

SOMBRILLA

FALL 2011 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

From the Trenches



On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, 100 UTSA Army and Air Force cadets gave a living flag presentation at the football game against McMurry University.
PHOTO BY JEFF HUEHN

COVER PHOTO BY PATRICK RAY DUNN



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LETTERS

Solutions, Hope

The fact that Dr. Forsthuber and his team are actively pursuing a more effective treatment for multiple sclerosis is amazing. I began working with Dr. Forsthuber at the tender age of 18, and there is only one word to describe his lab environment to an unknowing college freshman: intense. It's an incredible academic atmosphere...easily comparable to any top-notch lab in the nation. I can always thank Dr. Forsthuber for giving me that opportunity.

CATHERINE SALFITI
Senior biology major

From the Heart

What a beautiful piece Joe Michael Feist has written! "From the Heart" brought me face to face again with an amazingly inspirational professor. I remember feeling the power of poetry in Dr. Barker's presence, and Mr. Feist has given me a few moments more of her brilliance. Reading this article, hearing her voice, I was right back in that classroom with her. I believe Dr. Barker is right. Poetry cannot be extinguished in our fast-paced, technology-rich world. Poetry lives and breathes within us. And, yes! It can heal!

JO ELLEN FISK '97
Austin

Wendy Barker opened up new worlds of poetry back when I was at UTSA ('83-'87). I still write today. Between my 9-to-5 job that pays the bills and the job I love, working with orphans around the globe, poetry almost seems like a luxury—and what a grand luxury it is.

DOUGLAS N. RIGGLE '87
Columbus, Ohio

Tier One Momentum

I started school at UTSA in 2008. Since then I have seen tremendous positive growth. Campus groups are active both on campus and in the community. The general atmosphere is inviting and students are serious about their education. The faculty teaches in a way that is both challenging and exciting, promoting expansion of thought, steering away from an individualistic perspective. I have never been more excited to be a part of something so great. We are making history and have a community filled with supporters. We are on the path to Tier One status. We truly live by our core values: integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration and innovation.

ELISABETH CUADROS '11
Graduate student in sociology

Considering how young the university still is in comparison to UT Austin, we're doing pretty well.

NISHANT D. GANDHI
Freshman pre-biology major

When I went to UTSA for my graduate work, I was blown away by the level of education. Now, I look forward to building professional ties between my employer and the university and tapping into the talent and brainpower. To me, Tier One has nothing to do with the number of programs or students, but, rather, the quality of programs and contribution the university makes to the business community. By that definition we're already there!

BRAD WHITE '09
San Antonio

Getting Global

The story, "Getting Global," is great. But one could also focus on the students coming to UTSA. For example, the Office of ESL Services has programs that bring students from Angola, Turkey and Saudi Arabia on full scholarships. We are working on a project that will bring over members of the Saudi Arabian royal air force, navy and army to study at UTSA. UTSA does a lot to help the world by bringing students to our campus. It would be great if more UTSA students and staff took the time to find out about the wonderful resource we have right here on campus.

JIM KELIM
Director, ESL Services, UTSA

Down Home in the City

This article moved me to tears. It made me feel so proud to be an alum of UTSA. There are several institutions of higher learning in San Antonio, but I do not think they all share UTSA's commitment to giving back to the local community. Like many big cities, San Antonio has many problems, and it is going to take all of us to help the city reach its full potential.

BRANDIS DAVIS '04
San Antonio

Just Reality, Not Reality TV

Thank you for the article about Scott Fulmer. I believe it was well written, and eloquently conveyed the exciting and menial aspects of being a private investigator. My husband has enjoyed the many experiences of his work over the years. But what makes him so unique is that he is a remarkable husband, father and person. He has character and integrity. He would do well in any

profession. It is a privilege to be his wife. Thank you again. Job well done.

VALERIE FULMER
San Antonio

We Are Ready

I love the new look you guys are using for the magazine and the online presentation. Really fantastic art direction and production. I have seen a lot of university magazines and *Sombrilla* is by far the most attractive and thoughtfully produced.

DOUG COHENMILLER
San Antonio

Your latest edition of *Sombrilla* looks fantastic—it's easy to read, colorful and fun and so football!

MARIAN BOWNS
San Antonio

Marching Orders

It was a huge thrill to find a West Campus graduate highlighted in my alma mater's alumni magazine. I used to teach at West Campus and I was there during the flood and the subsequent decision to close it. I'm proud that a former student is part of this special time for UTSA. Congratulations, Alana!

HERMAN ROBINSON '02
San Antonio

As sad as it was to learn that my high school no longer exists, it's nice to see an alum, the last drum major, marking a new era at UTSA, where I am also an alum. Nice job!

STEPHEN SLISH '92
Nashville, Tenn.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thanks from a chicken

I'm afraid to fly. The thought of being so high up terrifies me so much that I do almost anything to avoid planes. Alumnus Marty Contreras also is afraid of heights, so when he joined the Army, he signed up for airborne school. His reasoning: if he's scared of it, he's going to make himself get over it—with a parachute.

I'm afraid of pain. If I hit my thumb with a hammer, you'd better believe I'm going to avoid all hammers for at least a year. Student Anna King knows pain. When a mortar hit her base in Iraq, it dislocated her jaw, broke her wrist and caused traumatic brain injury. She almost died from the swelling in her brain. She now suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. But she'd give anything to go back and continue the fight.

When Tony Doyle's Humvee hit an improvised explosive device in Iraq, he was flung from the vehicle and pinned under it. He lost his leg. His world changed in an instant. He came back home and rebuilt his life and now is an undergraduate student studying history. Unbelievably, he'd do it all again. Because, he says, his life now is richer than it was before.

This is courage. True courage.

What drives them? It may be honor, duty, a need to serve. But what makes them actually do the things they do and not just say they will? What is it that pushes them to move beyond fear, trauma, pain, stress, grief, and make their lives even better because of what they experienced?

They are made from a different cloth than me, and all

I can do is thank them. I wish I was more like them. But because of them, we are here living comfortably and confidently. Our children, grandchildren and future generations will live with a greater sense of security because of what they've done. But it goes even beyond that. It's the will, the determination to make their own lives a sacrifice to something they truly believe in that I admire the most.

Marty, Anna, Tony and all veterans and military personnel out there—you are heroes. Thank you for everything you do.

Saludos,

Lety Laurel



THE SOMBRILLA

You will never do anything
in this world without courage.
It is the greatest quality of
the mind next to honor. —ARISTOTLE

GO ONLINE!

Need more information? Check out these UTSA websites:

For back issues of
Sombrilla, go to
utsa.edu/sombrilla

Discover ways to give
back to your university at
giving.utsa.edu

Reconnect with old
classmates at
utsa.edu/alumni

For campus news
and events, visit
utsa.edu/today

Check out the latest sports
stats and information at
utsa.edu/athletics

For everything else,
go to utsa.edu

For information about The
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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? Contact us at
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your letters to *Sombrilla*
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78249. Letters may be ed-
ited for length or clarity.

A living flag presentation at the Sept. 10 football game against McMurry University paid tribute to military servicemen and women.

THE PASEO

A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS

Ten Years Later

By Lety Laurel

BY THE TIME THE SECOND PLANE HIT THE WORLD TRADE Center on Sept. 11, 2001, everything at UTSA had come to a sudden halt. Hallways were quiet as people crowded around televisions that had been wheeled into public areas.

"Astonishment is the word I would use to characterize the general sense of how people felt," said Dan Pena, UTSA's assistant police chief. "Shock. Dismay."

President Ricardo Romo was giving a speech to 100 military officers. At once, every pager in the room went off. The room was cleared. "Instantly, we knew something terrible had happened," he said.

While students struggled to comprehend what was happening, campus officials and security personnel went into overdrive to make sure the university was secure and to help allay fears. Police officers were stationed at the university's entrances to monitor traffic. Security was enhanced in all the service corridors underneath campus buildings. Alerts went out to the campus community through email, updating everyone as the day went on.

"That's probably one of the biggest where-were-you moments that will happen in a generation," said David Gabler, associate vice president for communications. "The entire university shut down for a period of time. The face of everybody in the [John Peace Library] that I came across conveyed that we would never be the same again."

And the university did change. Over the last 10 years, research focus has shifted to cyber security and infectious diseases. Funding from the Department of Defense has exceeded \$35 million in the last decade. The university's emergency operations center has been beefed up and more than \$500,000 has been spent on upgrading security and emergency notification systems.

"We lost a little bit of our innocence," Pena said.

After Sept. 11 the unthinkable became possible. Then came Hurricane Katrina, followed by the shootings at Virginia Tech. Each event highlighted deficiencies in emergency response and communications nationwide.

"I think what has happened probably in a lot of institutions is the feeling of insulation has disappeared," Gabler said. "And I don't think that means that we're now living in the grips of fear. But I think the awareness is there and there's a knowledge that we aren't necessarily immune now."

So the university has prepared itself for the next emergency. A reverse 911 system was installed in 2005, which sends an alert to students, faculty and staff by telephone, emails and text messages to cell phones. It was recently upgraded to a new Emergency Notification System. The Giant Voice mass notification technology was installed in 2007, which relays emergency messages through outdoor speakers and fire alarms within buildings.

The emergency management office expanded in staff and all safety personnel are now required to take emergency management education courses. The communications staff also must take emergency communications training.

"We have changed our focus from how to catch the bad guys or put out the fires to how do we coordinate within our organization from a holistic preparedness and response perspective," said Lorenzo Sanchez, UTSA's director of emergency management. "We plan for university emergencies from an all-hazards perspective, not just for singular events such as terrorism, fires or flood. We've created a

program that can serve all occupants in our community, no matter what happens on campus."

There was a shift in research priorities as well. The Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security had been established in June 2001 to address data protection. But after Sept. 11, Romo decided cyber security would be a major research component. That goal was enhanced by the creation of the Institute for Cyber Security in 2007. The threat of biowarfare also highlighted the need for study of infectious diseases. In response, the South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases was created in 2005.

Gradually, researchers have become more involved in things like military medicine, robotics, trauma treatment, regenerative medicine, stem cell work and energy.

"Genuine, well-articulated and well-understood national priorities drive a lot of research efforts in any country," said Robert Gracy, vice president for research. "I think the idea is to look at society and see the current needs and project into the future to determine what we need to do."

"We lost a little bit of our innocence."

DAN PENA
UTSA Assistant Police Chief

ESSENTIAL MESSAGE

Shortly after the terrorist attacks, Romo began carrying around cards in his wallet. They weren't typical business cards. Instead, they had a message of hope written by Franklin D. Roosevelt and delivered in his 1941 State of the Union Address. Called The Four Freedoms, it articulated freedoms that everyone in the world should be guaranteed.


The fourth one is the one that resonated with Romo.

"The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a worldwide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world," Roosevelt wrote.

For Romo, that was a message that needed to be remembered as the country dealt with the shock of terrorism. To everyone he met, he handed them the card.

"It impacted me a lot," Romo said. "Everyone has the right to be free from fear. Ten years ago, the country, and our university, was struggling to understand what had just happened. There was grief, shock and definitely fear. But we can't let fear manipulate us, because that is terrorism. And we couldn't let the terrorists be successful."

Today the country faces the same challenges it did 10 years ago. But what has changed is our awareness of the problems, and our role to help make a difference, he said.

"There is still hate in the world. There are still misunderstandings in the world," Romo said. "The thing that was important to me 10 years ago and remains important to me now is that higher education is part of the solution. We're doing a really good job at UTSA of preparing the next generation of leaders to spread the message of understanding." 

Want to learn math? There's an app for that.

Edgewood ISD students prepare for college through a pilot dual-credit program that arms them with iPads

By Kate Hunger

AS ESTHER BURTON LISTENED TO HER college algebra instructor explain how to graph rational functions one morning this fall, her high school math teacher watched from the back of the classroom.

"I assigned the bare minimum you need to do," Zachery Sharon reminded the 17 high school juniors seated before him. "That means you need to do more if you are having trouble with it."

Taking the initiative to stretch academically is a huge part of the lesson Sharon and his team-teaching counterpart, Memorial High School math teacher Michael Hughes, hope to impart to Burton and her classmates. The students are participating in iCLASS, a two-year program designed to take strong math students and prepare them to succeed in college—armed with their very own iPads.

iCLASS stands for innovative Communities of Learning Advancing Student Success and is a collaboration between the Academy for Teacher Excellence in UTSA's College of Education and Human Development and the Office of P-20 Initiatives, which works to increase the college-going rate of Texans. The program's investigators already have begun gathering data that will allow them to assess what is working, how to improve and how best to apply this model on a larger scale, said Belinda Bustos Flores, professor of

interdisciplinary learning and teaching and co-principal investigator. The iPads are an important tool to engage students and foster good habits such as persistence and self-motivation as they learn the math and science they need to be competitive, she said.

"We know that the jobs of the future require a population that is well versed and comfortable in math and science," Flores said. "By taking more math and more science [classes] sooner, it gives students a greater choice in terms of the field of study. For example, if a student has the goal of becoming an engineer and they realize, 'I have to start off at math 101 and then I have to take college algebra,' already they are deterred from their path."

