‘Did you do this? Did you check this?’ I would get so stressed,” she said. “I broke out so bad my senior year. I had pimples everywhere.”

The route to college was also difficult for 19-year-old Chloe Johnson. The sophomore political science major was struggling through school and the arduous application and financial aid processes when Hurricane Ike tore her Houston home apart.

“The windows busted, the roof caved in, the roof in the guest bedroom was gone,” she said. “We had to leave our home. Then the stress of it being my senior year and trying to get into college and everything, I had a breakdown right there in class.”

“I'm a strong person, but it was really hard. It being your senior year, it's supposed to be your happiest time. Turns out mine was the worst time.”

But Chloe, who wants to be the first African American female to serve on the Supreme Court, did get into the college of her choice. Her mom didn't make it past the first semester in college—Chloe worried that she wouldn't either. But, despite the odds, she pulled through.

“I had family support. Oh, my mom was on it,” she said. “But my mom went only one semester. I thought I was going to get down here and go back right away. I thought I was next. I thought the same cycle was going to repeat itself.”

That cycle is something that is often in the minds of first-generation college students, Rendón, the UTSA professor, said. Breaking the cycle of poverty in her family is what

propelled her to go to college instead of getting a job right out of high school, as her mom expected her to do. Both her parents only completed elementary school. Her mother worked as a waitress from 10 p.m. to 10 a.m., living in Laredo on \$15 a week plus tips.

Even in college, Rendón continued to help her mom financially, often sending money home, even if it was from her student financial aid.

“I was very determined because having grown up in poverty and seeing my mother go through what she went through, I said, ‘No. This isn't going to happen to me,’” she said. “For some people, that would devastate them and they would never get out of poverty. But for me it had the opposite effect.”

Very often, families of first-generation college students don't understand the college experience, from student life to credit hours. They don't realize that a 3-credit-hour class, attended only three days a week, translates to several hours of study outside of the classroom, Duncan-Brosnan said.

Even though Erica Gonzalez's mother never went to college, she knows the struggles her daughter experiences. Erica still lives with her mother and 18-year-old brother, Erik, at home in San Antonio. She drives her brother to high school before her college day begins. And she works on campus so she can help supplement the cost of her education.

Her mother often cries when she sees Erica stressed before an exam. Knowing only broken English, she can't help much academically, but she does something better, Erica said.

“It is the motivation she gives us,” she said. “She gives us examples of what not to do. She tells us to keep going. It's because she didn't go [to college] that she pushes so hard.”

Going to school, she said, “is an opportunity that a lot of people don't take. I just have a great family that supports me, they're behind me 100 percent. They've always [said] that going to school you get a better education, a better job. That's what I see. It's a medium to get from point A to point Z. It's the entire alphabet in between.”

Already a senior kinesiology major, Erica expects to

graduate in May 2011. There are lots of similar stories at UTSA, Duncan-Brosnan said. But there need to be more.

Programs like TRIO and Gear Up already target first-generation college students. UTSA admissions counselors and financial aid advisers are available for help with applications and forms. The Tomás Rivera Center offers academic and social support programs, specifically geared toward first-year students and their families.

But, “we need to target them earlier,” Duncan-Brosnan said. She's currently seeking grant funding to extend a pilot program that pushes first-generation students to become more academically and socially integrated and, hopefully, improve retention and graduation rates. “We are calling students, asking about advising, asking about their classes. We are very intrusive.”

Above all else, Rendón said, this at-risk population needs to be validated. Too often they have been told they aren't smart enough, that they can't make it through school.

“There are many smart and talented students that grow up in the barrios, ghettos and reservations,” she said. “We need to open as many doors as possible to them. We need to help them out and assure them that they can do it.”

Completing their education with a degree in hand can change generations, Duncan-Brosnan said.

“We know that if one in the family goes to college, the siblings will follow. The cousins will follow and their children will go to college,” she said. “It's always hard to be the first one, but we want the students to know that they're not alone. We let them know it's going to change their lives and the lives of their families.”

Carolina knows she can do it—she has to. There's too much riding on her success, she said. There are her parents whom she can't disappoint, and there is that promise of a higher future income earned with a degree. But most important, there are her two younger sisters, ages 16 and 7, who are watching her. They need her to succeed so they will know that they can do it, too.

“My sister tells me, ‘I want to be like you. I want to do everything you do,’” she said. “Failure can't be an option.” §



