

SOMBRILLA

SPRING 2011 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO



Tier One Momentum



The Roadrunners defeated Alabama State on March 16 in the NCAA tournament. Read story, page 14. Photo by Erik Schelken.



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Roadrunner Sports

Men's basketball enjoyed its finest season ever, capturing UTSA's first NCAA postseason victory in any sport; plus sports briefs and a profile of junior baseball player Casey Selsor.

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Tier One Momentum

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“A COLLEGE EDUCATION

IS IMPORTANT. I WANT **UTSA** TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS WHEN THEY ARE READY.”

—Erin Alexander '98 & '01

ERIN ALEXANDER is a licensed family counselor from San Antonio. She is having a great impact on the university by making UTSA the beneficiary of two life insurance policies.

MAKING **A GIFT** IS
EASIER THAN YOU THINK

Many **ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ALL AGES** are having a powerful impact on the university. They are creating gift plans that secure the university's future while protecting their own interests as part of a comprehensive financial plan. UTSA can help you manage your assets and secure your loved ones' futures—all while benefiting exceptional opportunities for students.

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utsa.edu/giftplan

EDITOR'S NOTE

The six-letter word

Impact. I'm fascinated by the word. It's only six letters long, but it carries a weight that's hard to measure. There's the impact that one faculty member can make on a country by providing books to promote literacy. There's the impact that a group of students can make in an economically distressed neighborhood by renovating dilapidated homes. There's the impact that my two small boys make every day when they help me to smile, laugh and not curse while I'm stuck in traffic; it means I have a few more precious minutes with them in the car.

As we put this magazine together, this six-lettered word seemed to appear over and over again. It's in everything the university hopes to achieve with Tier One. It's what our students and staff do all over the world in their quest for knowledge and their commitment to service. And it's what we continue to do every day here in our own community.

UTSA makes an impact globally, regionally and locally. But along with impact comes momentum. The university is on a course to become a top-level institution. That doesn't

mean we're starting from the bottom. What this university has already achieved in its short 42-year life is impressive. We offer more than 130 degree programs. We have hundreds of tenured and tenure-track faculty. We had \$70 million in research and sponsored program expenditures last year. And our numbers keep growing. That's momentum.

In the following pages you'll learn about UTSA's continued impact on the world, the city and, perhaps most importantly, on our own students and graduates. You'll read, directly from our president and provost, exactly what Tier One means for all of us. And you'll take a journey around the world to see Tier One at work.

I hope you enjoy the ride.

Saludos,

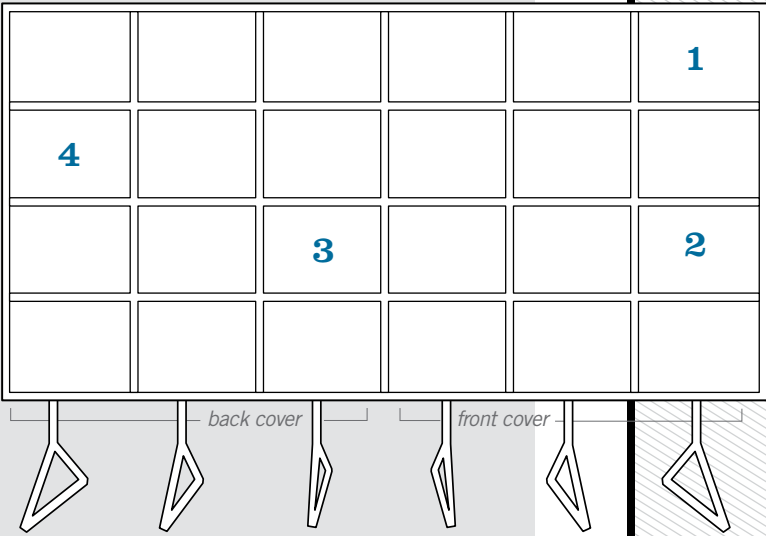
Lety Laurel



THE SOMBRILLA, top-view

on the cover UTSA unveiled its Advanced Visualization Laboratory in May. The lab is anchored by a 14.5-foot wide by 6-foot visualization wall created using two dozen 30-inch Dell UltraSharp widescreen monitors. Each monitor boasts twice as many pixels as a high definition television. Known as the Vis-Wall, it acts as a high resolution projection screen, allowing researchers to glimpse in detail the smallest facets of their work. Users can display one large image stretched across all monitors, or show different images in each monitor. What makes the wall unique is a Quanser HD2 high-definition haptic device, which can be used with the wall to allow researchers to touch and feel the digital models they create in the course of their research.

- 1** Research expenditures are on the rise, the number of students enrolled in doctoral programs is increasing and collaborations with top research institutions occur daily. UTSA is on a trajectory to become a top-tier research university. See story, page 16
- 2** University officials believe a complete university education should include exposure to cultures from around the world. Since 2009, students and faculty have traveled to more than 50 countries on all seven continents. See story, page 22
- 3** The Torch of Friendship sculpture is a landmark in Downtown San Antonio and represents the fusion of cultures in the city. The Downtown Campus is located nearby and works to forge a link between the university and the surrounding community. See story, page 28
- 4** A Tier One university in San Antonio could be an important economic development tool for the city. See story, page 16



LETTERS

Redesign

Just want to let you know what a great issue the newest *Sombrilla* is. I love the format and layout. I think it is the best I've seen for *Sombrilla*.

DEBORAH D. THOMAS
San Antonio

I worked in the UTSA Advancement Office many years ago when *Sombrilla* was first created. I have always enjoyed receiving the magazine and being able to keep up with the great things going on at UTSA. I just want to commend you for the new fresh look of the magazine.

It is much more inviting ... readable ... and presents the school in a much more contemporary light. Keep up the great work!

JOHN P. DONOHUE
Fairfax, Virginia

Just wanted to let you know that the new *Sombrilla* is great. I love the format, the use of space and great photographs!