Funded by a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, iCLASS bundles into a comprehensive program all aspects of college preparedness, from technology to counseling to parental leadership and involvement. If this year's students complete all their courses, they will graduate from high school next year with 12 hours of college credit, a big boost in their quest to earn a degree from a four-year university. A new group of juniors and seniors will join the program next fall and will be able to earn up to six hours of college credit before funding ends in December 2013.

The program's first dual-credit course, college algebra, began this fall. Students will study pre-calculus this spring, calculus next fall and a science course—likely chemistry—in the final spring semester.

"A good [predictor] of a student succeeding in college is if they have earned college credit hours as a high school student," said Rachel Ruiz, assistant vice president of P-20 and co-principal investigator of iCLASS.

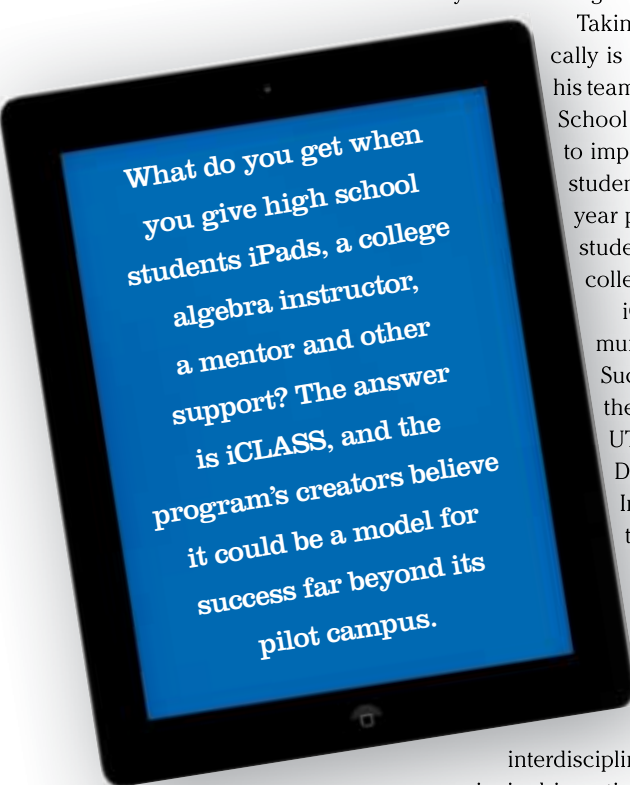
What makes iCLASS different is its comprehensive scope and its overarching goal of creating a college-going culture on a campus with predominantly low-income Latino students, many of whom would be the first in their families to attend college. iCLASS brings together the successful elements of a professional development community for teachers run by the Academy for Teacher Excellence and a dual-credit and parental leadership project out of P-20, Ruiz said.

As part of the project, 23 teachers at Memorial also received iPads and training on how to use the technology in their classrooms to ensure the continuation of lessons and techniques beyond the initial program's lifespan. Flores said the iPads will give students and teachers access to online resources around the clock, eliminating study barriers such as distance and work schedules. It helps that iPads appeal to trend-conscious teens, she added.

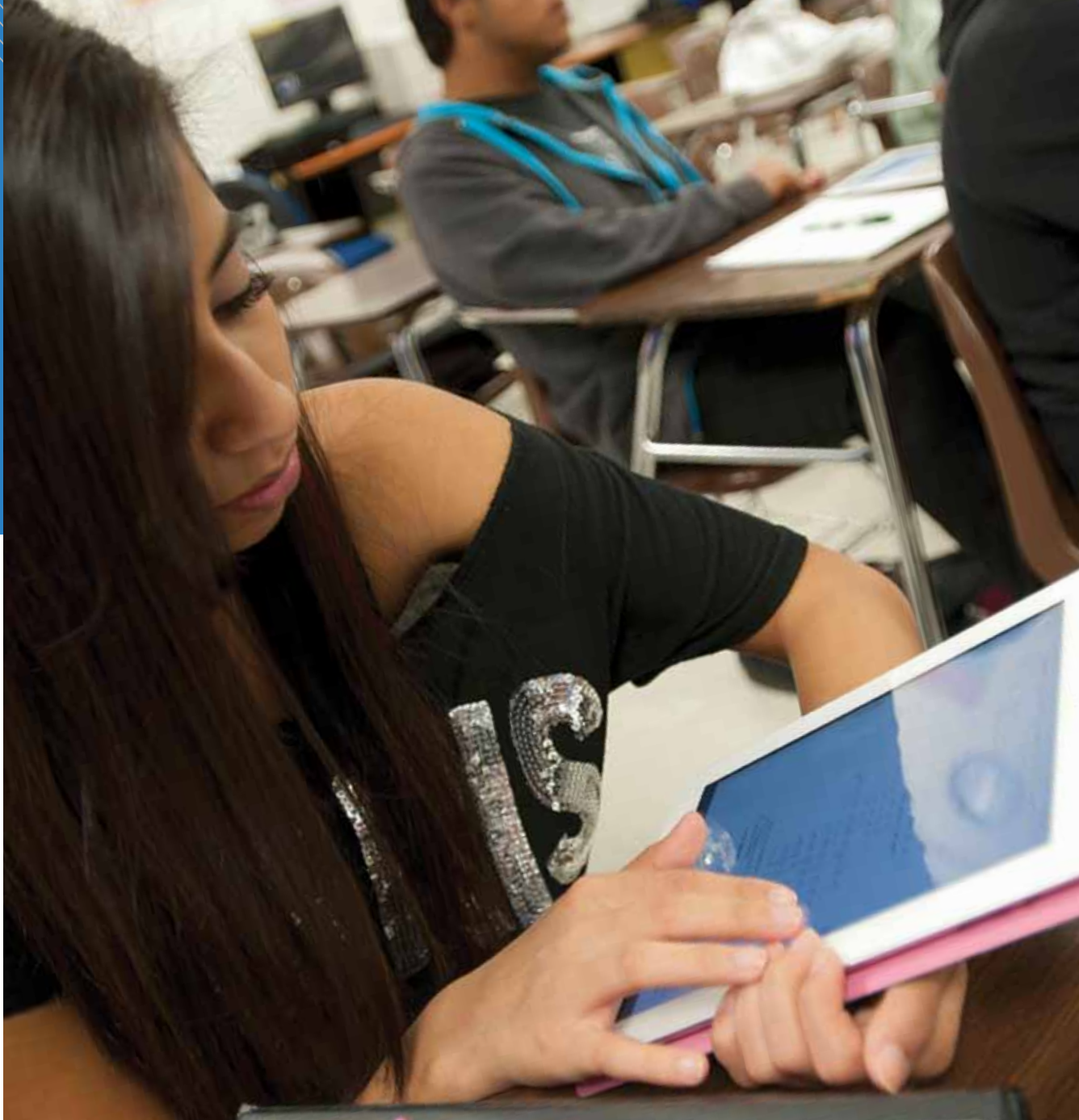
"Sometimes bright kids choose to underachieve because it is not cool to be into school. We want the students to remain highly motivated," she said.

If students have trouble remembering how to solve a tough problem, help is just an app away. Burton's favorite is the one that downloads her textbook to her iPad, but UPAD, a note-taking app, is a close second.

"It has really helped us to see what it's like when we go to college," said Burton, who plans to be an architect. "High school is really different than college. We know it's a select



What do you get when you give high school students iPads, a college algebra instructor, a mentor and other support? The answer is iCLASS, and the program's creators believe it could be a model for success far beyond its pilot campus.



iCLASS takes high school students who are strong in math and prepares them to succeed in college armed with iPads.

group. We're working hard at it."

They had to work hard to get into the program, too. To qualify, students had to have taken Algebra II and the ACT, pass UTSA's math entrance exam, attend an iCLASS math boot camp over the summer and acquire parental permission. Their college tuition and fees will be waived as part of the program.

Memorial, in San Antonio's Edgewood school district, was selected for the program because of its student demographics and an existing relationship between the Academy for Teacher Excellence and the school district. Of 80 Edgewood ISD graduates accepted at UTSA in 2009, just 20—one-quarter—enrolled, said Lorena Claeys, executive director of the academy.

"We found that there was a great need," she said. "A lot of times students don't see UTSA as a choice."

For his part, Sharon finds the high school students eager.

"They are probably one of the most engaged group of students I've taught," Sharon said. "It's nice teaching students who want to learn."

Melissa Zepeda, a staff member from UTSA's Office of

P-20 Initiatives and program manager for iCLASS, attends every class and serves as a mentor to the students, monitoring their progress, suggesting useful apps to bolster their learning, working with parents and arranging tutoring if necessary.


"I know what they need to succeed at UTSA," said Zepeda, a former freshman academic adviser.

Just as important as mastering the subject matter is learning how to be resourceful and learn proactively, said Hughes, the Memorial math teacher who observes the lectures three days a week. He uses the other two days to review or expand on the material with the students.

"These kids are being forced to work independently on a level they never had to before," he said.

The chance for the students to get a solid start on college is an opportunity not lost on Burton's grandmother, Esther Gonzales.

"I think it's a great thing," she said, adding that she makes no secret of her enthusiasm for a program she sees as a boon to Memorial.

"You have this advantage, mija," she recalled telling her granddaughter. "Take advantage." 



"That's right, be bold. Think about the possibilities. Think about the opportunities. When we see the timing is right, we need to seize the moment and step up."

—President Ricardo Romo, in the Sept. 23 State of the University address

BY THE NUMBERS

30,968

students enrolled in fall 2011



//IN BRIEF//

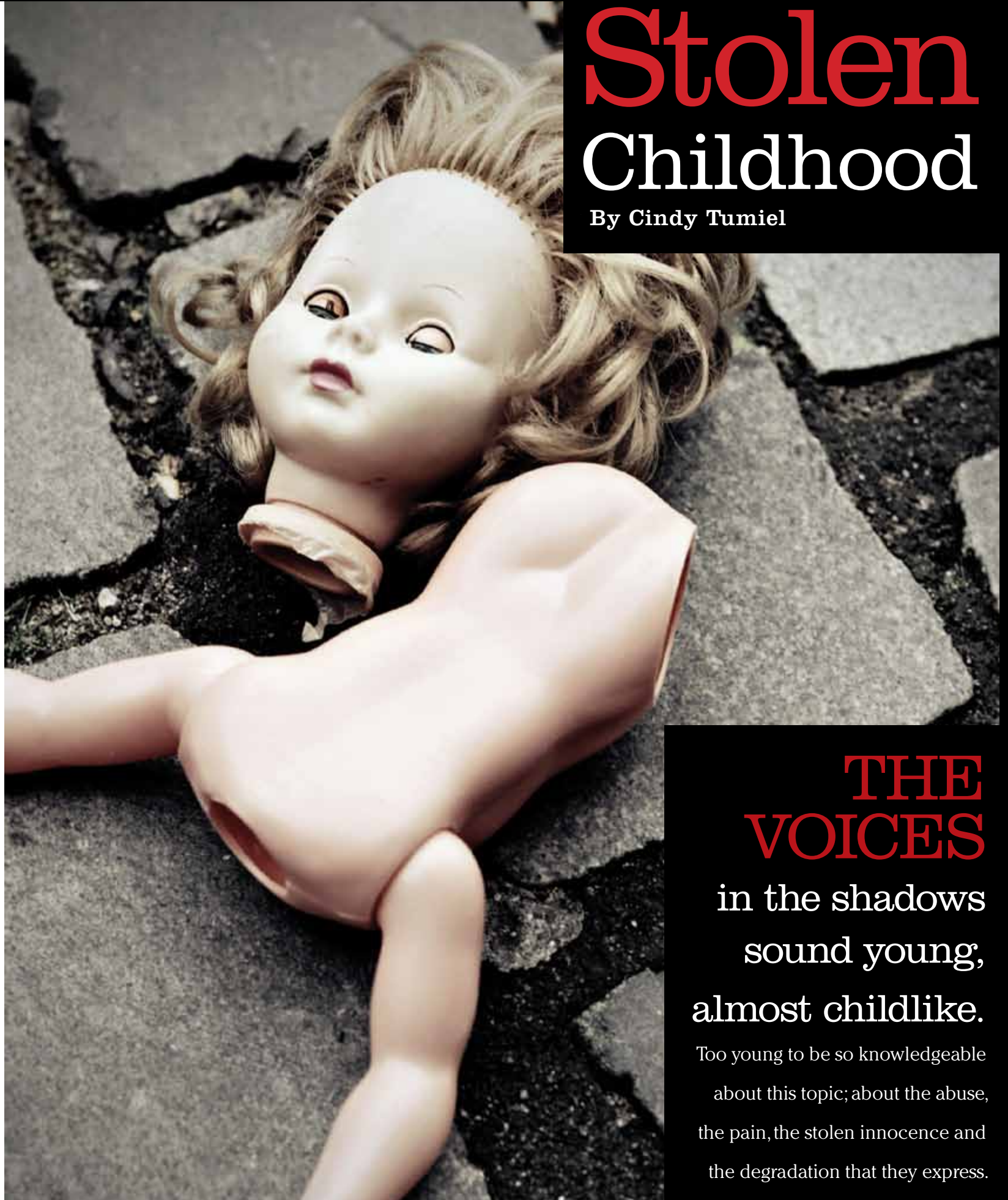
Dig This

Imagine life on the shores of the San Antonio River 9,000 to 10,500 years ago. Hard to do? UTSA archaeologists got a glimpse into that life after unearthing more than 500 artifacts while assisting in the San Antonio River Improvement Project in south San Antonio. They found projectile points and woodworking tools thought to be for making canoes all those thousands of years ago.