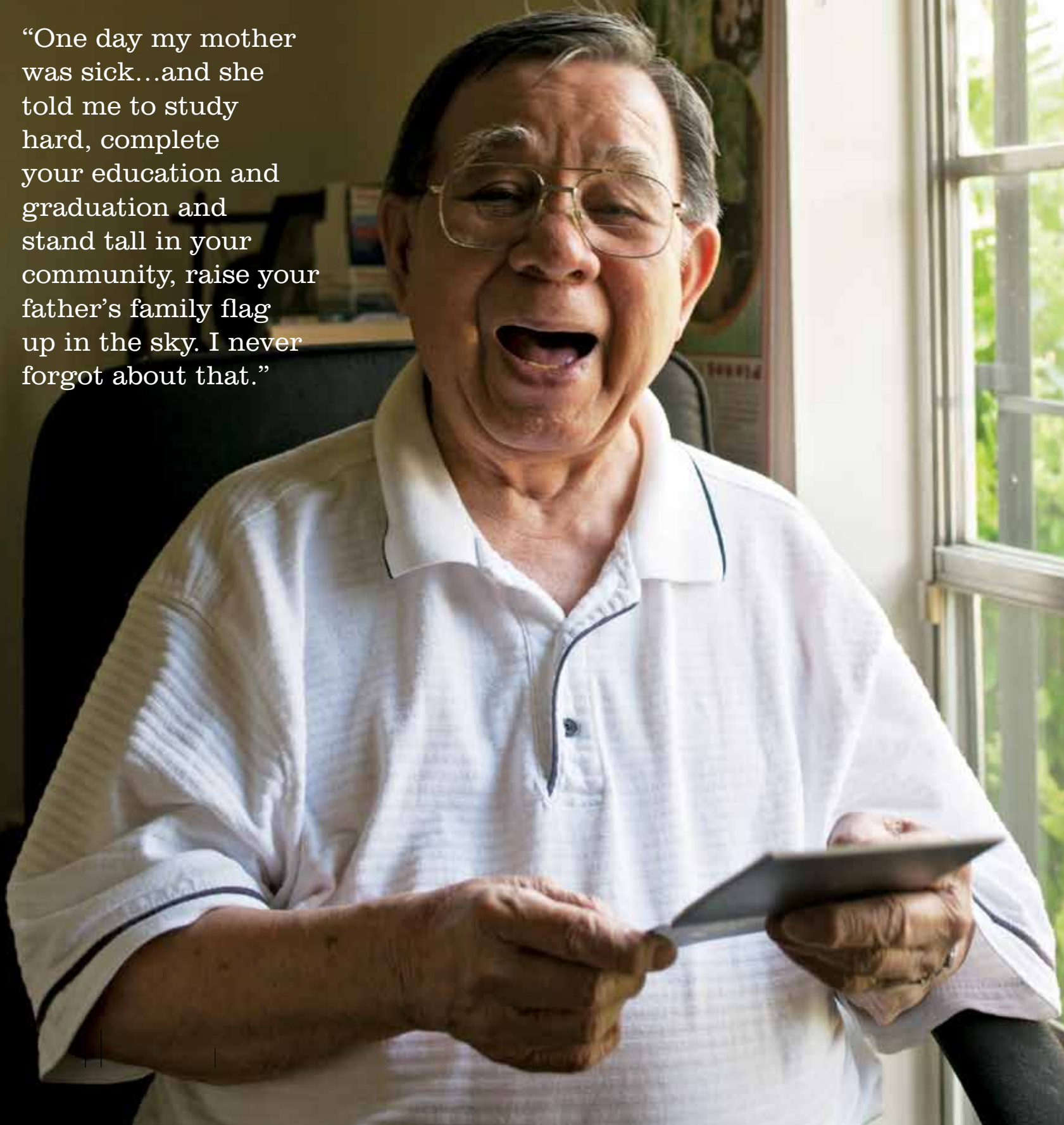
“[My mom] gives us examples of what not to do. She tells us to keep going. It's because she didn't go [to college] that she pushes so hard.”

ERICA GONZALEZ,
a senior
kinesiology major

COMMUNITY

UNITING OUR ALUMNI

“One day my mother was sick...and she told me to study hard, complete your education and graduation and stand tall in your community, raise your father’s family flag up in the sky. I never forgot about that.”



For 32 years, Paul Kattapong worked for the Department of Defense and was stationed in such countries as Japan and Germany.

FOREVER YOUNG

Paul Kattapong, M.A. '79

Paul Kattapong knows the secrets to a long life: First, have oily skin. It makes your face look younger. Second, wash your hands constantly to keep germs away. And finally, laugh often. ¶ At 93 years old, he’s hanging his hopes on these three things to get him to 100. “I will try my best to live to 100 years old,” he said. “Once I get there, I will join the centennial crowd. After that, I will try my best to get to the super-centennial. I keep my fingers crossed.”

It’s looking good. Despite arthritis, gout and swollen legs that require him to use a walker, Kattapong boasts that his doctors estimate he’ll make it to 109. “I hope that is true.”

Even now, Kattapong is UTSA’s oldest living alum. And 31 years after receiving his master’s degree in the College of Education and Human Development’s bicultural-bilingual studies program, where he concentrated on English as a second language, he still remembers how difficult—but worthwhile—it was to complete his degree.

“Those four years were really tough,” he said. “I came home after 5 p.m., sat down in my chair and I would catnap for 5 to 10 minutes before I would get up and go to my evening class. I finally finished my 36-hour requirement, but it was very rough those four years.”

But nothing in Kattapong’s life has come easy. Kattapong was born in 1917 in Bangkok, Thailand, to Chinese parents. When he was 6 years old, he began attending school, first learning Chinese, then Thai, before studying English.

When he was in seventh grade, his father died, and so did Kattapong’s guaranteed education. Unlike the U.S., where all students can attend public schools for free, Thailand required students to pay tuition. Without his father’s income to pay for school, Kattapong was faced with a choice: quit school or work for it.

He began cleaning classrooms to pay for his education. “From seventh grade until I left Bangkok, I had no single money from my parents,” he said. “I had to earn it for myself.”

He finished high school and then attended college at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. During World War II, he became a member of an underground movement fighting alongside American forces.

After the war, he said, he received a scholarship from the Hazen Foundation to attend George Williams College in Chicago, where he majored in group work education.

In 1954, he met and married his wife, Verna Anna Voth.

After graduating from college, Kattapong got a job with the Department of Defense in Monterey, Calif., teaching Thai. Over the next 32 years, he continued working with the government, rising in rank from language instructor to specialist to supervisor, and was stationed in such countries as Japan and Germany.

Kattapong credits his mother, Maasii, for the route his life has taken. Though she never went to school or learned to read or write, she pushed for Kattapong to finish school at whatever cost. It’s a message he’s passed down to his children and grandchildren.

“One day my mother was sick...and she told me to study hard, complete your education and graduation and stand tall in your community, raise your father’s family flag up in the sky. I never forgot about that,” he said.

Kattapong beams as he pulls out a family portrait, unframed and browned with time. Pointing to it, he said his son, Paul Kattapong Jr., received his M.B.A. from UTSA. His daughter, Jane, earned her M.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. And his other daughter, Kristi, earned her Ph.D. in applied social psychology from Loyola University Chicago.

He pulls out a black notebook, where he keeps information about his eight grandchildren. The oldest, he said, wants to go to Harvard.

“Education helped me a lot,” he said. “If I had never heard my mother’s words to remind me and encourage me to pursue an education, I would never have had the chance to come to the U.S. I would never have had the chance to finish my college education and all of my children to get through their education. And I’m working with my third generation now.”