GINA MENDEZ
San Antonio

I wanted to send along my emphatic compliments on your redesign! I so enjoyed looking through the winter issue of *Sombrilla* and found myself inspired as we here at Elon are at the beginning of a redesign process of our own publication, *The Magazine of Elon*. Congratulations on a beautiful issue!

KRISTIN SIMONETTI
Elon, North Carolina

I wanted to pass along big kudos to you and your team for the new and updated *Sombrilla*. I had never really read the entire magazine from cover to cover until I picked up this new edition. I was very engaged and attracted to each page. It was very visually appealing and the stories (and tidbits) were an easy read. I agree with your editor's note that you have made the new *Sombrilla* more "youthful, fun and vibrant." Great job. I will be looking forward to

the next edition!

LEIGH GRANT OWEN
San Antonio

Are You Ready for Some...

What a great article regarding UTSA football. We welcome you to the Western Athletic Conference! The WAC has been a major part of NCAA athletics for over 45 years. UTSA and Texas State are great additions to the WAC. As a University of Idaho alum, we look forward to the conference competition in the future. The WAC is truly a great conference with wonderful institutions of higher education with fantastic facilities. Go Vandals and "Birds up!"

JOHN T. SCHROEDER
Boise, Idaho

Football generates funds, and I predict UTSA will soon have a self-sustaining athletic department. The program may even provide more scholarships to future students, and maybe someday, national exposure for our school.

RAM M. GADHIA
UTSA senior

Football diverts funds desperately needed in the art and science departments.

ADAM SOCKI '11
San Antonio

Uncharted Territory

I cannot express enough how much I enjoyed reading your article regarding first-generation college students. Being a first-generation college student myself, it touched on a lot of familiar areas.

JESSICA AVALOS '07
San Antonio

GO ONLINE!

Need more information?
Check out these UTSA websites.

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

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

For information on the Graduate School, go to
utsa.edu/graduate

Discover ways to give back to the university at
utsa.edu/giving

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

Reconnect with old classmates and your alma mater at
utsa.edu/alumni

For everything else, go to utsa.edu

Chat with us!
We're on Facebook.
facebook.com/UTSAsombrilla
facebook.com/utsanantonio





I am a first-generation student. I know what the struggles are of getting integrated into the school environment, socially and academically. At times you feel like you are alone, not knowing what to expect, what will happen next, but always having that hope that everything will work out. ... This article definitely helped me to understand that I am not

the only one going through these struggles.

ABEL VILLALOBOS
UTSA junior

This article was touching. I actually cried while reading it. While I am not a first-generation student, my mother was, and she went back to school when I was 10 and my brothers were 6. She had three young children, my dad had lost

his job, my family had gone bankrupt, and the five of us were living in a 400 square-foot apartment. My mom graduated from UTSA with an A in every single class that she took. She made me believe I could do it, too. I graduate next year.

AMY ERIN COMEAUX
UTSA junior

What an inspiration. ... It is a shame more young parents do not encourage their children to strive for as much education as they can because this is their doorway to advancement and happiness.

LLOYD W. JARY
San Antonio

Establishing a Legacy

Mary McKinney's story is very inspiring indeed. Her act of generosity will definitely help more students today and into the future. I just hope that the real estate gifts can be managed well by the university to provide more funds for the scholarship. She is truly an amazing woman.

BARRIE LAROSE
Barrie, Ontario, Canada

Forever Young

(Paul Kattapong is) a true inspiration. Because of his own determination in obtaining higher educa-

tion, instilled from his mother, he has instilled the importance of higher education upon his children. What a bright future for his grandchildren! I can certainly relate to how important a mother's word can be ingrained into the mind. Immigrating to the U.S. from Laos myself, not knowing a word of English and thrown into the public school system at the age of 6, the challenge gave me even more determination to learn and ultimately graduate from UTSA.

S. PHANHTHARATH '97
Austin

I wanted to let you know that I really enjoyed reading the article about my dad, Paul Kattapong (as well as the other articles you wrote in the magazine)! He really got a charge out of it. Thanks!

PAUL KATTAPONG JR. '90
Houston

Write Back!

We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at sombrilla@utsa.edu. Or mail your letters to Sombrilla Editor, Office of University Marketing, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. You can also comment via Sombrilla Online at utsa.edu/sombrilla.

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Leaving Home Finding Home

TEXAN FAMILIES REMEMBER THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION





THE PASEO

A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS

REMEMBERING HOME

Shadow boxes jut out from the walls, each portraying another family, other lives, affected by the Mexican Revolution of 1910. Large scrims hanging from the ceiling show haunting black and white images of family members. And playing in the background are videos of men and women sharing the harrowing and emotional stories of their families' escape from war and the new lives they were forced to build in a foreign country.

The UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures' exhibit, "Leaving Home, Finding Home: Texan Families Remember the Mexican Revolution," began in November to mark the 100th anniversary of the revolution. It tells the story of eight families who relocated to Texas and the impact that had on future generations.

Graduate students from the Department of History

helped collect and edit the interviews for the exhibit.

Lupita Barrera, director of education and interpretation for the institute, said having students work on the exhibit gave it additional energy and depth.

"I think it's very thought-provoking, and that's what we wanted it to be," she said. "We wanted it to get in every person's mind."

Rosa Canales Perez, whose family is featured in the exhibit, said it was an emotional experience.

"The larger-than-life size of the scrims brings my family back to life and gives them their due after what they went through," Perez said. "It brought tears to my eyes. It was a beautiful tribute to all these families, especially those of us who are simple people, poor people. To end up somewhere like that is very special."

—Lety Laurel

// IN BRIEF //

Hail to the Chief

President Ricardo Romo was named CEO of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's District Four. The E. Joseph Savoie Chief Executive Leadership Award is one of the highest honors given annually to a university president and was given to Romo for his guidance in transforming UTSA from a regional campus to an emerging Tier One research university. He competed against administrators from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mexico.

"OVERHEARD"

That we have a diverse student body is unquestionable; what we must improve is the diversity of our faculty, and there's no doubt in my mind that having strong ethnic- and gender-area studies programs will play a role in our ability to recruit outstanding faculty of color.