Closer to downtown San Antonio, archaeologists discovered the trash of one of Bexar County's first surveyors. There were bottles and ceramic fragments, along with meat bones and oyster shells, thought to be from the homestead of John James, who lived along North Presa Street in the mid-1800s.

Stolen Childhood

By Cindy Tumiel



THE VOICES

in the shadows
sound young,
almost childlike.

Too young to be so knowledgeable
about this topic; about the abuse,
the pain, the stolen innocence and
the degradation that they express.

Yet they do know.

They know of an unspeakable problem that lurks in many American communities, not just San Antonio. "I'm just scared all the time," a female voice says, while images of dolls, playgrounds and other symbols of innocence flash on the screen.

"I just want to take a bath and rub myself, rub all the shame off myself," another young voice tells an interviewer.

The video, produced by social work students at UTSA, sheds light on the sex trafficking of minors that goes on almost unseen in San Antonio and throughout the country.

Children, some as young as middle school-aged, are coerced into providing sexual favors in exchange for money, illegal drugs or things as basic as food and shelter. Sometimes it begins at the hands of an abusive parent or guardian, sometimes of a so-called "friend." Once the pattern begins, it often persists into adulthood, setting the stage for a difficult life.

The legal term for this practice is domestic minor sex trafficking. Finding it is hard. Stopping it is harder. The behavior is secretive. Laws are inconsistent; social welfare and law enforcement agencies have conflicting policies and objectives. By the time the legal system encounters its victims, they usually are teens or young adults arrested on prostitution charges. Even then, they are reluctant to speak out about how the abuse began or to bring charges against their abusers. They are wrapped up in low self-esteem and battered psyches, and afraid of losing the only relationships they know.

Public awareness is the first step toward a community solution. That step is now being advanced by a group of UTSA master's degree students in the Department of Social Work. These students took on the topic of domestic minor sex trafficking last summer during an advanced policy course with Robert Ambrosino, an instructor in the College of Public Policy. The course curriculum required them to produce a public awareness campaign around a local social issue.

After discussing the complex and tangled world of domestic minor sex trafficking, the group decided to produce a documentary video as a way to launch a community discussion on the problem.

Behind Closed Doors, Voices from the Inside features interviews with victims themselves as well as with community stakeholders, drawn from the political leadership, criminal justice system and social service agencies.

"She would hit me when I didn't want to go out with these guys," a young victim says, recalling how the abuse started at the hands of her mother.

"It started when I was 16," another victim says.

Joe Raymond Vega, a San Antonio filmmaker, directed and edited the video for the project. Ambrosino's students, although their summer course has ended, are continuing their involvement by taking the video to groups that want to learn about the issue and join the dialogue for change.

"There are some horrible stories out there about young women—and men, because it happens to boys, too—being introduced to sex trafficking when they are 8 or 9 years old," said Ambrosino.

He said the abuse sometimes starts in the custody of a parent, who may be a prostitute or have drug addiction prob-

lems. Sometimes it is a male relative who pressures the child to begin sexual activity. Or it might be someone who offers friendship to a runaway or a child from a troubled home.

The abuse becomes a trafficking offense when there is the exchange of sex for something of value, which could include money, food, gifts or drugs. There's also a phenomenon called "survival sex," when a minor agrees to have sex in exchange for basic human needs like food and shelter. The victims bond emotionally with their abusers, Ambrosino said; they believe that the adult abusers care about them and keep them safe.

"What you have is an incredibly unreported crime," he said. "What you are seeing in the film is the tip of the iceberg."

The first shock of awareness came among the students themselves. Most of them, Ambrosino said, are non-traditional students who came back to school for advanced degrees after working in a social service field. Several were like Rene Esquivel, a 45-year-old former chef pursuing a career change.

"You see what you perceive as prostitution and people making these choices," said Esquivel. "As we were doing these interviews and talking to these young women and men, it became clear that they were victims of sex trafficking. They didn't really have a choice."

Early in their project, the students made a connection with an outreach worker who was able to help them meet young victims. Esquivel said the students were able to interview 10 people—minors and adults, women and men—who were coerced or manipulated into the sex trade as children or teens. Sometimes the students met them in safe locations for video recordings that shrouded their faces and protected their identities. Many of the interviews were just with tape recorders, conducted on the

street while the victims plied their trade. It is the only life they have known and one they are afraid to leave, Esquivel said.

"This project was a transformative experience for my perception of things," Esquivel said. "I'll never look at it the same way—that this was some choice that they made."

"A lot of them don't realize they are being trafficked," said Jenna Rothrock, who worked for Child Protective Services before returning to UTSA for a master's degree. "They will look at you in a confused way. They say, 'I'm not being trafficked. I love this man.'"

Rothrock led the student team that interviewed state agency officials and community leaders for their take on the problem. "A few people were oblivious to it," she said. "Others were aware to a certain extent."

Change begins with knowledge, Ambrosino and his students said. That is the driving purpose of their film project. One of their connections was with state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, who has worked to get state laws more in line with federal statutes, which provide for stiffer penalties for the adults who promote sex trafficking. The students also connected with Shared Hope International, an organization that seeks to eliminate sex trafficking worldwide. The organization wants to link with UTSA for other projects to raise awareness and change public policies.

"People need to be aware," said Rothrock. "They have to understand it first before anything else can happen."

"I just want to take a bath and...rub all the shame off myself."

a young voice tells an interviewer.



"You have only one lifetime, so make it count. Will you be immortalized as a hero or be a figment of days long past?"

—Xavier Johnson,
PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION,
at the Aug. 22 Fall Convocation

BY THE NUMBERS

62.5%

freshman-to-sophomore
retention rate



//IN BRIEF//

At the Micro-Level

The UTSA South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases will receive \$4.6 million over the next five years from the U.S. Department of Defense Army Research Office to establish a Center of Excellence in Infection Genomics. The grant will support microbiology research, teaching and outreach activities aligned with Army priorities. Infection genomics is the scientific discipline in which biologists characterize functional properties of the entire genome of infectious organisms.

!

"I was extremely grateful for the mercy I got. No matter how excited you may be, you still have to obey the rules. Regardless of whatever other factors go into it, you still have to obey the law."

—Ryan Stanley ("Rowdy Ryan"),

ONE OF EIGHT STUDENTS ARRESTED AFTER RUSHING THE ALAMODOME FOOTBALL FIELD AFTER THE ROADRUNNERS' INAUGURAL GAME, as quoted in the Sept. 13 The Paisano

BY THE NUMBERS

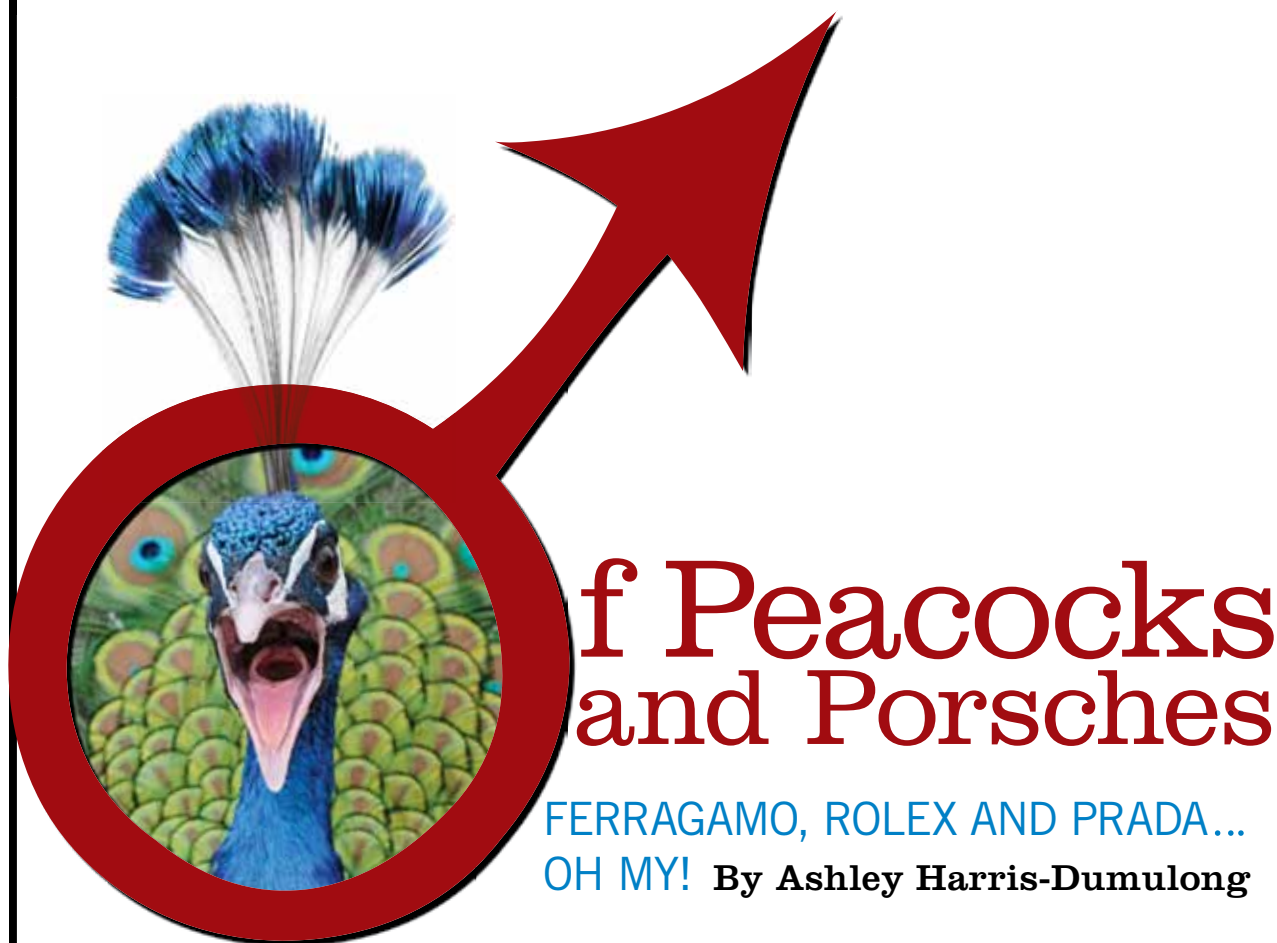
50%

incoming freshmen who graduated in the top 25 percent of their high school classes



//IN BRIEF//

Commissioned President Ricardo Romo and UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa were appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The commission is charged with expanding educational opportunities, improving education outcomes and delivering a complete and competitive education for all Hispanics.



f Peacocks and Porsches

FERRAGAMO, ROLEX AND PRADA... OH MY! By Ashley Harris-Dumulong

PYRAMIDS THAT TOUCH THE heavens. Italian shoes hand-made from the finest leather. The watch that announces that you own time itself. Through the pages of history and into modern times, displays of conspicuous consumption are as numerous as they are grand.

Defined by Thorstein Veblen in the late 1800s, conspicuous consumption is an economic behavior wherein one "attains and exhibits costly items to impress upon others that one possesses wealth or status."

Just as peacocks display their big, flashy tails to attract a peahen, the modern-day man uses Porsches and other luxury items to show off, and specifically, to attract a mate.

To better understand this time-honored tradition, Jill Sundie, assistant professor in the College of Business, and colleagues from Rice University, Arizona State University, the University of Minnesota and the University of New Mexico undertook a four-part study entitled "Peacocks, Porsches and Thorstein Veblen: Conspicuous Consumption as a Sexual Signaling System."

"It really wasn't a surprise when our studies revealed that some women are attracted to a man who conspicuously consumes," Sundie said. "A physically attractive man who drives a flashy car, such as a Porsche, was more desirable for a date than the same man if he instead drove a Honda Civic."



Just as peacocks display their big, flashy tails to attract a peahen, the modern-day man uses Porsches and other luxury items to show off, and specifically, to attract a mate.

Further, their research suggested that men who engage in conspicuous consumption, and specifically those who utilize it to attract mates, were more likely to be seeking uncommitted, short-term sexual relationships.

"However," Sundie said with a chuckle, "make no mistake about it, women have figured it out."

During the final study, the researchers measured perception of conspicuous consumption—that is, what women actually think about all those peacock plumes. And the results are ruffling a few feathers.