And, if what his doctors say is true, he’ll live long enough to see that generation walk the stage. He’s got his fingers crossed. —LETY LAUREL

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2014

11%

Graduating in the top 10 percent of their high school class

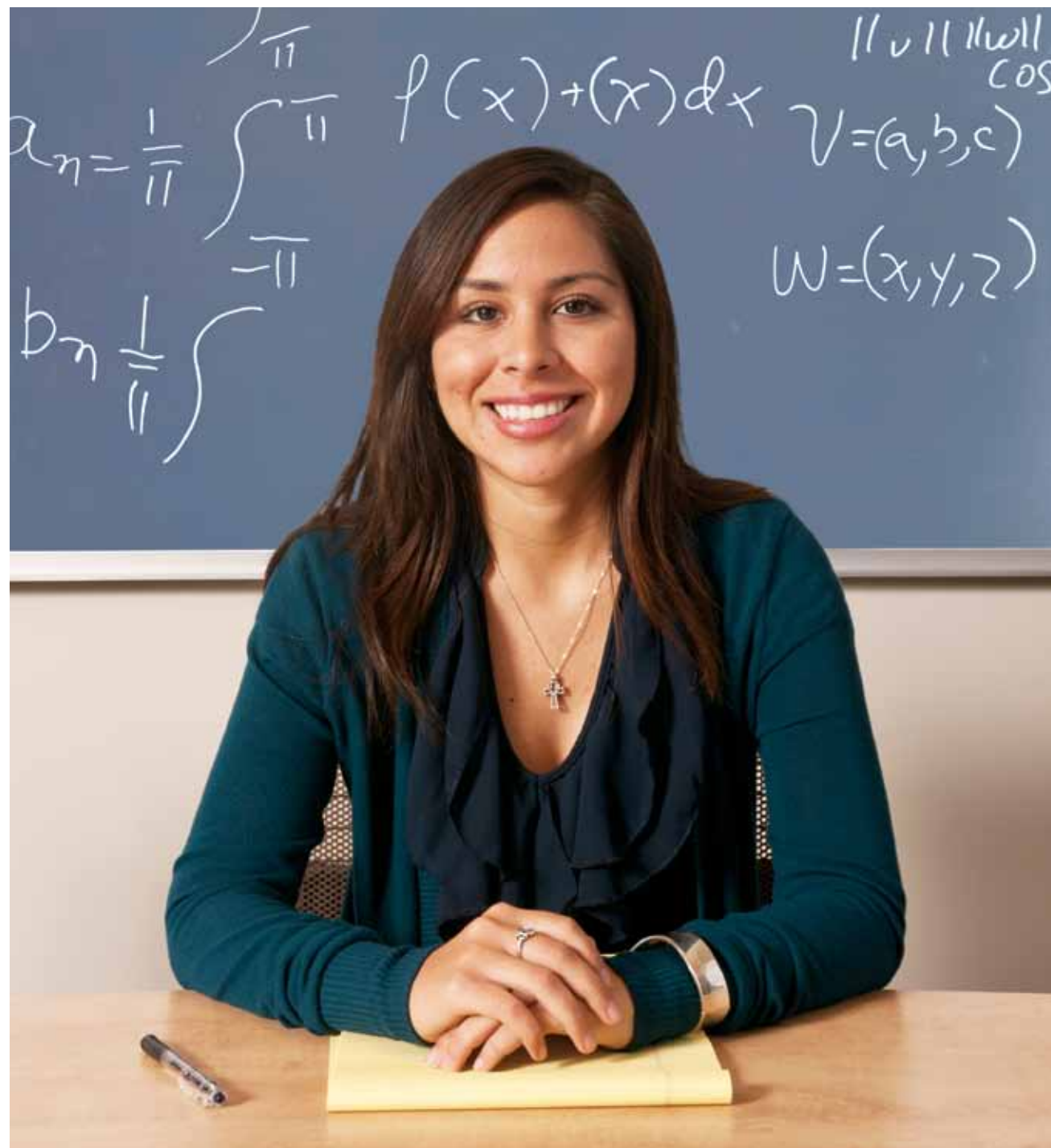
40%

Graduating in the top quarter of their high school class



"That's just going to further drive them away from my office hour, or forever approaching a teacher, so I try not to [wake up sleeping students]."

—Andria Crosson, UTSA HISTORY PROFESSOR, as quoted in *The Paisano*



Ariel Garza is one of 36 students who received a UTSA Alumni Association Scholarship this year.

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2014

5,081

First-time freshmen

It All Adds Up

A strong Alumni Association equals more scholarships

BY RUDY ARISPE

ARIEL GARZA ENJOYS SOLVING ALGEBRA, geometry and calculus problems and often earned A's and B's on her high school math tests. That's why she wants to become a math teacher.

"A lot of kids need help with math," Garza said. "It would be great to help them in the areas that they are struggling."

However, Garza, who was raised in a single-parent

household, knew that going to college would be a financial challenge. Her mother's annual salary could not cover the cost of books and tuition. Still, Garza's heart was set on attending UTSA to major in education.

"I wanted to stay in San Antonio, and my sister graduated from UTSA and is now a teacher," she said.

Today, Garza's dream of becoming a math teacher is almost a reality. Garza expects to graduate in May 2012 after being

"I'm grateful to have the opportunity to focus on my studies and not have to worry about getting a part-time job right now."

awarded a four-year UTSA Alumni Association Scholarship.

"It has helped me and my mother from stressing about how to come up with money to pay for my education," she said. "I'm grateful to have the opportunity to focus on my studies and not have to worry about getting a part-time job right now."

Garza is one of 36 UTSA Alumni Scholars who received a total of more than \$72,000 in scholarships this year. Since 1982, the Alumni Association Scholarship Program has distributed more than \$865,000 in scholarship funds to almost 300 students. The first scholarship ever awarded was a \$200 scholarship for textbooks.

Scholarships would not be possible without monies generated from Alumni Association membership dues, said Jim Mickey '78, associate vice president for alumni programs and marketing. The association's challenge, he said, is to get more alumni to join.

"There are more than 80,000 alumni and only 5 percent are members," Mickey said. "We want to earn our alums' membership by adding value and benefits."