—John Frederick, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS in his Feb. 25, 2011, blog

Librarians in the *Cocina*

Blog explores traditional Mexican recipes that give insight into history, culture and politics **BY LETY LAUREL**

The recipe from 1939 called for freshly cooked black beans, so Juli McLoone, rare books librarian, improvised the best way she knew how: with a can of Goya beans bought at her local H-E-B.

"[The author] of course doesn't call for canned beans, but I think she would appreciate the time and convenience of them," McLoone said, opening the can.

McLoone isn't exactly a culinary artist, though she enjoys cooking. And she's no expert on Mexican cuisine, though she enjoys eating it.

But the librarian is challenging herself to cook as many recipes from UTSA's Mexican cookbook collection as she can—as authentically as makes sense—and write about her experiences on the library's blog called *La Cocina Historica*. It's a way to highlight the library's unique collection of more than 1,000 Mexican cookbooks that date as far back as 1789. The books, some splattered with food, others compiled from pasted newspaper clippings, make up one of the largest

and most extensive Mexican cookery collections in the U.S., she said.

"It's been a fun little experiment," McLoone said, thumbing through one of the collection's older cookbooks. "But it does make having peanut butter and jelly for lunch a little lame when you've spent the morning looking at these."

Most of the books were donated by San Antonio resident Laurie Gruenbeck. Over the past 30 years, she slowly built her collection while traveling throughout Texas and Mexico.

The collection contains recipes for the more adventurous eaters: cat tongue cookies (which don't actually contain anything from a cat's anatomy); pig's feet; green rice; and corn smut, a fungus that grows on corn. And there are more conservative recipes, such as dried shrimp soup, plantain taquitos, chocolate cake, pralines and rice pudding.

"People think of Mexican food as tortillas and tacos and enchiladas," Gruenbeck said. "But it's a lot of varieties of food. There's an infusion of French and they also had influences from Asia and China."

Today's recipe for McLoone: enchiladas de huevo con frijol, or egg enchiladas with beans, from the 1939 cookbook *Exquisite Cocina de Campeche: 400 Recetas Experimentadas*.

As the smell of hard-boiled eggs fills McLoone's kitchen, she tries to figure out an especially confusing part of the recipe.

For 12 medium tortillas, you will need 6 hard-boiled eggs, crumbled with sufficient salt. Prepare the black beans as in that recipe; when well cooked and thickened, pass them through an aluminum colander.

"The funny thing about Mexican cookbooks, the manuscript ones will

sometimes give a specific list of ingredients but will be very light on directions," she said. "It's as if they think 'I already know how to make what I'm making, I just need to know the proportions.' Or it may be a matter of no proportions, such as 'Take some eggs and cook them in some milk.'"

You have to research before you begin cooking, agreed library dean Kris Maloney. "When I go through a recipe, there will be ingredients like a goat. Or 12 pigeons," Maloney said. "A 1960s book has pigeons as an ingredient. I was intrigued by how recent that was and how cooking was done in that part of the country."

To prepare for the egg enchiladas, McLoone had to first translate the directions from Spanish, then try to find the ingredients at her grocery store.

For epazote, she substituted cilantro. For lard, vegetable oil.

Add one red tomato that has been blanched, skinned, and dissolved in ½ cup of its cooking water.

"There is a bit of guessing involved," she laughed.

McLoone started the blog in spring 2010. Library staffers and anyone else who is interested pick recipes from the collection, try them out at home, and write about the experience. The site gets about 100 to 200 hits a week.

"Some of the recipes are exotic," McLoone said. "We had a tortilla soup recipe that we wanted to try that featured 15 different ingredients. But here we ran into language limitations because we don't have anyone in the department who is fluent in Spanish. We weren't sure if it was telling us to crumple up sausage to look like sheep's brains or if we had to use sheep's brains."

Blogging about the recipes is a



UTSA's library holds more than 1,000 Mexican cookbooks, dating back to 1789.



Juli McLoone, rare books librarian, tries her hand at egg and bean enchiladas, a recipe from a 1939 cookbook.

the smashed mess that didn't make it out of the colander and spreads it on top of the enchiladas.

Serve hot. If you wish, you can add ground pumpkin seeds.

The plate looks, well, interesting. After setting the table, she sits down to her meal and hesitantly takes a bite.

"It's actually pretty good," she said.

It took over an hour to prepare the meal, a matter of minutes to eat it.

"That's part of the cultural aspect too," Maloney said. "The amount of work that it takes. You work with inexpensive ingredients, but it takes hours and hours of time."

After finishing her plate of enchiladas, McLoone grins at the collection of used spoons, whisks, pans and cutting boards that have accumulated on her countertops during her experiment. The kitchen is splattered with tomato, and pieces of diced onion that didn't quite make it into the pan lie on her stovetop.

Cooks in the 1800s and early 1900s would have had to spend hours gathering the ingredients and preparing the small meal, and additional hours cleaning everything used to cook it. But not McLoone.

"I just have to rinse this stuff off and throw it in the dishwasher. That's the beauty of modern technology," she said. \$

SOMBRILLA ONLINE Check out dozens of cookbook covers in our photo slideshow at utsa.edu/sombrilla. And visit the library's blog at lacocinahistorica.wordpress.com.

way to let people know that the collection exists. But it's also been a learning experience. Food, McLoone said, gives a unique insight into history. It reveals the politics of the region and the social history of the area.

"The thing about food and cooking is it's sometimes criticized as being multi-culturally light—'Let's eat some tacos and celebrate Cinco de Mayo,'" she said. "But the thing about it is it at least gets someone's foot in the door. You can't stop there. You have to go deeper."

The collection gives important information that will be useful to researchers, Maloney said.

"In San Antonio, we're known for the

food and the area and the culture," she said. "The cooking is interesting and the cookbooks themselves are interesting, but the additional historical aspects of culture, society and health that they give insight to is important."