"What this study suggests is that women are wise to the game. Yes, an attractive man who drives a Porsche is more desirable, but only for a date," Sundie said. In other words, the same luxury items that men use to attract a mate had no impact on a man's desirability when it comes to a woman's selection of a long-term partner. Women, it seems, also equate men's conspicuous consumption with an interest in having uncommitted sexual relationships.

"Prior research indicates that many college-age women are not very open to uncommitted sexual relationships. These women are more likely to be looking for faithful, committed partnerships," concluded Sundie. "At the end of the day, a man spending money on these very flashy and expensive items does not convey that message of intended commitment to a potential mate."





Boom or Bust

Eagle Ford Shale communities are facing unprecedented growth; UTSA is helping make sure the growth is long lasting

By Ashley Festa

Helping 12,000 people keep their jobs and preventing a booming community from going bust is the focus of a new UTSA office in the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale.

Two hours southwest of San Antonio is Carrizo Springs, where UTSA's Small Business Development Center opened an information center in November. The region's economic success hangs in the balance.

"The state of Texas has a lot at stake," said Gil Gonzalez, the director of the UTSA Rural Business Program. "This is good for the region and for the state."

The Eagle Ford Shale, believed to be one of the most significant oil and gas plays in the country, now provides more than 12,000 workers with full-time jobs. Activity will continue to grow in the area, and by 2020, the estimated economic impact is expected to reach more than \$21 billion, with 31,705 new jobs projected in the six counties most affected.

But there are risks associated with such a dramatic economic upturn. The enormous influx of workers is overwhelming the local economies. Cities are struggling to provide housing and other basic necessities quickly enough to meet the current needs. Residents are seeing housing prices skyrocket because demand far exceeds supply. While communities welcome the growth, they are already having challenges managing it.

To assist in creating a stable economy, UTSA opened the Car-

rizo Springs office in partnership with the Middle Rio Grande Development Council.


The center will help small businesses and communities research and create sustainable economic strategies for the future. It will profile the communities to determine emerging markets, unemployment rates and other economic factors and will ensure that the communities have the resources necessary to implement the suggestions for growth.

To make sustainable changes, the center also will provide grant-writing workshops and other training to help community leaders apply for federal and state grants.

"We're not trying to tell them what they should do. They can build their own communities," Gonzalez said. "We'll facilitate."

The center will also provide a business-to-business tool, called a B2B, to connect oil and gas companies with local small businesses from the area.

With the unprecedented growth, Eagle Ford Shale communities must plan, invest and diversify their economic bases if they want to thrive, Gonzalez said. So this is one of the center's main priorities.

"You tend to become a ghost town if you don't plan for the future," Gonzalez said. 



"[Texas] can seat maybe 100,000, and you got to be a pretty big donor to get any kind of good seat. So we're fine. My daughter grew up in Boerne, which is a middle-class, upper-middle-class area, and very few of those kids or families ever go to a game at Texas or A&M.

We're the answer to that. We're the team for this community."

—Lynn Hickey, ATHLETICS DIRECTOR, as quoted by the Associated Press Aug. 28

BY THE NUMBERS

56,743

record-breaking number of spectators at UTSA's first football game



//IN BRIEF//

All Business

The College of Business has a new bachelor of business administration degree in sport, event and tourism management. Coursework includes the study of tourism, sport and event management, sport marketing, economics of tourism and leisure, tourism law and destination marketing.

SPORTS BRIEFS



JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

FOOTBALL

UTSA completed its inaugural season with a 4–6 record with victories against Northwestern State (31–3), Bacone (54–7), Georgia State (17–14/OT) and Minot State (49–7). The Roadrunners set NCAA start-up program records for first-game attendance (56,743) and per-game attendance (35,521) at the Alamodome. UTSA, which played as a Football Championship Subdivision independent in 2011, will join the Western Athletic Conference next fall and play a full WAC schedule in addition to non-conference games against South Alabama (Sept. 1), Georgia State (Sept. 15), Northwestern Oklahoma State (Sept. 22), Rice (Oct. 13) and McNeese State (Nov. 10).

CROSS COUNTRY

The UTSA men's and women's cross-country teams both finished second at October's Southland Conference Championships. The men's runner-up finish was the program's best since winning the league title in 1997, while the

women posted their best showing in a dozen years. Seniors Albert Cardenas (third) and Cole Reveal (fifth) both earned all-conference honors for the second consecutive season. Cardenas' third-place performance was the best by a Roadrunner male since Philo Saunders finished third in 1998. Meanwhile, Nina Herrera (seventh) and Alyssa Diaz (ninth) garnered all-league accolades for the women with their top-10 finishes.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The women's golf team started the fall with a string of challenging tournaments against some of the nation's best. The efforts of the squad paid off as UTSA won its home tournament, The Alamo Invitational (Oct. 30–Nov. 1), by three strokes over Baylor. The team was led by sophomore Fabiola Arriaga, who took home individual medalist honors with a career-best 213 (69–72–72). It marks the fourth tournament title for the Roadrunners, all of which have come under head coach Carrie Parnaby.

MEN'S GOLF

Led by 17th-place finishes from junior Stanton Tondre and sophomore Ryan Werre, UTSA concluded its fall campaign with a ninth-place showing at the third annual Lone Star Invitational at Briggs Ranch Golf Club in San Antonio. Tondre, a graduate of Medina Valley High School in Castroville, Texas, and Werre each carded a three-over-par 219 in the 54-hole tournament.

SOCCER

UTSA recently concluded its regular season and qualified for its sixth consecutive Southland Conference Tournament. The Roadrunners placed four players on the all-conference teams, led by sophomore defender Anka Grotle, who became the first player in program history to earn first-team honors in back-to-back seasons. Sophomore forward Maria Jose Rojas took home second-team honors for the second time while freshman forward Liv Nyhegn also was a second-team selection. In addition, sophomore goalkeeper Danielle Snyder was an honorable mention pick.

VOLLEYBALL

UTSA finished its final campaign in the Southland Conference with a 22–11 overall record and 14–2 mark in league play. The Roadrunners earned the No. 2 seed in the Southland Tournament and advanced to the championship match for the second straight

year. At the start of conference play, UTSA swept its first 12 Southland opponents and won 36 consecutive sets, marking the longest such streak in the nation. UTSA continued its dominance in the Convocation Center, pushing its home winning streak to 14 matches. Redshirt junior setter Kelsey Schwirtlich set the program's record for assists in the 25-point rally scoring era (2008-present) and senior libero Kelsey Jewasko became the all-time digs leader and was named one of 10 finalists for the prestigious Lowe's Senior CLASS Award, which honors NCAA



JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

Division I seniors who have notable achievements in four areas of excellence—community, classroom, character and competition. The Roadrunners garnered seven All-Southland honors as Jewasko, Schwirtlich, sophomore McKenzie Adams and junior Whitney Walls were all named first-team all-conference. Junior Brittney Malloy collected second team honors. In addition, Schwirtlich was tabbed the league's Setter of the Year and Adams was named the Newcomer of the Year.



READING NOW

Although he admits he has very little time during the season to read for pleasure, his favorite book is *Left Behind*, part of the series of the same name by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins.



GOING "BLU"

Waters' constant companion is his 1-year-old blue nose pit bull, Blu. Waters has raised him since he was 6 weeks old.



TAKE A DIVE

Waters thrives on doing things he's never done before. His last break from school, he dove off of a 30-foot cliff into the water. Next up: skydiving.



NO. 31

Waters' favorite football player is former Cowboys safety Roy Williams, No. 31. "I picked his jersey number in high school because he was just an aggressive safety that loved to hit." But today, things are different. He wants to make his own number a standout.

SPOTLIGHT Mark Waters

BY LETY LAUREL

EVEN AS A CHILD, MARK WATERS WAS HYPER. The only solution, his family thought, was to put him in football.

"My family had a hard time keeping me calm," the 22-year-old said. "I'd be outside, running around on the streets."

Quickly, he discovered he not only liked the sport, but he was pretty good at it, too.

"I liked being violent on the field," he laughs.

Waters is one of only two seniors on UTSA's first football team. The 5-foot-10-inch safety from El Paso was selected in March 2010 as one of the team's first walk-ons. He's the only one that remains from that first selection.

He's also one of the few that come with experience. He got his start playing for New Mexico State in 2007, but transferred to UTSA after finding out about the fledgling program. He's credited for being a strong leader on the field, and it's a role he takes seriously.

But what may make an even bigger impression is that he is an inspiring, optimistic person off the field as well.

"When it's not football, I really try to be a happy person," he said. "People notice that I'm smiling. I try to stay positive."

The kinesiology major wants to become a physical therapist someday to help injured athletes return to their sports. His inspiration is his aunt, who uses a wheelchair.

"She said I would be a good help to people," he said. "I want to help people get back to where they want to be."



FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

Being part of UTSA's inaugural football team is an experience Waters said he'll never forget. "We're history makers," he said. "You go to any other school and you're part of something that's already been. But here, we started it."



Tony Doyle has worked to rebuild his life since losing a leg in Iraq. His priority now, he said, is his family. Pictured are Tony Doyle and his son, Logan.



FROM THE TRENCHES OF WAR

To Baghdad
and back . . .
A soldier rebuilds
his life as a
college student

By K. Rodriguez

Tony Doyle has been to Baghdad and back. He's been under fire, pinned beneath a toppled Humvee and medicated with morphine to numb the pain of a mangled left leg. He's been through amputation and post-traumatic stress disorder, through traumatic brain injury and a diagnosis of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and through a divorce.

And now? Now he's sitting in a wheelchair at his living room table, two earrings in his left lobe, tattoos up one arm and down his remaining leg, and talking about the good life, about a new life. College student.

HE AWOKED IN A RE

“Was I dreaming or not?
I wasn’t. It was all true.
The whole day really happened.”

A 31-year-old veteran of the Iraq War, Doyle is pursuing a history degree at UTSA. At first, he wanted a bachelor’s to teach high school. But then his dream got bigger. “I want to go all the way up to the Ph.D. level,” he said. “I want to be a college professor.”

In one respect, Doyle is the face of the non-traditional college student. But he also represents a surging trend. From 2007 to 2009, the number of freshmen receiving veteran educational benefits at UTSA increased more than 100 percent. In 2011, there were 2,690 student veterans and their dependents receiving educational benefits, a 65 percent increase from 2009. University officials expect the growth to continue.

One reason: UTSA provides an impressive range of services for student veterans, from counseling for war-related issues to assistance with employment. The university also helps with securing military benefits. But there’s another reason for the high numbers—the university recruits from local military installations.

“We are doing outreach to veterans because we feel we have a lot to offer them at UTSA,” said Lisa Firmin, associate provost for faculty and student diversity. “I think we are establishing ourselves as a military-friendly school.”

With these students come unique challenges. Doyle, a junior who hopes to graduate in December 2012, brings the benefit of financial aid from the U.S. Army, the experience of world travel (he has served in South Korea and Iraq), the perspective of fatherhood (he has four children) and the wisdom of age. But then there is the PTSD. The traumatic brain injury. The ADHD.

“It’s very, very difficult, especially when it comes to pursuing a degree in history,” Doyle said. “There is so much you have to read, so much you have to write.”

One challenge, he explains, centers on written expression: the process of forming ideas, turning them into words and putting them on paper without his mind wandering. In one sense, that’s classic ADHD. But Doyle’s struggle is compounded by the brain injury suffered during a bomb blast. The symptoms: memory loss, poor concentration, slow information processing.

“So I guess that makes me a computer from the ’90s,” he said, smiling. “My sense of humor was not at all affected.”

The slightest thing can distract Doyle from studying. A bug on the floor. A random thought. Frequent distractions occur when Doyle and his wife, Melissa, speak.

Doyle’s mind can be a pinball machine, thoughts bouncing here, ricocheting there, careening everywhere. But he

A TYPICAL DAY...

From left to right: Tony Doyle’s day begins at 4 a.m. Shortly after, he drives to the gym with his son, Dylan, for an hour of exercise. By 7 a.m. he’s back home and helping his wife, Melissa, get their children ready for school.

After Melissa leaves for work, Tony helps his other son, Logan, with a note. Soon everyone has left, and Tony is able to focus on his own schoolwork as Cayden, his baby boy, sleeps. Then it’s Tony’s turn to go to class.

PHOTOS BY MARK MCCLENDON



RECOVERY TENT...