Each year, the Alumni Association hosts two key fundraising events for scholarships: the Diploma Dash 5K City Championship Race and Fitness Walk, and the Alumni Gala.

"When it comes down to it, the purpose of these events is to raise money for scholarships and also have fun, so the more alumni that participate in the Diploma Dash or the gala, then the more funds we can raise for scholarships," Mickey said.

To date, the Alumni Association's endowment has grown to more than \$1 million, Mickey added. If the association can award more than \$100,000 next year, it will be the highest amount given in one year in the association's history.

But to keep up with ever-increasing student enrollment, alumni membership must be greater than 5 percent. It goes even further, though, Mickey explained. A robust Alumni Association ultimately benefits the university and adds value to the degrees that have been awarded since 1974.

Involvement and support from alumni will help UTSA reach its goal of becoming a Tier One university, also known as a premier national research university, he said. In 2009, UTSA was identified as one of seven universities vying for that rank in Texas. This status is measured by research expenditures, faculty publications and research citations, among other criteria. Alumni membership helps increase UTSA's overall national rankings, Mickey said.

Yvonne Jones, a 2006 UTSA graduate and staff member since 1996, recently joined the Alumni Association. Although she has always been involved with the university as an employee, she never considered becoming an association member until recently.

"Whenever I get an e-mail from the association, I forward it to my friends," said Jones, associate director of the Career Center. "I want to get involved in one of the committees. I'm hearing more about what [the association] wants to do in

terms of tradition and opportunities to give back through volunteering and connecting with alumni, which I think is great."

Mickey wants to ensure that alumni also continue to benefit from joining the association. So attracting more members has become a quest for him, both personally and professionally.

"When I think about my involvement with UTSA, I have fond memories as a student because I was a part of several firsts: 1976 was the first year underclassmen were allowed to attend UTSA, selection of the roadrunner as our mascot was in '77 and the first fraternity on campus came in '78," Mickey said. "Today, not only as an alumnus, but as an employee of UTSA, I can help encourage other alums to get involved in helping us build new Roadrunner pride and traditions together."

Garza still has more than a year left before she can call herself an alumna. But she already feels a strong connection to the Alumni Association. It's because of her scholarship that she's had her own set of college firsts.

It wasn't easy getting where she is now. In high school, she applied for more than 100 scholarships so she could attend UTSA.

"I lived in the counselor's office my entire senior year," she said, laughing. "I was in there so much that we even became good friends."

But it was worth it to score the big one, she said. \$

A SUCCESS

Gala raises a record \$100,000 for scholarships

More than \$100,000 was raised at the 11th annual UTSA Alumni Gala, held Aug. 28 at the Omni Hotel at the Colonnade.

That's a 45 percent increase in net income, making it the most successful gala in the Alumni Association's 28-year history, said Jim Mickey '78, associate vice president of alumni programs and marketing.

"Our goal was to have the best gala ever," he said. "Knowing we set an all-time high for scholarships and fun, I would say we exceeded our expectations. It was a total team effort."

Ingrid Barth Farias '83 was named Alumna of the Year, and Barbara Gentry was honored as the Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Almost 500 people attended the event.

"I said from the beginning, 'We're gonna go big or go home,'" said Susan Hough, gala co-chair.

Although the core purpose of the Alumni Gala is to generate funds for student scholarships, the gala also serves to reconnect alumni and recognize accomplished members of the community.

"We want to thank our members and benefactors for their generous support of the Alumni Association Scholarship Program," said Rob Killen, Alumni Association board president. "As our UTSA alumni community grows each year, so does our ability to build pride and traditions with our scholarships."

—RUDY ARISPE

//IN BRIEF//

Giving Locally

UTSA President Ricardo Romo and his wife, Harriett, help the Alumni Association scholarship fund each year by sponsoring two annual \$2,000 scholarships geared toward San Antonio's Fox Tech High School students.

"Over the years, Harriett and I have seen how our alumni scholarship has been instrumental in helping Fox Tech students achieve their educational goals," said Romo, who graduated from Fox Tech in 1962.

"So I invite all of our graduates to get involved with the Alumni Association to help raise funds so more students can realize their dreams of earning a UTSA degree."

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2014

14

Countries represented

90

Freshmen from Ronald Reagan High School in San Antonio, the most from any school



"Absolutely [reaching Tier One is] competitive. ... Every one of these seven schools is in a good position to be Tier One institutions. Every one thinks they're almost there. We certainly feel like we're getting close."

—Ricardo Romo, UTSA PRESIDENT, on KSTX, Texas Public Radio, July 26

! "How about growing some more parking spaces?" —Eric Galvan on UTSA's Facebook page, reacting to a San Antonio Express-News story on enrollment growth

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2014

1992

Year in which most freshmen (3,058) were born

1,137

Number of undeclared majors

135

Counties in Texas represented

1,472

Freshmen from Bexar County

! "What's to eat? Beans, hardtack, jerky and maybe salted beef. The Army eats well." —Henry Crawford, portraying a circa 1870s buffalo soldier at an exhibit at the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures.



Jesse Treviño, a revered San Antonio artist, sits surrounded by his work in his house/studio.

HOME GROWN ARTIST

JESSE TREVIÑO M.F.A. '78

Jesse Treviño was a year into art school on a scholarship at the Art Students League of New York when a letter from Uncle Sam arrived in the mail, informing the then-19-year-old native of San Antonio's West Side that he would be going to Vietnam.

Two months later, on Feb. 23, 1967, an explosion from a booby trap knocked him face down into a rice paddy. Treviño watched the muddy water turn red as he lay dying. As a medic's morphine began flowing through his veins, the soldier had visions of his mom, 11 brothers and sisters, and the people and places of his neighborhood that he loved so much.

"I started thinking about the guy who sells *raspas*, and I said to myself, 'I bet I could make a great painting of him,'" Treviño said, "and I started thinking about all the paintings that I had done as a kid and still wanted to do. Here I was in the middle

of this rice field, and I was thinking as an artist."