To make the enchiladas, wet the tortillas with the salsa, and then put a little of the eggs in each and place snugly in a serving bowl. Then, pour the thick beans on top, and lastly the salsa.

Back in McLoone's kitchen, she struggles to pass the heated black beans through a colander to "pour" on top of the enchiladas. Shrugging, she scoops

NUMBERS

**1.22
MILLION**

Number of books, including e-books, in UTSA libraries



// IN BRIEF //

Texas Folklife Festival

The 40th annual Texas Folklife Festival was held on the grounds of the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures in June. The festival is the biggest cultural celebration in Texas. More than 250 groups, including more than 40 ethnic communities, come together each year to celebrate their heritage. The event showcases the Lone Star State's diversity and rich heritage through a wide variety of ethnic food, music, dance, arts and crafts.

NUMBERS

3

Number of new degrees added since summer 2010. They include a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, a B.S. in biomedical engineering and a bachelor of public administration degree



// IN BRIEF //

Getting to Know You

The UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures and the East Asia Institute hosted Japanese Culture Family Day in February to celebrate the Japanese culture and educate others about its customs. Activities included calligraphy, arts and crafts, and language and music lessons. The event was in conjunction with "World Heritage Photo Panels from Japan: Two Thousand Years of Legacies," an exhibition of more than 60 photos of Japan's World Heritage sites that ran at the ITC through March.



Seeking Solutions, Delivering Hope

Researcher's passion for science and compassion for people drive MS research

BY CINDY TUMIEL

Thomas Forsthuber was a medical student in his first neurology course when the plight of multiple sclerosis patients struck him. Of all the diseases that he studied, this one seemed especially unkind. It arose mysteriously in the prime of life, causing the body's own immune system to turn hostile and wage war on the delicate protective layers that surround brain cells. And it seemed there was little that doctors could do as this stealth attack began to fray the circuits in the brain, causing vision problems, muscle weakness, loss of coordination, pain and numbness. In the most serious cases, the disease stole away patients' ability to walk or speak.

"I vividly remember that lecture," Forsthuber said of the class he attended

two decades ago at the University of Tübingen, Germany, where he received his M.D. and Ph.D. "They had no idea why this happened; why did the body turn against its own protective cells?"

Six years ago, Forsthuber relocated from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and brought those questions to UTSA, where he now is a professor of immunology. Here, his passion for science and compassion for people drive a research program that is delving into the immune system for clues about what goes wrong and what can be done to stop the devastating damage that follows.

"My weak spot is ill people, but MS patients have a special spot with me," he said. "If you have the flu, we know what we can do for you. But if you have

multiple sclerosis, we don't have a lot that we can do. Most patients go slowly downhill for 20 or 30 years. They lose their vision, their muscle control; some of them lose their families because they can't cope.

"On the outside, they look OK, but on the inside, they are ill and suffering."

The program has been a boost to multiple sclerosis patients in the South Texas area, not just scientifically but emotionally as well. Forsthuber invites groups of them to his laboratory and he attends their fundraising functions.

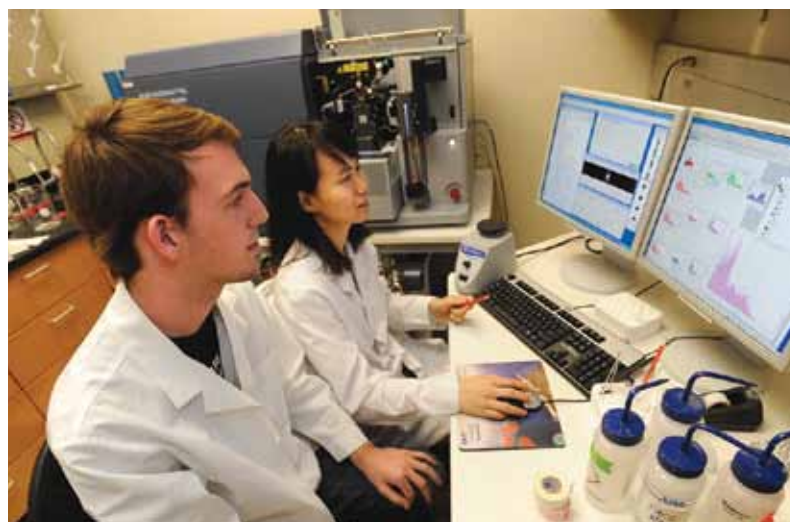
"He holds out hope to a group of people who are looking for any kind of hope," said Tony Ralf, regional vice president for the Lone Star and Rio Grande chapters of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. "This is not like the scientist you see on TV who is removed from society."

Even after years of scientific probing, much about multiple sclerosis remains an enigma. Research has shown that people with a specific gene, called HLA-DR2, have a higher risk of developing MS. Other clues suggest there is an outside event—an injury, infection or toxic exposure—that actually brings on the disease.

"You need the perfect storm," said Forsthuber. "If you have the gene, your immune system is ready to cause this assault on your brain. But then something has to trigger it."



Dr. Thomas Forsthuber, professor of immunology and the Jesse H. and Mary Gibbs Jones Endowed Chair in Biotechnology, is trying to unlock the mysteries of multiple sclerosis.



The insult causes the myelin sheath, an insulating layer of fat that encases the neurons, to release an antigen. The antigen somehow activates a hostile reaction in select immune cells. The body then mounts an attack, producing more and more immune cells devoted to the destruction of its own healthy tissue.

"They mistake the brain for something that is infectious," Forsthuber said.

With damaged myelin, brain cells misfire like faulty electrical wiring. In most patients, symptoms come and go, causing pain, numbness, fatigue, blurry or double vision and loss of muscle coordination. But the more serious forms of the disease can leave people unable to walk or talk. About 400,000 people in the United States have MS; 18,000 of them live in Texas. It usually is diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40, and is more common in women.

For years, the only available treatments were steroid medications to suppress the immune reaction. More recently, researchers have developed drugs that work by blocking the action of specific immune cells. These are not effective in all patients, however, and some of them have potentially dangerous side effects.