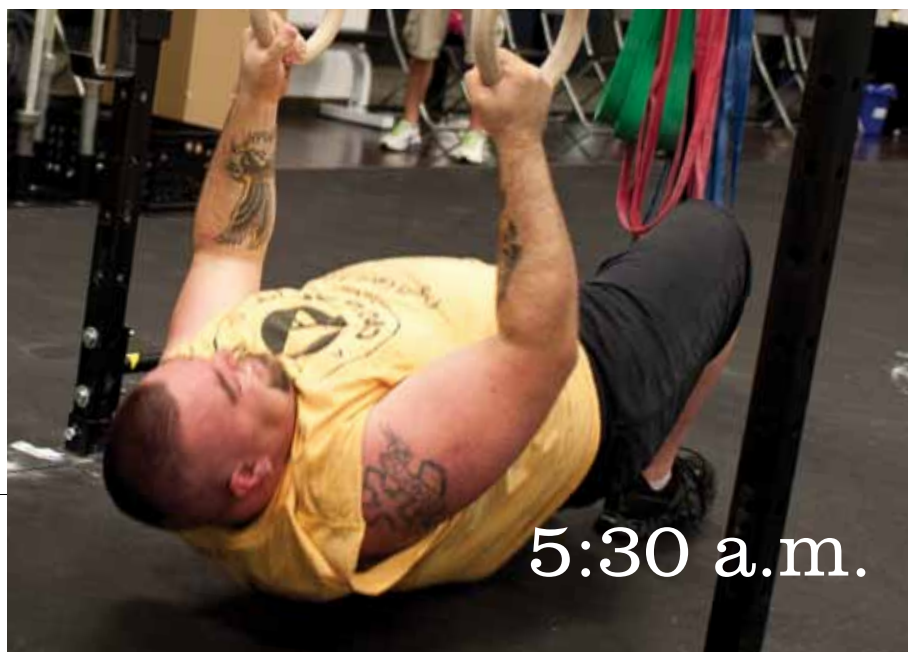


A soldier in his Humvee spotted a suspicious object beside the road and yelled,

**“LOOK OUT!
LOOK OUT!”**

An explosion followed. The Humvee flipped. The door latch broke in the rollover. Doyle lost consciousness ...

Tony Doyle's tour in Iraq began in June 2005. His duties included riding through the streets of Baghdad to deter insurgent activity.



5:30 a.m.



7 a.m.



“I do not know why,
but as I was being loaded
onto the medevac,
I gave a thumbs up,
as if I had been injured
on a football field.”

finds a way to harness them, redirect them, bring them into order. He may take twice as long to write a paper as his wife, an online student at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, but the result, she said, is twice as good.

“His writing is exceptional,” Melissa Doyle said.

Once a C and D high school student in Jacksonville, Ill., Doyle carries a 3.3 GPA at UTSA. He made the President’s List over the summer with a 4.0.

“That’s not surprising,” said Will Dawson, a veteran of the Army and a UTSA graduate student who is president of the university’s Student Veterans Association. “A lot of veterans do better at the university than they did in high school. They are focused on a goal. And quite frankly, that goal is to go back into the civilian world and put themselves in a better position than they were in before. I just barely made it through high school with a 2.2 grade point average. I graduated from UTSA with a 3.9.”

Success in the classroom has enhanced Doyle’s outlook. “He’s always in bright spirits,” said Michael Huebner, a 33-year-old business management major and veteran who suffered a serious knee injury in Afghanistan. “He’s a role model, a big inspiration. I’m a disabled veteran but not to the extent he is. I’m not sure I’d be as positive if I were in his situation.”

Doyle’s wife is another reason for his optimism. They met in a sports bar in North Little Rock, Ark. in 2005. She was a waitress; he was a patron from Camp Robinson across the street. Doyle stopped in every day for two weeks. Romance blossomed. “It was a fairy-tale relationship,” Melissa Doyle said.

They began talking marriage after Doyle left for Fort Stewart, Ga., the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River. From Fort Stewart, he went to Kuwait. A tour in Iraq began in June 2005. His duties included working a “presence patrol” on the outskirts of Baghdad. In a Humvee, he

rode through the streets to deter insurgent activity.

Danger lurked on the road. The enemy often hid improvised explosive devices in unexpected places. In the carcass of an animal, for example. Or inside an empty can.

On the morning of Aug. 9, 2005, Doyle rode in patrol in the lead vehicle. A soldier in his Humvee spotted a suspicious object beside the road and yelled, “Look out! Look out!”

An explosion followed. The Humvee flipped. The door latch broke in the rollover. Doyle lost consciousness and was ejected. The Humvee landed on his left leg, pinning him to the ground. He awoke a short time later to excruciating pain.

“I would say the adrenaline was pumping at the max,” he said. “The first thing I did was look for my weapon.”

He noticed fellow soldiers setting up a 360-degree perimeter with Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The show of force calmed him a bit.

“I saw the doc heading for me so I pulled out a smoke, put it in my mouth and prepared to light it,” he said. “When the doc got to me, he slapped it out and proceeded to tell me I could not have it because he was going to give me morphine.

“He got to work digging a space under my leg and the Humvee to put a tourniquet on to stop the bleeding. As he was doing that, some other guys were digging near my leg to help relieve some of the pressure. At one point, they stopped digging.”

One soldier asked, “Why did you stop?”

The reply: “We can’t tell what’s his leg and what’s the ground.”

The IED had detonated between the vehicles. Only one soldier was injured: Doyle. The single blast was all the enemy delivered that morning. “I never looked at my leg,” he said, “because I knew if I did it would throw me into shock, which kills just as easy as a bomb.”

Forty-five minutes after the explosion, a medevac helicopter arrived to carry Doyle to a hospital in Balad, almost 50

Web Extra:

Student Anna King almost died while serving in Iraq, yet she’d give anything to return to fight. Watch her and three other student veterans as they share their stories online: utsa.edu/sombrilla/vets.



miles away. "I do not know why," he said, "but as I was being loaded onto the medevac, I gave a thumbs up, as if I had been injured on a football field."

He awoke in a recovery tent. The only other person in sight was a nurse on desk duty. "I looked around and realized my left leg was gone," he said. "I am not sure how to explain that feeling except for very lonely. It was the most horrible feeling I have ever had. I got the nurse's attention and tried to figure out what was going on. Was I dreaming or not? I wasn't. It was all true."

By the time he called his girlfriend to tell her the news, she already knew. An officer had explained the amputation simply: "The leg was mangled, like a crushed piece of paper."

Sergeant Doyle came home sooner than expected. He and Melissa married in 2006 and blended two families. He has two children from a previous marriage; she has one. Together, they have an infant.

He started thinking about college two years into the marriage. While dining with his wife at a Japanese restaurant, Doyle struck up a conversation with an architect.

"You go to school and complete your degree in drafting and design," the architect said, "and I'll have a job waiting for you."

The idea ended quickly. Doyle took a computer drafting course online at Pulasky Technical College and struggled. "It wasn't working well for me in the memory department," he said.

He completed two years of general education. After deciding to pursue history, Doyle enrolled at UTSA in spring 2011 on the recommendation of a friend from church. And

he's found his passion.

The passion comes, in part, from his love for history, and from having participated in a major historical event—the Iraq War. "What really drives me to study," he said, "is I see a lot of history repeating itself."


He also is driven to please an agriculture teacher from high school, Jim Rahe, a man who became a close mentor after Doyle's mother died. "He kicked my butt to get me through school," Doyle said. "He was always telling me, 'You can do better than this. There's no reason you should be a below-average student.'"

They remain close. Rahe and his wife attended Doyle's wedding. When Doyle returns to Illinois, he and Melissa visit Rahe's family. "I didn't believe I could change myself for the better," Doyle said. "He did. Proving his point is another big motivation."

It's a long way from Jacksonville, Ill., a long way from Baghdad. Doyle entered the military right after high school in 1999 and served seven and a half years. The military now pays for his schooling. It pays for his medical and living expenses.

"Sometimes I wish things had gone differently," he said, "but I think about how much more time I have with family. Things did not turn out badly. I can be home more and not worry about having to deploy."

If not for the military and his tours abroad, it's not likely Doyle would be in college, working to become a professor. He hopes to instill in his students a love of history, to impart more than facts from a text.

He also wants to open his life like a book and reveal his firsthand experience from the trenches of war. 



"Sometimes I wish things had gone differently, but I think about how much more time I have with family."

As student veterans increase, so do university services

BY K. RODRIGUEZ

Luis needed help. A junior at UTSA and an Army veteran, Luis wanted advice on finding employment after graduation. So he visited the University Career Center.

A counselor showed him how to turn his military and academic experience into a compelling civilian résumé.

"Now he has a fantastic job with a big company that does engineering work," said Kristi Meyer, director of the UTSA Graduation Initiative. "He absolutely would not have gotten that job if he hadn't had someone help him put his skill package together."

There are many other students like Luis. Veteran enrollment is rising by design. UTSA has been recognized nationally as being military friendly, offering student veterans an array of services—from career counseling to assistance with collecting military benefits to mental health counseling.

Many student veterans seek counseling for war-related issues—post-traumatic stress disorder, for example. Others seek help for relationships. Jeff Gatlin, a UTSA staff clinician, recently saw a 23-year-old combat veteran whose relationship with his girlfriend was unraveling.

The relationship ended, but the student

was able to improve after a referral to a psychiatrist. "He is now functioning much better academically and socially," Gatlin said.

Some veterans have difficulty functioning in an academic setting.

"With combat vets, these issues seem to trace back to their experiences in Iraq and/or Afghanistan, especially when vets serve multiple combat tours," Gatlin said. "With non-combat vets, these issues seem to originate as they do with other students—just life circumstances, an accumulation of stressors or perhaps genetic predisposition."

The most basic need, Meyer said, is for veterans to secure money for tuition, books and fees from UTSA's Veterans Certification Office. But there are many other services they can access, some designed specifically for veterans.

"Student veterans have a combination of assets that make them excellent students and excellent additions to our campus," Meyer said. They have to finish school within an allotted time to receive military benefits. They typically don't have to work full time like many other students because of financial resources from the VA. "And finally, they are very disciplined, mature and motivated."



JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS



This abandoned chapel is located at 1624 Buena Vista St. Its architecture style is modern.



A congregant prays at Santuario de Nuestra de Guadalupe Church, 1321 El Paso St.

FAITHFULLY YOURS

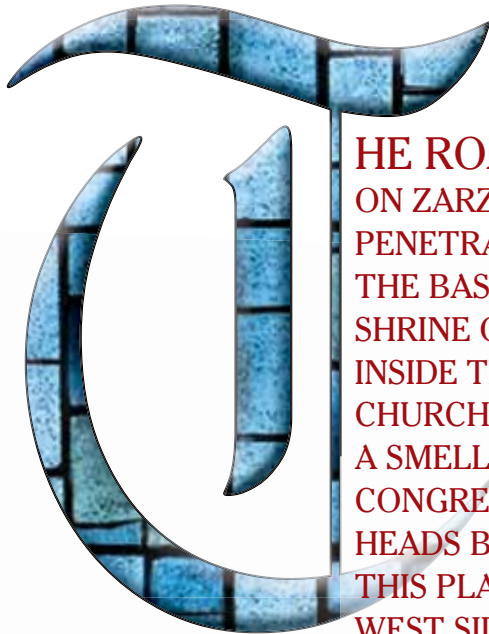
By Lety Laurel

Places of worship, often called sacred, are the heartbeats of the communities that surround them. And these sacred places aren't simply the ones with golden spires that sprout above treetops. They're often small nuggets nestled quietly in the most surprising places, as one UTSA architecture class discovered..

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower, 1715 N. Zarzamora, was built in 1931. Its architectural style is Spanish colonial with revival influence. Inset: This statue is inside Santuario de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, at 1321 El Paso St.

Photos by **Patrick Ray Dunn** and **Mark McClendon**





THE ROAR OF TRAFFIC ON ZARZAMORA STREET DOESN'T PENETRATE THE STONE WALLS OF THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER. INSIDE THE DARK AND COOL CHURCH, BUILT IN 1931, THERE'S A SMELL OF POLISHED WOOD. CONGREGANTS SIT SPACED APART, HEADS BENT IN PRAYER. THIS PLACE, SITTING ON THE CITY'S WEST SIDE, IS SACRED.

Not far away, off Buena Vista Street, is La Santísima Trinidad, a small, slightly worn wooden house built in 1936 that also serves as a church. It, too, is sacred.

They couldn't be more different, yet they're both among the more than 200 sites in a 12-mile area defined as sacred and considered to be cultural assets by UTSA's Center for Cultural Sustainability.

In spring 2011, a graduate architecture class teamed up with the national nonprofit and nonsectarian Partners for Sacred Places to identify areas that could be considered sacred. The class was a historic preservation seminar led by local architect Charles John and was part of the Graduate Certificate Program in

Historic Preservation. Using the national organization's definition of that word—

any location that is or has been dedicated for the worship of any religion—the class identified churches, synagogues, convents and cemeteries located within the Westside Development Corporation, which is bounded by Interstate 35, Interstate 10/U.S. 90 West, Acme Road/36th Street and Cincinnati Avenue.

"If it appeared to be sacred to the people there, it went on our list," said Vincent Ramirez, a second-semester graduate student in architecture. "Sometimes we'd find places behind houses, even revival tents. We also included abandoned churches. It didn't have to be old—sometimes they would be brand new. We didn't exclude anything."

For four weeks, the students divided into groups and trolled the area. It was surprisingly grueling.

"We didn't spare any road," Ramirez said. Even dirt roads and alleyways were explored. "It's like you're stepping into a different world. There were chickens running everywhere and you'd be surprised. You'd look up to find a little church sitting between two houses."