Treviño returned to San Antonio, but soon began to lose movement in his right arm and hand. Two years later, his arm had to be amputated because of extensive nerve damage.

"I had to learn to use my left hand," he said. "Having been in New York and studying art on a scholarship and then getting to the point where I couldn't even write my name, it was hard. I felt disconnected from what I used to do."

After receiving a bachelor's degree at Our Lady of the Lake University, Treviño enrolled in UTSA's graduate art program.

Today, Treviño, 63, is among the university's list of distinguished alumni. His work is well known and revered throughout the city, notably *Spirit of Healing*, a ceramic tile mural of a guardian angel and child on the façade of Christus

Santa Rosa Children's Hospital, as well as the towering sculpture *Our Lady of Guadalupe Veladora* at the Guadalupe Theater in his neighborhood.

Two of his other works—*Mis Hermanos* and *Tienda de Elizondo*—are part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian's American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

"It means everything to me," the artist said. "Ever since I was a kid, I knew what museums were, and it was the ultimate place to have your works shown if you were an artist."

Arturo Almeida, art specialist and curator for the UTSA Art Collection, said Treviño is one of the most admired artists around the Alamo City. "His work profoundly captures all the grace and poetry of his community," he said.

Treviño recently collaborated with architect Gabriel Velasquez on the design of a 130-foot steel Hispanic Veterans Memorial sculpture to be erected in the middle of Lake Elmendorf

on the West Side. The work, which is expected to be completed in about a year and a half, will feature gigantic dog tags representing various branches of the military.

"It will be a monument to honor all veterans, alive or dead. It's a structure, too, that people wouldn't expect to see on the West Side, and it's something people will come to see from all around the country," Treviño said.

Treviño once thought he had to travel to New York or California to find his place in the world. Now, he just looks around the backyard of his home/studio on Guadalupe Street on his beloved West Side.

There's a 5,000-pound, steel-and-concrete, two-sided bench commemorating former City Councilman Enrique Barrera that's still in the works. Next to it is a sculpture of the Virgen de Guadalupe and a wall fountain with the soothing sound of trickling water, surrounded by trees, plants and artwork. —RUDY ARISPE

CLASS NOTES

1979

\\ **CHERYL LANDMAN**, B.B.A. in management, M.B.A. in business '81, is mayor of Fair Oaks Ranch, a San Antonio suburb. Prior to being elected mayor, she served for 10 years as an alderman-at-large. Cheryl has a background in marketing and in 1985 launched her own firm, P5Incentives.

1981

\\ **ANTONIO GONZALEZ**, B.A. in history, is president of the William C. Velasquez Institute, a national Latino public policy and research organization. He became president in 1994 after working in various capacities for founding President Willie Velasquez as well as his successor Andrew Hernandez from 1984–94. Antonio lives in Los Angeles.

1982

\\ **STEVE BARRERA**, B.A. in criminal justice, is chief of police and director of public safety at UTSA.

1985

\\ **JANET P. BUCKINGHAM**, M.S. in math, is a staff analyst in Southwest Research Institute's Fuels and Lubricants Research Division. In August she was named a winner of the 2010 American Statistical Association Founders Award. She was elected a fellow of ASA in 2005.

1986

\\ **CATHY BOCHAT-DUROSS**, B.B.A. in finance, is owner and founder of The Motorcycle School in San Antonio. She said she's taught more than 6,000 people to ride since opening her business in 2006.

\\ **JEFF COURTRIGHT**, B.B.A. in accounting, is financial controller of CAMAC Energy. Before joining CAMAC, Jeff spent four years as the director of financial reporting at Houston-based BMC Software Inc. and had previously served as the controller and principal accounting officer at Kraton Polymers.

\\ **CLARE DAVIES**, B.A. in early childhood and elementary education, M.A. in education with a concentration in special education '90, is vice principal at Incarnate Word High School in San Antonio. Clare most recently served as the executive director

of special education for the San Francisco United School District.

\\ **JEANNE KELLER**, B.S. in occupational therapy, B.F.A. in art '04, lives in Bulverde and is an artist. Her work has been shown at the South Wind Gallery in Topeka, Kan.; the 2007 Oil Painters of America Central Regional Juried Exhibition; and the 2007 Oil Painters of America 16th annual National Juried Exhibition, among others.

\\ **JEANIE WYATT**, M.B.A., is CEO and chief investment officer of South Texas Money Management in San Antonio. In August she was the only San Antonio financial adviser and one of only six Texans named to Barron's Top 100 Independent Advisors List.

1987

\\ **JANET LENNIE FLOHR**, B.F.A. in art, M.A. in art '90, is a San Antonio artist and owner of the fine-art print workshop Hare and Hound Press. Janet is on Artpace's board and is chairwoman of the board of the Southwest School of Art & Craft. Her recent exhibition at the McNay Art Museum was titled "Learning to Say Goodbye."

\\ **MEREDITH HAY**, M.S. in neurobiology, is executive vice president and provost of the University of Arizona. Meredith also is a professor of physiology in the University of Arizona's College of Medicine. Meredith holds a Ph.D. in cardiovascular pharmacology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

1988

\\ **LOUISE PETERS**, B.A. in English, is the author of *The Amazing Gift*, an updated look at the Gospel of Mark. The book was published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises.

1989

\\ **LEANNE HASSE-GOEBEL**, B.A. in English, was recently awarded a first-place award in the Top of the Rockies regional contest hosted by the Society of Professional Journalists for her art writer blog.

1990

\\ **CYNTHIA JACOB**, B.A. in early childhood and elementary education, is principal of Wilshire Elementary School in San Antonio.

1992

\\ **JOE R. HINOJOSA**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a lawyer in San Antonio. Joe graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law and recently established a law firm, Barkhurst & Hinojosa, P.C., with a colleague. He serves as managing shareholder.

\\ **CLIF TINKER**, B.F.A. in art and design, M.F.A. in art history '01, is a San Antonio artist and chairman of the fine arts department at James Madison High School. One of his latest projects was a painting used by H-E-B on 80,000 reusable shopping bags.