Forsthuber's work focuses on T-cell lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell that is a crucial component of the

immune system attack. Using laboratory mice that have been bred to carry the human form of the HLA gene, Forsthuber has identified what piece of the myelin is vulnerable to the T-cell attack. Now he is working with a drug company to test an experimental medication that blocks the pathogenic T-cells from reaching that vulnerable spot.

He also is working to identify biomarkers—proteins circulating in the blood that can tell doctors how patients are responding to their therapy and whether some are developing resistance to the steroid medications they are taking. This is the emerging field of proteomics, or the detailed study of proteins, a research field that got a giant boost last year when UTSA landed a key federal grant.

The funding came from the National Institutes of Health, via the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) program, which helps build research capacity at universities that serve minority student populations. UTSA is getting a \$12 million infusion of capital over the next five years, much of it earmarked for the state-of-the-art equipment needed to enable cutting-edge research projects, like the ones Forsthuber is undertaking. Faculty members have access to the Proteomics and Protein Biomarkers cores, laboratories dedicated specifically to this type of

research, where advanced techniques like mass spectrometry and chromatography help them identify and characterize important proteins.

This investment gives Forsthuber's team in San Antonio the same opportunity for discovery as scientists at any top-tier biomedical research university. "I can do everything here that I would at Case Western or Harvard," Forsthuber said.

However, this is not a research project confined to the walls of a laboratory. Forsthuber, his staff and students shed lab coats and donned sneakers in February when the Multiple Sclerosis Society Lone Star Chapter held its annual fundraising walk at the AT&T Center.

The chapter also brings groups of MS patients and prospective donors to Forsthuber's lab to learn first-hand about the work that goes on there.

"We have pretty much open access to his lab," said Ralf. "That is almost unheard of in research. He really wants to have that personal contact with the people he is trying to help."

Forsthuber thrives on the contact. The patients remind the scientists and students in his lab about the human need that drives their work, Forsthuber said.

"I love the process of discovery," he said. "But I also have a big soft spot for people who are ill." §

"OVERHEARD"

While living in Mexico City, I heard a number of expressions with the word madre in them. I had a difficult time finding out that the expressions were mostly negative, many were obscene. I also heard the expression qué padre, which everyone said means: Wow, that's fabulous. Madre means worthless and padre means marvelous? Years later I started writing about this curiosity—a long, winding and precipitous journey.

—Liza Bakewell,
BROWN UNIVERSITY
PROFESSOR AND
AUTHOR OF *MADRE:
PERILOUS JOURNEYS
WITH A SPANISH
NOUN* at a Nov. 16, 2010,
lecture at UTSA

NUMBERS

7

UTSA recipients of Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships in spring 2011, which tied UT Austin for the most recipients by Texas universities



// IN BRIEF //

Learn and Serve

Molly Cox, director of the Center for Policy Studies, and professor Renee Nank in the College of Public Policy care about San Antonio's cats and dogs. They are directing the Learn and Serve initiative, part of a national challenge to involve students in service learning projects. By partnering UTSA graduate students with area high school students, they are trying to help make San Antonio a no-kill city by spreading the word through social media and other outlets about responsible pet care.

"OVERHEARD"

To be successful in gymnastics ... you have to stay focused on three things: balance, flexibility and strength. ... These are the same three skills you need to successfully navigate the world after you graduate.

—**Mary McNaughton-Cassill**, PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR in a Dec. 17, 2010, address to Honors College graduates

From the Heart

Even in the noisy world of technology, poetry can thrive

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

For Wendy Barker, the beauty and profound depth of poetry begins when we're children. No, she takes that back. It begins even earlier—in the womb.

"As tiny beings inside our mothers, we hear that heartbeat, those gurgles, our mother's voice," said Barker, a professor of English and UTSA's poet in residence. "All those pulses and sounds we live with for nine months. The origin of poetry goes back to the womb."

Poetry has been central to Barker's existence, so much so that she can't imagine a life without it.

Yet, like the rest of us, Barker lives in a world of iPads, smartphones, Wi-Fi, Xbox, Skype and never-ending hype on the latest electronic gadget. It's a world driven by technology and all manner of scientific inquiry and discovery. In such a world, can the somewhat quaint, romantic notion of poetry survive?

Indeed, explained Barker. It can even thrive.

"Poetry's never going to die as long as we're creatures with heartbeats," said Barker, who earned her doctorate at the University of California, Davis.

She likes to quote the 20th-century American poet William Carlos Williams, who said, "It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there."

Born in New Jersey but raised in Arizona, Barker grew up to the sounds of poetry.

"My mother and father read A.A. Milne's poems to me from the time I was

a toddler—*When We Were Very Young* and *Now We Are Six*. The delight in the play of the language in those poems never left me."

When she was older, her father would read poems out loud after dinner. Robert Frost was a favorite.

But poetry is much more than pretty words, said Barker, author of hundreds of poems and a dozen books and chapbooks.

"Frost once said 'Poetry is a way of taking life by the throat,'" she said. It can also heal, she added.

"Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood," as T.S. Eliot said. It can make us aware of 'unnamed

feelings.' He wanted a poem to come from the deep emotional core of the writer to reach the deep emotional core of the reader or listener," Barker said. "When we write from that deep emotional core, we are writing from our soul.

Poetry's never going to die as long as we're creatures with heartbeats.

From the deepest part of ourselves, which is also maybe the highest part. I've seen poetry connect people as profoundly as music can."

But poetry tends to intimidate a lot of people these days, Barker acknowledged. Perhaps it's seen as elitist or inaccessible.

One reason, she said, is that some of the great poets from the early 20th century, like T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound, "were consciously trying to write poetry that did not appeal to the masses. They were tired of the easy rhymes and sentimental verse popular in the late 19th century. They were trying to write something new that reflected the age in which they lived.



"Now, today, many of us can look at their poems and find that we don't have as much difficulty with them as people at the time did, because somehow our sensibilities have caught up. But their flagrant determination to flaunt their stuff without any regard for popular taste caused a lot of people to turn off to poetry."