Intrigued by the students' findings, William Dupont, director of the Center for Cultural Sustainability and the San Antonio Conservation Society Endowed Professor in the College of Architecture, decided to take it further. What if there was a scientific way to show their cultural value? He tapped Ramirez to continue the research by documenting each site's location and construction date, as well as the programs



Web Extra:

View slideshow: utsa.edu/sombrilla/sacred



FINDING FAITH

The sites deemed sacred in the 12-mile area of the Westside Development Corporation are as religiously diverse as they are architecturally distinct. **From left to right:** Iglesia Christiana, a Messianic temple, is located at 201 Harriman Place and was built in 1956; this stained glass window is from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower on Zarzamora road; the Rod of Aaron is a 20-foot golden spire atop La Luz Del Mundo-Iglesia del Dios Vivo, Columa y Apoyo de la Verdad (The Light of the World-Church of the Living God, Pillar and Support of Truth) located at 714 Delgado and built in 2007; La Santisima Trinidad, at 1824 Buena Vista St., was originally a house built in 1936 in a minimal traditional style.

it offered, the size of its congregation and its proximity to schools and restaurants.


Using digital geographic software, also called GIS, what resulted was about two dozen maps that showed the area's pulse, Ramirez said.

"It gives it a heartbeat, like bam-bam. There are this many people here at this location at this time of the week," Ramirez said. "This is a lower-income neighborhood. There is so much cultural richness in it that people often overlook in these neighborhoods."

Findings documented in an academic paper will eventually be published by Dupont and Ramirez and used to secure grant funding for further study.

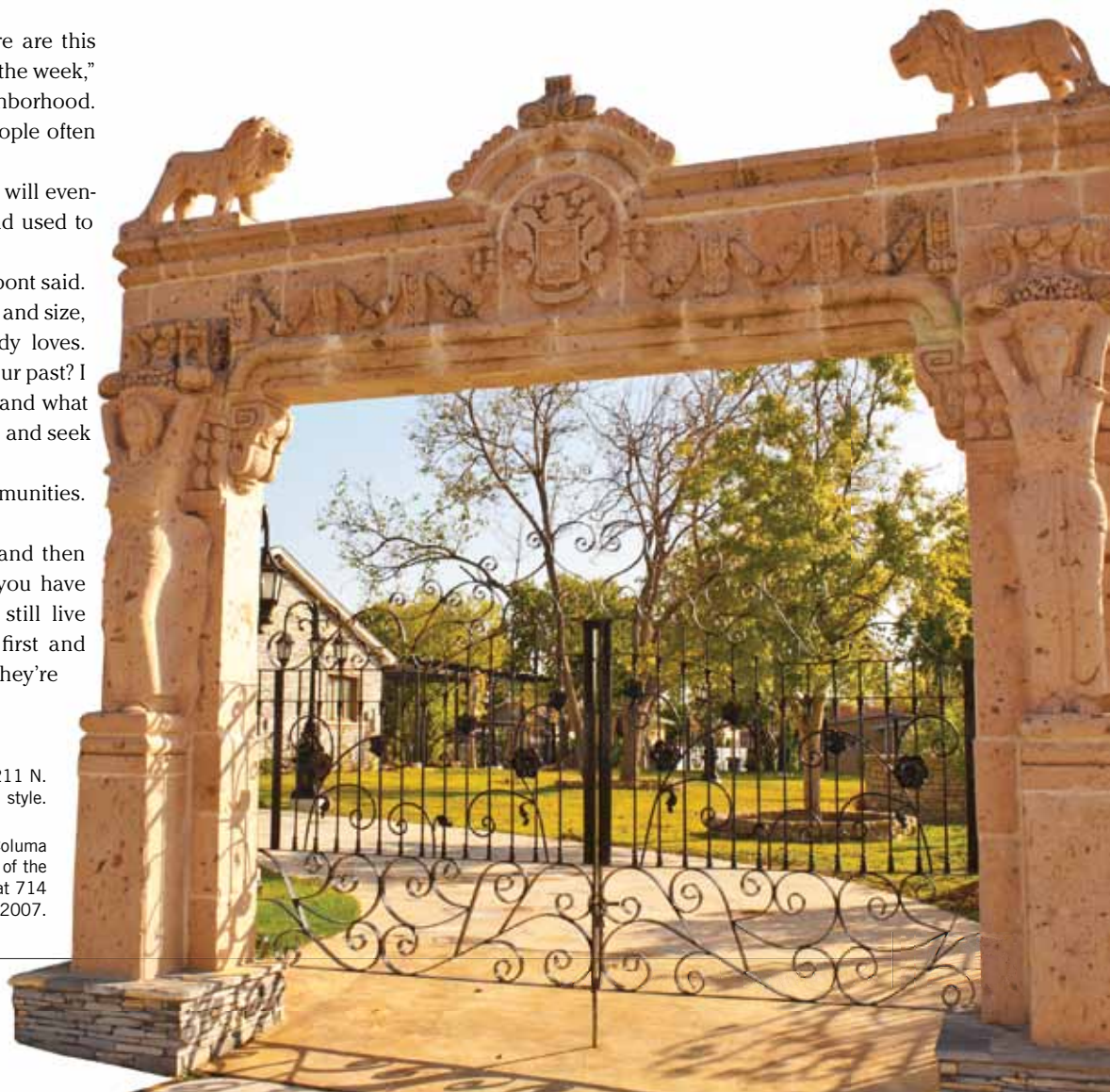
"This is an area that has to be explored," Dupont said. "The city is going to keep growing in population and size, yet there are attributes about it that everybody loves. How do we grow yet retain our continuity with our past? I think it's valuable for the community to understand what is important about itself and its cultural heritage and seek some cultural continuity."

Places of worship have always driven communities. San Antonio is just one example, Ramirez said.

"Look at the Alamo. It was once a chapel and then a community grew out of it," he said. "Then you have the missions south of downtown. Those are still live congregations. It seems like churches come first and the neighborhoods build around them. They're important." 

Bottom left: Palm Heights Methodist Church, located at 211 N. Park Blvd., was built in 1949 in gothic revival style.

Bottom right: La Luz Del Mundo-Iglesia del Dios Vivo, Columa y Apoyo de la Verdad (The Light of the World-Church of the Living God, Pillar and Support of Truth) is located at 714 Delgado and was built in 2007.



A photograph of a man with short dark hair, seen in profile from the chest up, looking out of a large window. The window reflects the outdoors, showing some greenery and a building. In the lower right foreground, two hands are visible, holding a small green object. A large blue rectangle with white text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

COMMUNITY

UNITING OUR ALUMNI

Call of Duty

A strand of beads helps one soldier form strong connections

By Lety Laurel

MARTY CONTRERAS' GRANDMOTHER HAD a nightly ritual. She would go to a nearby track in the small Texas town of Hamlin carrying a leather strand of beads, about 10 inches long, and pray over each bead as she exercised.

They were her prayer beads, with the red beads representing her five daughters, the green representing her six sons. Marty Contreras became the final bead on her strand—a glowing blue bead—when she adopted him as a 12-year-old.

Although his grandmother died when he was in high school, Contreras held onto those beads. He carried them with him when he went to college. When he enlisted in the Army, he still had the beads.

And they traveled with him to battlegrounds in Afghanistan and Iraq four times over seven years.

"I always have her prayer beads with me," he said. "They help. I've used them for a lot of different things."

College was a must for Contreras, whose grandparents were hard laborers who sustained their 12 children on \$10,000 a year. But when he joined the Army, it was a special point of pride for his grandfather, a World War II veteran.

"He was very proud of the rank that I had accomplished and the things I had done," Contreras said, gripping the beads.

Contreras' grandfather died in 2004. By that time his adopted son, an Army medic, had been deployed to Afghanistan as one of the first 50 Americans to arrive in that country after the Sept. 11 attacks. He served there until June 2002. Three months after arriving home, he was deployed to Iraq, where he stayed until August 2003.

In both countries, his team was the tip of the spear in combat; Contreras was the person on the field trying to keep his wounded brothers alive.

"I was the physician on the ground," he said. "There's not going to be an emergency room out there. It's me and a bag. I've got to save a life with a bag."

He was also there to help win the support of the locals. That's where his grandmother's beads came in handy.

"They use prayer beads too," he explained. "I used them at different times when we were moving from one place to another and they saw that and associated it with their prayer beads, which helped me make a connection. That connection went a long way."

After Iraq, Contreras decided he wanted to be a commissioned officer. He left active duty in 2004 as a Sergeant First Class and enrolled in the master's program at UTSA.

"Education is important in my life, so if I could have the chance to get a master's—in my mind, it was huge," he said. "It would mean that my grandparents didn't work their whole lives for nothing."

While enrolled at UTSA, Contreras enlisted in the National Guard, 20th Special Forces Group. One month later, he was again called to active duty. "I was like, 'You've got to be kidding me,'" he said.

After training in Mississippi for four months, he was sent to Afghanistan. That deployment would end up earning him the Bronze Star for saving the lives of an Afghan couple and their young son. It also helped him earn his commission.

He came back to the U.S. in 2006 and finished his master of science degree in health and kinesiology in 2009. Donovan Fogt, associate professor in health and kinesiology, said he worked closely with Contreras as a student and research assistant. Fogt continues to call on Contreras for help training his classes, he said.

"To think of him going through what he did and now we're going to bother him with an exam or assignment. ... But he never acted like that," Fogt said. "You ask him for anything and he gets it done on time, perfectly. He acts like it's water off his back. But he's got that look in his eyes, like he's been there."

Finishing his degree, Contreras already knew he wanted to start his own company, but he needed financing. So once more he traveled to Afghanistan, but this time as a civilian contractor.

"It was a different dynamic, going back as a civilian and getting paid enormous amounts of money," he said. "But it helped being a soldier and going back because I didn't have the fear. I feared no one."

In one week he earned as much money as his grandparents made in a year. It was enough for him and his wife, Angeleen, to start their home health company, MA Medical Services, LLC, which now has 42 employees.

Contreras said he joined the military to pay for college. He got more than he bargained for, he admits, but it helped him to grow. The lessons he learned in school, coupled with the experience he earned on the battlefield, help him run his business today, he said. And it's helped him build a good life for his five kids.

"Mamaw and Papaw, if they could see me now..." he said, his voice trailing off as he looked again at the beads. Those beads helped sustain him during his Army days. They helped him form a connection with people who lived halfway around the world. And they continue to help him remember his grandparents' hopes for him and his future. His grandparents pushed him so he could have a better life; he's pushing himself to make life better for his own children.

"Everything I do, I do for my kids," he said. "To try to make this world a little bit better for them. It's all I can do. I have to use this education and this experience to do that. I've got to use it—otherwise it was worthless."

"I was the physician on the ground. There's not going to be an emergency room out there. It's me and a bag. I've got to save a life with a bag."



Bullfrogs and Butterflies

Doctoral student takes her love of nature into the classroom and the lab

By Lety Laurel

WHEN IT RAINED AT TERRI MATIELLA'S childhood home in San Angelo, Texas, the self-proclaimed tomboy would run outside and collect bullfrogs in her favorite pink Crayon-shaped cup. She smuggled them into the house as her pets.

"I always liked being outside as a kid," she said. "When we were little, my sisters and friends and I would play with leaves and pretend to grind them up because we were making wheat and bread."

But even then, there was just something special about butterflies. They held a certain magic for her.

"They are just fun," she said. "You can't feel sad when you're looking at butterflies."

So Matiella decided to make monarch butterflies the subject of her doctoral research. Aided by an Alumni Association scholarship that allows her to focus entirely on her research without having to juggle a full-time job, Matiella is working to find out if varying levels of carbon dioxide and ozone on monarch caterpillars' sole food source, milkweed plants, has any effect on the development of butterflies. She's also studying how those gases affect the plant's growth.

"There's a whole chain reaction that can happen from this one component of climate change," she said.

Any variation in the milkweed plants could cause them to be less nutritious to caterpillars. That could mean the caterpillars have to eat more to gain the same nutritional value, which keeps them exposed to predators longer as they feed on the plant's leaves. Milkweed also contains toxins that stick with the caterpillars through metamorphosis into butterflies. These toxins make them poisonous to birds. But it's possible the gases could weaken the toxins and make the butterflies vulnerable to predators.

It's this kind of chain reaction that makes Matiella so interested in environmental science. In 2000, she received her bachelor's degree from UTSA in biology. She returned to UTSA to pursue her mas-

ter's in environmental science and graduated in May 2009. That fall, she enrolled in the Ph.D. program.

"I enjoy ecology and looking at how organisms interact in the environment," she said. "There is so much we don't know about what is happening with the world today with climate change and how it affects things even on a small plant or insect scale and how that transfers up and affects us."

She began teaching at the college level in 2007. First she was a graduate assistant in an ecology lab, but has worked her way up to leading a 126-student lecture class.

Matiella's students learn about biomes of the world, precipitation and weather patterns, plant adaptations and the chain reactions in nature that have always fascinated her.


"It's like a big puzzle and everybody has a little piece of it," she said. "I think this generation is going to have to come up with answers, solutions to the problems we have today. They didn't create them, but they're there and [the students] are the ones that are going to be faced with them."