\\ **DANIEL WEICKENAND**, B.B.A. in accounting, M.B.A. in finance and marketing '00, is chief executive officer of the Memphis Area Teachers Credit Union. Daniel previously served as chief financial officer of the FedEx Employees Credit Association.

1993

\\ **LLOYD ANTOINE BLANCHARD**, B.A. in political science, is chief operating officer at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. He served in the federal Office of Management and Budget as chief operating officer of the Small Business Administration and as vice provost for fiscal management at Louisiana State University, among other positions. Lloyd holds both a master's and a Ph.D. in public administration from Syracuse University.

\\ **CHUCK CUREAU**, B.A. in psychology, is a SeaWorld of San Antonio whale trainer and a San Antonio Spurs in-arena host and actor. Chuck has appeared in dozens of local and national television shows including *Trading Spaces: Boys versus Girls*, *Skunked TV*, *Great Day SA*, *The Drew Carey Show*, *JAG* and *Felicity*. Most recently, he had a small part in the upcoming *Spy Kids* sequel.

1994

\\ **DARA RICHARDSON**, B.S. in interdisciplinary studies with a specialization in early childhood education, is principal of T.H. Johnson Elementary School in Taylor, Texas. Dara has taught at schools in San Antonio and Boerne and was an administrator in Lampasas ISD for three years before accepting the position at T.H. Johnson.

1995

\\ **TOMMY HINES**, B.S. in kinesiology, is head boys

basketball coach at Brennan High School in San Antonio. Tommy coached at a New Braunfels school for two years before moving to San Antonio's Lee High School in 2005. He is married to **YVONNE HINES** '96, B.S. in kinesiology, M.A. in education '07.

\\ **MARGARET HUNNICUTT**, B.B.A. in accounting, was named the 2010 Businesswoman of the Year by the Tempe, Ariz., Chamber of Commerce. Margaret is the president and CEO of Tempe Schools Credit Union. Before she became CEO, she was chief financial officer at the credit union.

\\ **MICHEL SANCHEZ-WALL**, B.A. in history, is principal of Cane Ridge High School in Antioch, Tenn., near Nashville. Michel also holds a master's degree in education administration from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. She is the first Hispanic high school principal in the Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.

1996

\\ **JOAN FABIAN**, M.F.A. in art, is a San Antonio artist. Three of her paintings were recently on display at the Smithsonian Institution's International Gallery in Washington, D.C., as part of "Revealing Culture," an exhibit organized by VSA, an international organization that advocates for artists with disabilities. Joan lost much of her hearing to a severe ear infection as a child.

1998

\\ **SCOTT B. FULMER**, B.A. in criminal justice, is a private investigator in San Antonio and owner of Scott B. Fulmer Investigations. Much of his work involves insurance liability and workers' comp fraud, as well as domestic work, child custody and surveillance.

\\ **SHANA PRICHARD**, M.B.A. in finance, is founder and owner of San Antonio-based Realign, a consulting firm for small-business owners. Shana was named the Home-Based Business Champion of the Year for 2009 by the San Antonio district office of the Small Business Administration.

1999

\\ **HECTOR CANALES**, B.S. in civil engineering, M.S. in civil engineering '04, is assistant city engineer in Del Rio, Texas. Hector received his professional engineer's license in June 2006, and is also a certified floodplain manager.

! "You can't be a premier institution without quality students."

—Ricardo Romo, UTSA PRESIDENT, on KSTX, Texas Public Radio, July 26

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 2014

74

Freshmen named Michael, the most common male first name

49

Freshmen named Jessica, the most common female first name

59

Freshmen named Garcia, the most common surname

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 1980

58%

Bachelor's degree recipients who were 24 or older

2000

|| JENNIFER

BAADSGAARD, M.Ed., is principal of Cleburne High School, southwest of Fort Worth. She worked at Edward H. White Middle School and Douglas MacArthur High School in San Antonio, among others.

|| CRUZ ORTIZ, B.F.A. in art, is an artist and teacher. His work was recently displayed in an exhibit at the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston. Cruz was one of the founders of San Antonio Cultural Arts, an organization known for its mural program, and he teaches art at San Antonio's Lee High School.

2002

|| SHANE FOLEY, B.A. in political science and criminal justice, is a police officer in Indianapolis, Ind. He recently received the department's Medal of Merit for developing a new method of tracking suspects. Shane has been on the force for three years.

2003

|| LISA BOMBÍN, B.A. in communication, is founder and owner of Unico Communications, a San Antonio firm specializing in public relations, special events and board development. Lisa served for five years as a special events coordinator for National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C.

|| DANIEL STEVE VILLARREAL, M.A. in education, is in Taipei, Taiwan, doing research on heritage speakers of Mandarin Chinese as a Ph.D. candidate in foreign language education at the University of Texas at Austin.

2005

|| SEAN ETHEREDGE, B.S. in kinesiology, is head golf pro at The Quarry in San Antonio.

|| WALLY SALDANA, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is veterans service officer for the Bee County Community Affairs department. Wally assists veterans with problems such as filing claims with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Beeville native is a former Marine who was discharged in 2001.

2007

|| PETER HOLLAND, B.A. in history, is a member of the Alamo Area Poets Association, the San Antonio Poets Association and the Poetry

SPIRIT FILLED

CHARLIE PAULETTE '92, M.B.A. '01

Charlie Paulette has had a remarkably successful career as a businessman and marketing strategist.

He rose from marketing intern at the Gambrinus Co.,

High School, Paulette said, he enrolled at Texas A&M University as an animal science major. But, he explained, he felt lost, and his "mind just wasn't in the



Charlie Paulette stands in an agave field in Mexico. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD SORENSON

which owns Spoetzl Brewery, to vice president for marketing. In the process he grew Spoetzl's brand, Shiner Bock, tenfold.

Now he's CEO of Dulce Vida Spirits, an Austin tequila company that distills, imports and markets handcrafted, 100-proof organic tequila.

And who gets the credit for this success? His alma mater, of course.

"I can't even begin to tell you how much UTSA did for me, how it set me on my career path, and how it gave me the tools I needed to succeed," said Paulette, who earned a B.B.A. in management in 1992 and an M.B.A. in business in 2001.