Moreover, she said, a national and natural poetic disposition is impeded by a culture that mainly values



Wendy Barker, a professor of English and UTSA's poet in residence, believes the depth and rhythm of poetry begins in the womb.

believes that some teachers just aren't comfortable with poetry.

"So, rather than reading a poem out loud, just reading it and letting the words catch fire, the way you listen to music—you don't listen to a song and then immediately dissect it—the students are given the poem only in writing and they're asked to puzzle it out," she said. "That can take the joy out of it."

Even in her classes now, Barker said, she fights the concept of poetry as a problem to be solved.

"One of the things I was struggling against in a class recently was the desire of many students, when confronting a poem for the first time, immediately to try to analyze it," she said. "I always want to start by letting a poem wash through you. Let it have its effect. Relish it. Then, of course, our curiosity leads us to want to understand how the poem creates its effect on us."

Not surprisingly, Barker believes that poetry "is an integral part of the university's mission," not just because it's the oldest of the verbal art forms "but because it is so vital and vibrant."

It's at least as important as studying biology, she said.

"Once somebody asked what I wrote. When I said poetry, he said, 'Oh, fluffy stuff.' No, it's not fluffy stuff. If it's working, it hits us deep down, where we live." \$

SOMBRILLA ONLINE Read an extended interview with Wendy Barker and see a sample of her poetry at utsa.edu/sombrilla.

material wealth.

From the very beginning of this country, from our Calvinist ancestors, she said, the arts were seen by many as a waste of time, not worthy of a people who needed to be doing "real" work.

"There are other cultures where leaders of governments are poets," Barker said. "Throughout South America and Europe, poetry is far more valued than it is in the United States, where it's, 'How much money do you make?'"

When people say they don't read poetry or care for it, "I don't think they really mean it," Barker said. "People who say that have been taught poetry poorly."

A good poem, she's fond of saying, "should hit you in the gut ... before you even start thinking intellectually about it."

And while she once taught high school and middle school and calls public school teachers "incredibly burdened" and even "heroic," she

"OVERHEARD"

Credit comes easy these days. But the dreams students come here to build can turn into nightmares of debt.

—Greg Abbott, TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL *warning about the pitfalls of credit cards, as quoted in the Jan. 28 2011, San Antonio Express-News*

// IN BRIEF //

It's Not All Bad

Despite the difficult economy, more Texans sought advice in starting and growing their businesses in 2010. The UTSA Institute for Economic Development served more than 37,000 business clients last year, up from 32,000 in 2009. The institute also reported an increase in net sales, contracts and exports for business clients, and access to capital increased substantially. But documented business starts and expansions decreased from the previous year, reflecting the continuing challenges of a tough national economy.

"Small businesses are leading the turnaround for the Texas economy, and UTSA is doing its part to help them grow and prosper," said Robert McKinley, associate vice president for economic development.

“OVERHEARD”

I hope everyone doesn't forget we have 16 other teams (besides football) that need resources and attention to continue to improve.

—Lynn Hickey,
ATHLETICS DIRECTOR,
as quoted in the Dec. 26,
2010, San Antonio
Express-News



// IN BRIEF //

Bring Out Your Hardhat

Construction is under way on the six-level East Parking Garage near the Main Building. The building will have 1,200 parking spots, a visitor center, gift shop, alumni association office and offices for communications personnel. It will feature LED lighting and motion activated lighting, and will be set up for vehicle charging stations. Plans call for the \$30 million garage to be completed by summer 2012. It is just one of several construction projects that are addressing critical space needs. Read the full story on [Sombrilla Online](#).



STEPHEN FRANKLIN

SPORTS BRIEFS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UTSA enjoyed its most successful season on the hardwood in 20 years. Under the direction of fifth-year head coach Brooks Thompson, the Roadrunners posted a 20–14 overall record—the first 20-win season since 1991–92—and finished with a 9–7 Southland Conference record for the second straight campaign. UTSA upset the top three seeds to win the Southland Tournament and advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2004.

The history-making run did not stop there, as the Roadrunners defeated Alabama State, 70–61, in the first round in Dayton, Ohio, on March 16 to record the school's first-ever NCAA postseason victory in any sport. Top-ranked Ohio State ended UTSA's season in the second round two days later in Cleveland.

Three Roadrunners were honored for their success on the floor. Senior point guard Devin Gibson was named to the All-Southland Conference First Team and was voted the Southland Tournament MVP after guiding UTSA to the championship. The Houston native broke the league's career steals record and eclipsed four additional school career standards and one single-season mark. He also was honored by the National Association of Basketball Coaches as a first-team

all-district choice.

Meanwhile, Jeromie Hill was tabbed the Southland Freshman of the Year and joined sophomore Melvin Johnson III as an honorable mention all-conference pick.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UTSA's season came to an end in the semifinals of the Southland Conference Tournament at the hands of eventual-champion McNeese State. In the quarterfinal win over Sam Houston State, senior Ashleigh Franklin set a tournament record with 15 free throws en route to a career-high 33 points. She was named to the all-tournament team and earned third-team All-Southland honors, while fellow senior Amber Gregg was named to the second team.

WOMEN'S GOLF

A 16th place finish in the NCAA West Regional in Auburn, Wash., wrapped up the most successful season in program history. Led by Southland Conference Coach of the Year Carrie Parnaby, the Roadrunners won their first league title in April and placed a record four players on the all-conference squads. Sophomore Paola Valerio, the Southland Player of the Year, and Fabiola Arriaga, who earned Freshman of the Year honors, helped UTSA notch a record six top-five finishes this year.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

The Roadrunners won their sixth consecutive Southland Conference Indoor Championship in February, matching Lamar's 26-year-old record established from 1980–85. Led by league Coach of the Year Aaron Fox, the Roadrunners tied their conference record with six individual titles—sophomore Keith Benford (high jump), senior Devon Bond (triple jump), junior Albert Cardenas (mile), sophomore Richard Garrett Jr. (shot put), sophomore Taylor Reed (pole vault) and sophomore Tyler Williamson (long jump)—en route to 153 points, which was the second-highest total in the meet's 32-year history (Lamar scored 164 in 1983).