Anne Englert, director of alumni programs, said Matiella's love of nature and the desire to share her knowledge is inspiring.

"She's extremely driven," Englert said. "She lives what she says. She's a mother of two, and she takes her children to the zoo and shows them nature. She's living what she's studying. That's a perfect mix."

Matiella expects to finish her doctoral program in December 2012, but ultimately, it's up to nature to set the timetable. Already her research has been delayed because of drought and a little bit of bad luck that has killed her ninth attempt at growing milkweed plants.

"You kind of have to roll with the punches," she said. "Working with the environment is such a big thing. There are so many unknowns that you can't predict. You have to be patient, you have to be resilient. And you have to really like what you're doing because you're stuck with it for a long time."

And that's why she chose butterflies. 

"Working with the environment is such a big thing. There are so many unknowns that you can't predict. You have to be patient, you have to be resilient."



"San Antonio has the opportunity to seize a mantle that no city in the U.S. holds today—to be the recognized leader in clean energy technology. By building a critical mass around research and development that will grow and attract the brain-power of the 21st century, San Antonio can be for the new energy economy what Silicon Valley is to software and what Boston is to biotech."

—Mayor Julian Castro, at a June 22 City of San Antonio and CPS Energy joint announcement of five clean-energy companies moving to San Antonio

BY THE NUMBERS

722

doctoral students in fall 2011



//IN BRIEF//

Going Bookless

Hate lugging around that huge science textbook? UTSA Libraries are now lending eReaders to students, faculty and staff who want to read pre-loaded popular and scholarly science and engineering content.



"I want to make sure that we're not only a part of the university, but a part of the city, part of the culture. We really want to celebrate the school and where it's at and where it's come from and where it's going."

—Ron Ellis, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC BANDS, in the Aug. 31 San Antonio Express-News

BY THE NUMBERS

7

number of UTSA faculty members awarded the 2011 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. The cash awards ranged from \$15,000 to \$30,000.



//IN BRIEF//

From B.S. to M.D.

Beginning in fall 2013, students can get their bachelor of science degree in biology and their doctor of medicine degree in seven years. It's through a pilot program offered by UTSA and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The program's first students are expected to graduate with their M.D.s in 2020.



MARK MCLENDON

Helen Wolf sits beside her piano at her home in San Antonio.

MASTER MULTITASKER

HELEN WOLF M.ED. '77

Helen Wolf mastered multitasking before the term even existed, directing choirs for six decades while raising a daughter and teaching elementary and high school music.

Now 84, she was the first lifetime member of UTSA's Alumni Association.

Wolf's strong work ethic formed early in life. At 17, she was directing a church choir and teaching seven pupils in a one-room schoolhouse in LaSalle, Ill. By that time she already had worked in an ice cream shop.

"We had a potbelly stove to keep us warm," she recalled of the school.

Wolf's music education began at age 10 with piano and voice lessons. Her mother, a single parent, paid for her two daughters' lessons by laundering shirts.

"My mother never knew I went back to college," she

said. "She never knew that, but it was her sacrifices that made that possible."

At 18, Wolf married an Army private who had seen her picture in a newspaper while stationed in the Aleutian Islands. They corresponded, visited, wed and moved to New Orleans and eventually to San Antonio.

When Wolf was offered the job of choir director at her church, Highland Terrace Methodist Church on the city's South Side, she hesitated.

"I said, 'No, I am not going to be your choir director. I have not had theory or harmony,'" she recalled. "When I was a little girl my teacher would only teach the boys [theory and harmony] on Saturday. And I felt bad about that all my life. I told my husband, 'If I could use that salary to get a course in theory and harmony I'll take that job.' He said an

education is the best insurance policy you can buy."

So she took the job but also enrolled at San Antonio Junior College, as San Antonio College was then called, and then at Our Lady of the Lake University, and in seven years she had earned a bachelor's degree in music education. Along the way, Wolf taught elementary, junior high and high school music.

"I did not get the degree to teach, I got the degree to be a better choir director," she said. "But then when UTSA came here, I got the [graduate] degree to be a better teacher."

It took Wolf five years to earn her master of education from UTSA in 1977, because she took classes during her summer breaks from teaching elementary school music.

After her first marriage ended, she married the manager of the Municipal Auditorium, Solomon Wolf.

She met him while taking her high school chorus to the storied venue.

Wolf taught for 26 years in the San Antonio Independent School District, while continuing to direct choirs at local churches. She threw herself into all aspects of the programs she and her students put on, from writing lyrics and playing the piano to sewing costumes when necessary. She retired from SAISD in 1982.

Yet Wolf's full schedule continued. In 1991, her husband passed away. Wolf soon took up ballroom and round dancing. She was 65. She kept on dancing for 19 years, stopping only after a stroke.

Looking back on her education recently, Wolf reflected that had she had scholarships, she would have been able to reach her goals much faster.

"If I had had a scholarship right out of high school, I would have been able to get my degree in four years and probably continue my master's. Instead I didn't get my master's until the year I turned 50. So it just shows how scholarships can shape a person's life."

Wolf's sister achieved professional success in nursing, she said, but also had to wait to pursue her college degree.

"It's too bad we had to go through all of this," Wolf said of their delayed education. "We could have probably contributed more. But I tell you I couldn't have worked harder." —KATE HUNGER

CLASS NOTES

1974

\\ **J. GASTON KENT**, M.B.A., has been named president and CEO of the John Tracy Clinic in Los Angeles. The clinic offers support for young children with hearing loss and their parents.

1975

\\ **MARIAN SOKOL**, M.A. in education, was reappointed by Gov. Rick Perry to the executive committee of the Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities. Her term will expire Feb. 1, 2017. Marian is president of the First Candle/Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Alliance. She is the founding executive director and a current board member of Any Baby Can.

1976

\\ **A. CARLOS BARRERA**,

M.B.A., has been appointed chairman of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy by Gov. Rick Perry. He has been a certified public accountant for 32 years and is a partner in the Brownsville, Texas, office of Long Chilton LLP.

1977

\\ **ROSE GONZALEZ PEREZ**, M.A. in education, has been named interim CEO of the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, based in San Antonio. She is a 20-year Girl Scouts executive and most recently served as chief external affairs officer for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas.

\\ **J. GILBERTO QUEZADA**, M.A. in education, has published his debut novel, *Terror on the Border*, which tells the story of the Mexican Mafia and of the lives that are affected by it on both sides of the border. J. Gilberto is a retired public school administrator from the South San Antonio Independent School District.

1982

\\ **WINSTON "WINK" BENNETT JR.**, B.A. in psychology, last year achieved Air Force Research Laboratory's 2010 Fellow status for his work in training, education and measurement technologies. Wink is a senior research psychologist with the Training Research Laboratory in Mesa, Ariz. He received his Ph.D. in industrial organizational psychology from Texas A&M University in 1995.

1986

\\ **PEGGY DETTWILER**, M.M. in music, received the 2010 Elaine Brown Award for Choral Excellence at the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania annual summer conference in State College, Penn., in August. The award is presented "to an individual for outstanding lifelong work in the choral art." Peggy is professor of music and director of choral activities at Mansfield University in Mansfield, Penn.

\\ **BILL MORROW**, B.B.A. in marketing, delivered the keynote address during the UTSA College of Business Frost Distinguished Lecture in April. Bill is co-founder and chairman of CSI Identity Corp., an Austin-based business specializing in identity theft protection, voice biometrics, ID verification and data breach management.

\\ **JOHN VALENZUELA**, B.S. in physical education, is the boys' basketball coach at San Antonio Christian High School. He is also a pastor at Community Bible Church in San Antonio.

1988

\\ **ROBIN ALLEN**, B.A. in English, is the author the Poppy Markham: Culinary Cop mystery series. The first book, *If You Can't Stand the Heat*, is available from Midnight Ink in paperback, eBook, Nook and Kindle formats.

1991

\\ **DARLENE KERSEY**, B.B.A. in accounting, was first runner-up in the 2011 Mrs. Nebraska Pageant. She also received the Patty Steele Community Award, presented to the contestant who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to a charity. Darlene has worked extensively with

Komen for the Cure.

\\ **MARYBETH SMITH**, M.M.

in music, is the director of the Feldenkrais Center of Houston. She has been a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner since 2004 and is a member of the faculty at Houston's Jung Center.

\\ **BARBARA M. STUCKEY**, B.A. in sociology, has been elected to serve as vice president and CFO of Abraxas Petroleum Corporation, based in San Antonio. She most recently served as vice president for corporate finance. She has been with the company since 1997.

\\ **MONICA VALADEZ**, B.B.A. in management, is an account manager in the San Antonio offices of Consuro, a managed service provider offering Windows-based IT services.

1993

\\ **LEIGH ANNE LESTER**, B.F.A. in art, is a San Antonio artist whose work, *Mutant Spectre*, recently won the \$50,000 Hunting Art Prize for 2011. The graphite drawing was selected from 110 finalist pieces in the 31st annual award program, which is sponsored by Hunting, a global oil services company. Leigh Anne is the co-founder, co-owner and co-curator of the Cactus Bra gallery and manager of San Angel Folk Art Gallery, both in San Antonio.

\\ **SHAWN STRASH**, M.B.A., is the CEO at Paradise Valley Community Hospital in Phoenix. Before that, he served as CEO of the Oro Valley Hospital in Tucson, Ariz. >>

AND THE MONEY KEEPS ROLLING IN

Gala raises a record \$150,000 for scholarships

Nearly \$150,000 was raised at the 12th annual UTSA Alumni Gala, held Aug. 20 at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa.

"That's an almost 40 percent increase over the record-setting gala event last year," said Jim Mickey '78, associate vice president of alumni programs and marketing. "The 2011 event will enable more scholarships to be awarded than ever before."

More than 640 people attended the event that honored Clay Killinger '83 and Nancy Kudla '87 with Alumnus of the Year awards, and Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff and Zachry Holdings' Cathy Obriotti Green with Distinguished Service Awards.

"We were really excited with the turnout," said Susan Hough '91, gala chair. "The gala's continued success translates into our association being able to award even more scholarships to deserving UTSA students."

This academic year, \$120,000 in scholarships have been awarded, up 67 percent from the previous year. This year, 60 students are receiving \$2,000 in alumni-sponsored scholarships per year.

The association began awarding scholarships in 1982. "We have come a long way from only one student receiving a \$250 book scholarship," said Randy Vogel '79, board president.

Since that time, \$985,000 in scholarships have been awarded to UTSA students through the association.

"We would like to sincerely thank our donors, sponsors, attendees and volunteers for making our 2011 alumni gala so special," Mickey said. —CRAIG EVANS



"For all the smelliness, do I at least look a little bit happy? Because I am. That should be the No. 1 question that you ask yourself in the morning. Am I happy about what I get to do today? Experience has taught me that your journey will be more successful in the real world if it's fun for you."

—**Doug Fine**, AUTHOR OF *FAREWELL, MY SUBARU*, THE FRESHMAN COMMON READING, in his keynote address at the Aug. 22 Fall Convocation

BY THE NUMBERS

231

students assisted through the MARC-U*STAR program, which helps underrepresented and disadvantaged students prepare for admission into competitive graduate science programs

BY THE NUMBERS

\$31m

private funds raised in FY 2011



//IN BRIEF//

Building Bone, Rebuilding Lives

UTSA biomedical researchers created a scaffold that can be used to mend or regrow bone lost because of trauma or disease. If approved by the FDA, it could be on the market and used by patients by the end of 2012.



"Perhaps the boldest move we could make in the race to Tier One is to simply believe. To believe that we are going to achieve this goal; to not let the hurdles stop us. We have an extraordinary opportunity to forever change the university, our city and our state."

—President Ricardo Romo, in the Sept. 23 State of the University address



//IN BRIEF//

Special Collection

Seventy-five boxes of papers related to Texas Biomed, Southwest Research Institute, Mind Science Foundation and other partnerships and corporations are available to researchers and scholars at the UTSA Libraries Special Collections.

The papers belonged to Thomas Baker Slick Jr., founder of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute and span from 1938 until his death in 1962. They were donated to the university by his family in August.

NUEVO TEJANO

AJ CASTILLO '08



AJ Castillo performs at a concert hall in Austin, Texas.

AJ Castillo prefers his Louis Vuitton sunglasses to cowboy hats, and he is not apologizing for it.

In fact, he credits his blend of traditional Tejano and cumbia mixed with hip hop and R&B for his many young fans.

"A lot of artists are used to the way they've been doing things for the last 15 years, and they don't want to grow or expand," he said. "They get comfortable. And when you get comfortable, someone new is gonna come along and take your spot. You've got to be hungry."

Castillo's style seems to be working both with fans, who now number at least 700 per concert, and with critics. In 2010, he won Best New Male Artist at the Tejano Music Awards and was named the Tejano Academy's Best Emerging Artist and Accordion Player of the Year. He also just signed an endorsement deal with Hohner accordions. In October, he released a DVD that includes live performances of his songs and background stories about some of the tracks.