After graduating from San Antonio's Churchill

right place." So he returned to San Antonio, took a couple of classes at San Antonio College, then decided to change directions and take some business courses at UTSA.

"I tell people this story and they don't believe me," Paulette said. "My very first class was a marketing class with [Associate Professor] Rick Utecht. And after one hour of that class I knew exactly what I wanted to do with my life, what direction I wanted to go, what I wanted to accomplish. He was that good. And I never had any problem with motivation or focus or grades after that."

Fresh out of school with a marketing degree, Paulette went to work for the

Gambrinus Co. on the Shiner Bock brand, which grew exponentially in the '90s. "Beer is what I cut my teeth on," Paulette said. He spent 15 years with the company before catching the entrepreneurial bug and striking out on his own.

After helping start and then quickly selling a technology startup company, Paulette joined the new tequila venture in early 2009.

"We wanted a niche in the marketplace and we decided we were going to do a handcrafted tequila," he said.

The company owns harvesting rights for agave plants in Mexico and uses a distillery in Santa Cruz del Astillero, east of Guadalajara.

"We have our own master distiller who lives in Guadalajara," Paulette said. "He works for our company. We developed a recipe and he makes it for us."

The "organic" part of the equation means that "nothing touches that agave plant except rain over the course of the six to eight years it takes for the plant to mature. That plays out to the quality of the product."

Dulce Vida makes and sells three kinds of tequila—blanco, reposado and añejo. The latter two are the darker tequilas that have been aged in whiskey barrels and are more suitable to "sipping like a fine single malt scotch," Paulette said.

In fact, he's trying to spread the word that there are other ways to enjoy tequila besides shots or margaritas.

Paulette, who lives in San Antonio, said he's greatly impressed with how far UTSA has come and its ambitions for national prominence. And he's grateful.

"UTSA literally changed my life." —JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Society of Texas. His chapbook, *A Year in South Texas*, was published by Pecan Grove Press in 2009.

|| VALERIA MARTINEZ-GONZALEZ, Ph.D. in business administration with a concentration in finance, is assistant professor of finance at Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn. She received the Dolan School of Business' annual Excellence in Teaching Award. Before becoming an educator, Valeria worked for Merrill Lynch, the National Banking and Securities Commission in Mexico City and the finance department of the City of San Antonio.

|| SHEILA PRITCHETT, B.S. in biology, was named a Woodrow Wilson Indiana Teaching Fellow in May by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation of Princeton, N.J. Sheila will receive a \$30,000 stipend and enroll in a master's degree program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Most recently an academic lab technician at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Sheila is a U.S. Army veteran.

|| MITRA MIRI, B.S. in biology, won a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship to fund her graduate studies in the Ph.D. program in neurobiology at Yale University. She entered the Ph.D. program at Yale in fall 2009.

2008

|| A.J. CASTILLO, B.B.A. in management, is a Tejano singer and recording artist. In July he won the best accordion and best emerging artist awards from the Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians, and best new male artist honors in the 30th annual Tejano Music Awards.

2009

|| MELISSA ALCALA, D.Ed., is principal of Roan Forest Elementary School in San Antonio. She most recently was an academic dean at Garner Middle School.

2010

|| BELINDA GONZALEZ, M.Ed. in educational leadership and policy studies, was promoted last summer from assistant principal to principal of West Avenue Elementary School in San Antonio.

CLASS NOTES is a compilation of alumni submissions and reports from newspapers and other media outlets.

IN MEMORIAM

1975 BEVERLY LEE GOODIE, M.A. in education, died July 17, 2009, at age 62.

TERESA "TERRI" JEAN RODGERS, M.A. in education, died June 30, 2010, at age 61.

JERRY FRANKLIN THOMAS, M.S. in environmental studies, died Aug. 6, 2009, at age 70.

1976 RUDY CASTILLO, B.B.A. in economics, died Aug. 26, 2009, at age 59.

1977 NORMA KAY BAKER, M.A. in education with a concentration in curriculum and instruction, died June 20, 2010, at age 71.

DEBORAH ANN FITZGERALD, B.A. in sociology, died June 22, 2009, at age 53.

ERLYTA ANN LIVENGOD, B.A. in early childhood education, died Oct. 17, 2009, at age 76.

ROBERT R. PATTON, B.A. in anthropology, died Nov. 9, 2009, at age 84.

LUTHER A. TARBOX, M.A. in education with a concentration in counseling, died Oct. 4, 2009, at age 84.

1978 RAUL HERNANDEZ, M.A. in education, died May 8, 2009, at age 74.

1979 HOWARD BENOIST III, M.A. in education, died April 25, 2010, at age 67.

1980 BARBARA BARBOUR, M.A. in education, died April 15, 2010, at age 84.

1981 MARJORIE LOU ENNEY, B.B.A. in management, died April 23, 2009, at age 64.

KHA H. VU, B.S. in math, died Feb. 21, 2009, at age 49.

1982 MARY JO CISNEROS, B.A. in elementary education, M.A. in education '89, died July 10, 2009, at age 64.

BETTY J. DOWDY, M.A. in education, died Aug. 18, 2010, at age 74.

KENNETH CHARLES HUDSON, B.B.A. in management, died June 26, 2009, at age 57.

1983 CHERYL LEE FRALEY, B.B.A. in accounting, died Aug. 10, 2009, at age 49.

DONALD R. JORDAN, B.S. in math, died Oct. 25, 2009, at age 56.

1984 THOMAS MICHAEL SCHROEDER, B.B.A. in accounting, died Sept. 23, 2009, at age 63.

1986 BETTY LORRAINE COAKLEY, M.F.A. in art, died March 13, 2009, at age 77.

1987 ELIZABETH CECILY DOUBRAVA, B.A. in early childhood education, died June 26, 2009, at age 47.

HILDA HORNBOGEN, B.B.A. in accounting, died on Oct. 31, 2009, at age 60.

DOLORES PALACIOS, B.B.A. in management, died Sept. 6, 2009, at age 64.