Fox not only extended his conference-record run with his sixth consecutive Coach of the Year trophy, but in March he also was named the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's South Central Region Coach of the Year for the second time in four years. UTSA's other postseason award winner was sophomore Richard Garrett Jr. The Garland native was tabbed the circuit's Outstanding Track Performer and was the lone Roadrunner to advance to the NCAA Indoor Championships, where he earned second-team All-America honors after placing 15th in the shot.



AIMEE
JONAS

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Senior Aimee Jonas won UTSA's seventh Southland Conference pentathlon championship at the Southland Indoor meet in February. The La Vernia native scored a career-best 3,425 points for the Roadrunners' first pentathlon title since 2007.

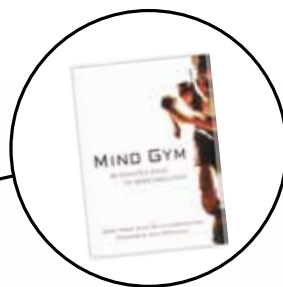
—UTSA Athletics Communications

BASKETBALL PHOTO BY ERIK SCHELKEN, TRACK & FIELD PHOTO BY JEFF HUEHN



Memories

One of Selsor's earliest recollections is "me in my living room with one of those little souvenir wooden bats, a Texas Rangers bat, and my dad throwing me the ball. I was still in diapers."



Just read

Mind Gym by Gary Mack. "It's all about mental toughness."



Big Tex

Selsor is extremely proud of the history, culture, traditions and myth of Texas. He has a Texas flag hanging in his room, and when he travels out of state, it doesn't take long for people to realize where he's from. "It's the accent," he said, "and all the Texas T-shirts."



Off the field

"I love to hunt and fish. I do it every chance I get. At our place [in the Hill Country], we've got deer, pigs and turkeys. I bow hunt all those. And in the summer ... I go down to my buddy's coast house and we go out after trout and some reds."

Casey Selsor

BY JOE MICHAEL FEIST

Take a look at Casey Selsor and you'll probably start humming "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." The 6-foot-3-inch, 180 pound junior out of San Antonio's Reagan High School has baseball written all over him.

The Washington Nationals thought so. The MLB club drafted Selsor right out of high school, in the 37th round. But UTSA was calling.

Selsor, a marketing major, is a two-way player for the Roadrunners. As a freshman, the lefthander showed his athleticism by appearing in 16 games (five starts) on the mound and 27 contests in the field, including 22 starts at first base, a position he had not played since his little league days.

Last year, he pitched in 14 games, including 13 starts, and made 34 appearances in the field. He recorded a 5-6 record on the mound while fanning a team-best 60 batters in 86 innings. At the plate, he hit .292 with 11 doubles, two triples and eight homers, and drove in 27 runs.

So go ahead. Buy him some peanuts and Cracker Jack. \$



A ritual

A lot of baseball players make it a point to never step on the foul line. Selsor takes it a bit further. "I've got a thing where I give a little hop every time I cross the line. Some guys comment on that or make fun of it a little bit. It's something I've done since I was little."





Watch an excerpt of UTSA President Ricardo Romo and Provost John Frederick talking about what Tier One really means at utsa.edu/sombrilla.

TIER ONE MOMENTUM

In 2009, the Legislature designated UTSA, along with six other Texas universities, as emerging research universities able to compete for millions of dollars in funding. The idea is to create more elite research institutions, called Tier One schools, in Texas, thereby creating a knowledge-based economy, high tech businesses and lucrative jobs.

Texas has only three Tier One universities—the University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M and Rice—while California has nine and New York has seven.

While no formal, agreed-on definition of a top-tier university exists, such schools typically report at least \$100 million in restricted research spending and have doctoral programs in as many as 50 disciplines.

The benchmarks for the seven emerging universities to access state dollars include \$45 million in restricted research spending and 200 doctorates conferred in each academic year of the preceding biennium, among other guidelines.

While UTSA has not yet achieved these goals, administrators say the school is on the right path. President Ricardo Romo and John Frederick, provost and vice president for academic affairs, sat down for a chat about Tier One in Romo's office March 31. Here are excerpts from the conversation, plus a look at what community leaders think about UTSA's impact on the city, region and state.

"Achieving Tier One will take us to a whole new level in creating smart and high-paying jobs in San Antonio."

NELSON WOLFF *Bexar County judge*

WHAT IS TIER ONE FOR UTSA?

FREDERICK It's a tricky question because it's kind of like fine art. It's not something that has a set definition or is well defined. It's kind of in the eyes of the beholder, but I think one thing you can say about fine art and being Tier One is that it really means being excellent in everything you do, whether it's a researcher in the lab who is going to be doing cutting-edge research and stuff that has a high impact or a teacher in the classroom that's going to bring the very best instructional quality to our students.

Going toward Tier One should mean something different for each university. In other words, we want to be Tier One for San Antonio. That it's not that we want to reproduce the University of Texas at Austin or UCLA or some school like that. Here in San Antonio, we want to be the sort of Tier One school that really fits into the community.



WHAT STEPS HAS UTSA TAKEN TOWARD ACHIEVING TIER ONE?

ROMO One thing that we did early on was to develop collaborations and partnerships. And one of the first was with the military, focusing on cyber security after 9/11. We realized that Homeland Security and the Department of Defense were serious about cyber threats to our national security. In 2001, we established the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security at UTSA. It is now a component of UTSA's Institute for Cyber Security, which was established in June 2007.

We not only made the right moves early on in defense-related research, we also developed a similar strategy when we saw the need for a physics program at UTSA. We took advantage of our great partnership with the Southwest Research Institute to develop the physics program we have here, and also with our Ph.D. program in mechanical engineering.