Castillo, 27, graduated from UTSA in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He credits his experience at

the school with helping him grow up away from his family's home in Austin, which allowed him to gain independence.

He also came to UTSA to work the music scene in San Antonio.

As a 10-year-old in South Austin, Castillo began playing his grandfather's accordion around the house. By 13, he was playing in the family's Tejano band alongside his father, Arturo.

When he came to San Antonio, Castillo was able to work with Tejano Grammy award winners Gilbert Velasquez (who produced A.B. Quintanilla and Selena, among others), David Lee Garza and Grammy nominee Ram Herrera.

Now, Castillo is on his own and reinventing the genre. Many of his songs are traditional Tejano or cumbias that he remakes with a sharper, more modern sound. He and his 19-year-old brother, Sergio, who is a vocalist in the band, project a masculine image onstage (his concert crowds are 70 percent women).

In his music video for the cumbia "Todo Me Gusta de Ti," Castillo has a beautiful girl on each arm in a chic nightclub.

"I lean more toward the hip hop generation," said Castillo, although he grew up idolizing Tejano stars La Sombra, Mazz, Jay Perez and David Lee Garza. He designs his own blinged-out accordions and has a large tattoo that wraps around his upper right arm. Graffiti-like fonts title his videos.

His fans love it, and Castillo loves them back.

He has had performances all over Texas and in Topeka, Kan.; Milwaukee, Wis.; and Tucson, Ariz. With a Facebook fan page with 5,000 people, a Myspace page full of updates and videos, and a new collection of songs called *The MixTape* that he is giving away to anyone who asks for it, Castillo makes sure he is in touch with his base. In fact, he included his personal cell phone number on his last CD, and now says he receives hundreds of calls per week.

Castillo said he will keep trying new things on his independent label. "I am going to continue to make music the way that I want it to sound. I want my sound to be more international, and to expand to different genres as well. I want us to continue to grow."

—ERIN EGGERS

1994

\\ **SHARON KEEN**, M.S. in biology, lives in Ramer, Tenn. In 2009, she was named Tennessee Tree Farmer of the Year and has served in leadership positions with her local forestry association. She enjoys competing in agility events with her Australian Shepherd dog.

1995

\\ **BRIAN TROESCH**, B.A. in political science, is senior vice president of sales and marketing and business development at Arbinet Corp. He also serves as the senior vice president of global sales, marketing and product development.

1996

\\ **JESS DECUIR**, M.F.A. in art, and her husband, **JEFF DECUIR**, '94 B.F.A. in art, released their most recent electro-pop album, *Drastic Cinematic*, in 2011. Their band, Hyperbubble, was created in 2003.

\\ **JANIE M. GONZALEZ**, B.A. in sociology, is CEO and president of Webhead, a San Antonio-based company focused on enterprise solutions for the Department of Defense.

\\ **HOMER JASSO JR.**, B.A. in criminal justice, is the owner of Superior Oil Express stores located in Edinburg and Sharyland, Texas.

\\ **ROBERT "ALEX" LOPEZ**, B.F.A. in art, teaches sculpture courses at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He also has a master of fine arts degree in studio arts from Alfred University in New York.

\\ **CHRIS SAUTER**, M.F.A. in art, created the public art project at the Mission Branch Library in San Antonio. The project celebrates the area's rich history.

1998

\\ **MARTIN GARCIA**, M.F.A. in art, is an artist in his hometown of Kerrville, Texas. He recently accepted a job offer to teach art in Taiwan for two years.

1999

\\ **VICTOR RODRIGUEZ SR.**, M.P.A., is chief of police in McAllen, Texas.

2001

\\ **ALLEN DUNN**, M.S. in civil engineering and M.B.A. '05, is an engineer at M&S Engineering. >>

LLC, in Spring Branch, Texas. He has worked in the field for more than 13 years, focusing on geotechnical engineering, civil engineering, structural design and forensic engineering, and has experience in electrical transmission and construction materials engineering and testing.

\\ **DANNY DE GRACIA II**, B.A. in political science, was elected to Honolulu's Neighborhood Board and will serve from 2011 to 2013. Danny is an economic policy adviser to the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii think tank and is a columnist with the *Hawaii Filipino Chronicle*.

2002

\\ **MARILYN HOPE DAVO**, B.B.A. in management, is director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau in Harlingen, Texas. Marilyn previously was a senior marketing specialist for FedEx from 2007 to 2011.

\\ **SHANE FOLEY**, B.A. in political science and criminal justice, was recognized as the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department's East District Officer of the Year for 2010. He has been on the Indiana force since October 2007.

2003

\\ **JULIA BARBOSA LANDOIS**, B.F.A. in art, is a San Antonio artist who recently exhibited her work, *The Golden Ass*, at the Blue Star Project Space. The show explored the sex trade, masculinity and the tourist mentality along the Texas-Mexico border.

2004

\\ **GLYNN CYPRIEN**, B.S. in physical education, was named assistant head coach of the Texas A&M basketball team. Glynn has been an assistant at 10 universities, including Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma State and Nevada-Las Vegas, since his first job at UTSA, which he held from 1987 to 1990.

\\ **JOSHUA JENNINGS**, M.F.A. in art, is an artist whose work was recently exhibited at R Gallery in San Antonio. The



//IN BRIEF//

28th Annual UTSA Diploma Dash

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at the UTSA Main Campus
7 a.m. registration
8 a.m. race time

The event is open to individuals, families and teams in the Open and Masters levels and 14 age categories.

Proceeds benefit scholarships for UTSA students and help fund alumni programs.

Go to utsa.edu/dash for more information and to register.

exhibit was inspired by medical engravings and Japanese comics called manga, and it includes diptychs in which landscapes are juxtaposed with portraits of sick people.

\\ **JASON STOUT**, M.F.A. in art, recently displayed drawings and paintings in the exhibit "Sovereignty, Viscosity and Reprise" at REM Gallery in San Antonio.

2005

\\ **RON CAMPOS**, M.P.A., is director of Human Resources for the City of San Marcos, Texas. Ron was formerly the Human Resources Executive Program administrator for the San Antonio Water System.

2006

\\ **RICHIE BUDD**, M.F.A. in art, is a Fort Worth artist known for "performative sculptures." Earlier this year, his collaboration with another artist, called *Come On Guy*, was displayed at the SCOPE New York art fair in New York City. The installation consisted of four New Jersey fraternity members hooting, hollering and drinking a lot of "Natty Light"—Natural Light was a corporate sponsor—inside a glass case, according to media reports.

\\ **EMILY SHERTZER**, M.S. in environmental science, is an environmental planner for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indianatown Gap. Emily joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 2009 and is an airman first class in the 553rd Band of the Mid-Atlantic. She also performs with the Lebanon Community Concert Band and has played with the Central

Penn Symphony Orchestra. She is a member of the All Guard marathon team and also volunteers at the Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association near Grantville, Penn.

2007

\\ **RUSSELL THOMAS CARR**, B.B.A. in general business, is a property manager and real estate agent with Scott Allison Real Estate of San Angelo.

\\ **JOSEPH COHEN**, M.F.A. in art, and **CORNELIA WHITE SWANN**, M.F.A. in art '09, were featured artists in "Margins," an exhibit in the UTSA Arts Building on Main Campus during the summer.

\\ **MATTHEW RAMIREZ**, B.A. in communication, has published his second book in *The Adventures of Paleta Man* series. *The Adventures of Paleta Man: Secret of the Gold Medallion*, which he co-authored with his father, Paul Ramirez, follows Paleta Man as he continues to secretly fight crime throughout the city.

\\ **CHARLIN YU**, B.B.A. in marketing, works in marketing for her family's San Antonio restaurant, Hsiu Yu.

2008

\\ **SARAH RAMOS**, B.A. in psychology, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies '11, is the assistant director of student services at ¡Adelante! U.S. Education Leadership Fund. She oversees the coordination of Adelante's student programs and student workshops. The 13-year-old national nonprofit organization provides scholarships, internships and leadership development for Hispanic students.

2009

\\ **FREEMAN FIELD**, M.A. in economics, works for the Metro New York Baptist Association in New York City, hosting teams that do ministry work in the city.

\\ **JOANN JIN MENA**, M.A. in teaching English as a second language, works with UTSA's Intensive English Program and is a sponsor for Making Efforts to Reach out to the Community (MERC), a youth service group that serves the refugee community.

2011

\\ **CATHY BODENSTEDT**, B.A. in art history, is the owner of CapRock Winery in Lubbock, Texas. Cathy and her husband, **JIM BODENSTEDT**, B.B.A. in accounting '96, founded MUY Brands fast food franchises in 2003.

\\ **STEPHANIE FERGUSON**, M.Ed. in educational leadership and policy studies, was appointed director of communications and career and technology education at New Braunfels ISD in New Braunfels, Texas. She joined the district in 1993, serving as a journalism and English teacher at New Braunfels High School. She was named the district's public information officer in 1999.

\\ **EMMANUEL GROTHEER**, M.S. in physics, and his wife, **DIANE GROTHEER**, M.P.A. in public administration '09, are the parents of Pilar Salome Grotheer, born March 31, 2011.



"This whole notion of how do you marry technology and people in a meaningful, significant way so that people feel that their destiny, their bill at the end of the month, is really in their control and they can influence it, is critically important."

—**Les Shephard**, DIRECTOR OF THE UTSA TEXAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE, on the July 8 taping of NPR's *Science Friday*

BY THE NUMBERS

95%

increase in Alumni Association members from 2010 to 2011

BY THE NUMBERS

1,264

number of Alumni Association life members

IN MEMORIAM

For a list of Roadrunners who are no longer with us, please go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/memorial.



"This is a new Libya; we're starting from scratch. Not like the Egyptian and Tunisian revolutions where the bureaucracy is still there. What you write on this piece of paper, this empty white piece of paper, will be the revolution. It will be our country going forward."

—**Mansour El-Kikhia**,
LIBYAN-BORN PROFESSOR
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL
SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY,
quoted in the Aug. 31
San Antonio Current

BY THE NUMBERS

900

record number of students
enrolled in the Honors
College

BY THE NUMBERS

47

invention disclosures in 2011



MARK MCCLENDON

Steven Sano volunteers with the American Red Cross. All volunteers work under the seven principles of service: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

MISSION TO SERVE

STEVEN SANO M.P.A. '11

Steven Sano has seen destruction. As a volunteer for the American Red Cross, he was there shortly after an EF5 tornado ripped Joplin, Mo., apart. He was there after Hurricane Irene struck New York.

"In Joplin, I saw entire neighborhoods wiped out clean," said Sano, who earned a master of public administration degree from UTSA in May. "There weren't even trees left."

Sano volunteered his expertise as a community development consultant in these devastated areas to help pull the cities back together and get people access to the aid they needed. In Joplin, Sano coordinated operations at the Multi-Agency Resource Center, which brought together all sectors of the community, from government agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and vari-

ous Missouri state and local governments to the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and Missouri Legal Aid.

When a disaster happens, the Red Cross responds to immediate needs. For long-term recovery, however, community partnerships are necessary "to help everyone get back on their feet," Sano said.

In Joplin, there are pockets of Mexican, Vietnamese and Chinese communities. So Sano focused on identifying specialized resources to aid these residents. As the son of Japanese American parents who were held in internment camps in the U.S. during World War II, Sano is particularly sensitive to issues of social justice.

"Part of my obligation and responsibility is to share my experience to help make things better as a community, as a whole," he said.

Sano volunteered his expertise with the Red Cross again this summer after Hurricane Irene caused severe flooding in New York. After listening at community meetings to the priorities of those affected, he was able to manage partnerships and ease tensions between those who needed help and those trying to provide it.

"It's arrogant for organizations to come in and say 'this is how it should be done.' My job is to ask the communities how they do it," Sano said. "My job is as a reflective and active listener. I ask, 'What do you want? What do you need?'"

Without the support of the people who live in the area, he said, the changes will not be lasting.

Sano's work stretches across the border as well. He is working on a proposal to link the American Red Cross with the Cruz

Roja Mexicana, the Mexican National Red Cross, to offer mutual aid between the countries in times of disaster. A New York chapter of the Red Cross has also asked him to assist in creating a similar initiative between the American and Canadian Red Cross organizations.

Because of his volunteer efforts, Sano has been able to bring back ideas and best practices to the San Antonio area, where he runs Merxcis, LLC, a consulting firm that assists with community and neighborhood planning and development.

"This is how UTSA has had a direct effect on the Red Cross and community development," Sano said. "Every experience I go through changes me. I use each experience to fine tune my ability to drop my ideas of what reality is and see other people's reality."

—ASHLEY FESTA



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UTSA
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



JOHN POINDEXTER

NOW & THEN

Happy anniversary, UC! Twenty-five years ago, the University Center was situated on the edge of the "core campus." Today, it is tucked in the heart of the university that grew up around it and is the pulse of the campus with more than a million visitors each year. For more information on its history or anniversary events, go to utsa.edu/uc/uc25.

MARK MCCLENDON