1988 EDNA FRANCES RASAR, B.F.A. in art, died Feb. 18, 2009, at age 79.

1990 DEBORAH ANN CAVAZOS, B.B.A. in management, died May 30, 2009, at age 56.

1991 CHARLES A. ANDERSON, B.B.A. in management, died Oct. 20, 2009, at age 50.

1992 JOHN EDWARD MCGLOTHAN III, B.A. in psychology, died March 15, 2009, at age 62.

1993 ROSA L. CONKLIN, B.B.A. in accounting, died Feb. 26, 2009, at age 39.

1994 RICHARD DANIEL MURPHY, B.F.A. in art, died Sept. 30, 2009, at age 62.

BRENT E. PESCHKE, M.B.A. in business, died March 24, 2009, at age 40.

FRANK "JARED" STENBERG, B.A. in sociology, died May 25, 2010, at age 39.

1996 CARTER CARA CARRICK, B.B.A. in personnel/human resource management, died June 28, 2010, at age 62.

RONECIA P. PHOENIX, B.A. in sociology, died April 25, 2009, at age 36.

REGIS SHEPHARD, M.F.A. in art, died July 27, 2010, at age 39.

1997 HECTOR DIAZ, B.B.A. in marketing, died March 10, 2009, at age 55.

THOMAS EDWARD KISSLING, B.A. in psychology, died Sept. 1, 2010, at age 52.

1998 EARLE W. "TREY" CLIFFORD III, B.B.A. in information systems, died Aug. 10, 2010, at age 47.

1999 BRAD STEVEN BRYANT, B.B.A. in accounting, died May 31, 2009, at age 55.

2005 PAULA JOYCE CAMERON, B.A. in anthropology, died April 21, 2009, at age 57.

2006 RAVEN DIANA ORTEGA, B.A. in anthropology and criminal justice, M.S. in sociology '09, died April 5, 2010, at age 37.

2007 KIMBERLY ANN POTTS, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, died Aug. 11, 2010, at age 40.

BY THE NUMBERS

May Graduates

CLASS OF 1980

493

CLASS OF 1990

834

CLASS OF 2000

1,346

CLASS OF 2010

2,060

BY THE NUMBERS

CLASS OF 1980

67

Bachelor's degrees awarded in accounting, the most of any discipline

Festive First

More than 1,000 attend first football tailgating event

BY RUDY ARISPE

TAILGATING IS AS NECESSARY AND logical a precursor of college football games as studying is for exams. That's why more than 1,000 UTSA alumni, friends and supporters attended UTSA's first tailgating party, 1st and Rowdy, on Sept. 16 at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Hosted by the UTSA Alumni Association, the event showcased the first Roadrunners football team and sold more than 560 season tickets worth \$120,000.

recognized head football coach Larry Coker and featured the UTSA dance team and cheerleaders.

"The roots of Texas football made this happen," Mickey said. "Our alumni have wanted football forever, so it was natural to allow them to show their pride and spirit at a tailgate event. So the combination of football, food and fun made it happen. The alumni were looking for a lightning rod, and Roadrunners football is it."

Alumni who wish to reconnect with UTSA can join the



Left: More than 560 football season tickets were sold at the first tailgating event, 1st and Rowdy, Sept. 16. **Right:** The event spotlighted head football Coach Larry Coker and the first Roadrunners football team. PHOTOS BY BILLY CALZADA/ SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS/ ZUMAPRESS.COM

"We were super-excited with the number of people who came out to support our football team," said Jim Mickey '78, associate vice president of alumni programs and marketing. He added that the event was a partnership with the Athletics Department.

"We expected a good turnout, but many doubted our alumni would number 1,000 or more. It just confirms that our alumni and friends are pumped about UTSA football."

Freshman wide receiver Jake Wanamaker said seeing the number of supporters at 1st and Rowdy made him feel proud to be part of the team.

"It was the first time for me as a member of the football team that I got to feel the passion and excitement of the fans," Wanamaker said. "My family, friends and acquaintances have always told me that they would be supporting me, but I had people who I don't even know come up to me to tell me that they're excited for me to be playing football for UTSA."

Alumna Deborah Schueneman said although she has never been a big football fan before, she now plans on becoming one. The fervor of 1st and Rowdy was contagious, she said.

"It made me proud not only to be an alum, but [also to be] a staff member of UTSA," said Schueneman, director of the Small Business Development Center, National Information Clearinghouse (SBDCNet). "It was a first-class event and now I look forward to going to the football games."

The event, sponsored by Silver Eagle Distributors, also

Alumni Association online at www.utsa.edu/alumni. Those who join can begin earning loyalty points, which can be used by season ticket holders to select seats at the Alamodome.

To learn more about UTSA football or purchase season tickets, visit www.utsa.edu/2011. \$

ALUMNI EXTRAS

Alumni Association members receive networking opportunities, discounted membership to the Recreation and Wellness Center and discounts on all graduate prep courses. They also receive loyalty points from the Athletics Department, which season ticket holders use to select seats for football games.

By joining the alumni association, members receive two loyalty points equivalent to a \$200 donation to the Roadrunner Athletic Fund. A life member gets five points equal to \$500.

"When it comes to choosing your football tickets, Alumni Association membership has its privileges because more loyalty points assist in better seat selection," Mickey said. —RUDY ARISPE

The Rush is on

Make Your Play to Join the Alumni Association

The UTSA Alumni Association is your gateway to the university. It's an opportunity to connect with UTSA, access professional networking opportunities and get in touch with old and new friends.

Now, with UTSA football driving toward the kickoff season, being an association member will ensure you get the best seats at the Alamodome and at all UTSA athletic events.

Join now at utsa.edu/join or call 210-458-4133

UTSA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NOW & THEN



Remember card catalogs? This area of the John Peace Library, which used to be known as the JPL Commons, featured rows upon rows of the reference system when this photo was taken in April 1979 (inset). Today called Laptop Lounge, the area was updated in 2009 as part of the first phase of a \$7 million renovation of the JPL. Learn more about supporting the Library at utsa.edu/giving.