FREDERICK I think one of the tangible benefits we've gotten out of the cyber security collaboration that you mentioned is we've been able to

hire some real stars in Ravi Sandhu and Fred Chang that are coming in and making a real difference in terms of the capabilities of the campus and the opportunities for our students.

And I think we're now seeing some new possibilities with the military in the area of health and trauma and some of those things. I think that's going to lead to new opportunities for us to hire some great faculty and perhaps create some new programs that not only will be great opportunities for students, but will also serve some needs in the community.

So I have to say that one of the things I find really exciting about being at UTSA is that we're not just confined to what we generate on the campus. Because we have these great external partners, it sort of opens up the world for us, really gives us greater possibilities.

ROMO That's right. And there are other examples of Tier One accomplishments. There's the partnership with CPS Energy and the City of San Antonio for \$50 million for sustainable



energy research. And the fact that we had two students who were finalists for the Rhodes Scholarship. That was as many or more than anybody else in the state of Texas. That is a sign that we really have been doing well in recruiting and educating our students. I also think that more of our students are staying here to do their master's and doctoral programs.

FREDERICK One of the parts of the strategic implementation plan said we really need to focus on our graduate school and getting more graduate students and better graduate students here. And we said in terms of the mix of students that we have on campus, we want to grow the proportion of graduate students that we have to 15 percent or higher. Well, here we are five years shy of the 2016 goal and we've already essentially reached that 15 percent mark. So we're thinking now in terms of it needs to be 17 percent or higher. So our recruitment of students has really paid off and we really achieved our goals.

ROMO One of the things that really pleases me about the progress we've made in the Tier One competition and creating a sense of excellence is that so many of our students are out there working not only in San Antonio, but beyond. I think we have established an excellent university that prepares young people to be successful in the 21st century economy.

\$70.2 M

Total research and sponsored programs expenditures

450 → 650

Doctoral enrollment from 2008 to 2010

36% → 43%

Top quartile students from 2008 to 2010

"With Tier One designation, more funding and additional high-paying jobs will result while moving UTSA to the upper echelon of higher education.

BILL KLESSE *chairman and CEO, Valero*

"Tier One would mean more research dollars coming to San Antonio, which would be the foundation for creating new and higher-paying jobs as well as diversifying the community.

CINDY L. JORGENSEN *chief financial officer, Southwest Business Corp., and chairman of the board, North San Antonio Chamber*

"Having a Tier One university in San Antonio is extremely important for our community as we strive to compete in an ever-increasing international market for knowledge-based jobs.

WALT DOWNING *executive vice president, Southwest Research Institute*

"It's not a sprint, it's a marathon."

RICARDO ROMO *UTSA president*



WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE ECONOMY?

ROMO Companies looking to locate in San Antonio often say that what attracts them to the city is the fact that UTSA is here and that there is a trained work force. They need problem solvers and critical thinkers. They need individuals who are leaders and know how to make decisions. They need college graduates. And you know what? We have them. Everyone who graduates from here is going to make a contribution to the city and the state.

FREDERICK Companies often say that one of the big factors that brought them

here is the number of graduates who would be potential employees. So you think about the impact we have as a university in attracting some of these important businesses and corporations to come to town—that is huge.

ROMO We're certainly becoming a greater partner with both the business community and civic leaders. We now have more conversations with the mayor and other city leaders about the role of UTSA in terms of the work force preparation. I'm very pleased about that.

JOB CREATION

UTSA generates more than \$1.2 billion in revenue and supports an estimated 15,720 jobs in the San Antonio area. UTSA's Institute for Economic Development estimates that a Tier One university could provide more than \$2.5 billion in additional dollars to the local economy and an additional 41,000 jobs (more than 9,500 of those jobs would be the direct result of increased research).

SKILLED WORK FORCE

UTSA has become the No. 1 provider of degrees in South Texas, and grants the nation's highest number of bachelor's degrees to Hispanic students in architecture and the life sciences. Approximately 86 percent of UTSA graduates remain in Texas, adding an estimated \$4.8 billion in earnings alone to the state economy. Approximately 70 percent remain in the San Antonio metropolitan area.

RESEARCH INNOVATIONS

Locally, UTSA collaborates with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas Biomedical Research Institute, Southwest Research Institute, the U.S. military, local school districts and various corporations. In 2010, UTSA's research expenditures and sponsored program funding totaled more than \$70 million. UTSA's 19 research centers and institutes have led to discoveries and advances in the areas of cyber security; Alzheimer's diagnosis and treatment; emerging infectious diseases; music research; and conventional, alternative and renewable energy.

"A Tier One university would be an important economic development tool for San Antonio. Economic development has changed over the past several decades from a focus on attracting companies to a focus on creating and attracting high-skilled workers. If you have the work force the jobs will come. And growth in high-skill jobs will also raise incomes—something that has lagged in San Antonio."

KEITH R. PHILLIPS *senior economist and policy adviser, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, San Antonio Branch*



WHAT'S NEXT FOR US IN TIER ONE?

ROMO I was asked by the Legislature about Tier One and I said it's not a sprint. It's a marathon. The school that takes off and says it's closer to Tier One because it has the highest number of programs or the greater endowment, which is part of the criteria, isn't necessarily the winner. It's just like in the marathon. Someone may be ahead of you for 10 or 20 miles, but you might catch them and pass them.

FREDERICK The criteria for funding for the emerging research universities has all kinds of benchmarks that

schools are supposed to reach. I think the danger in some of those criteria is that I think the assumption is that once you meet some of those numbers, that you're automatically Tier One. But I would caution that those are characteristics of what a Tier One university is, and what we're trying to build here is really the firm foundation, the building blocks. So that when everything is done, those numbers will happen because we will be Tier One. It's not that we'll become Tier One because we hit a couple of those numbers.

IS UTSA THE UNDERDOG?

ROMO It's interesting because we were clearly the underdog when we first began this race. I had a chance to testify before the Legislature and I said we have expanded our Ph.D. programs—we have almost 100 students that will graduate with Ph.D.'s this year. We also had a record amount of grants, including the \$50 million from CPS Energy for sustainable energy research, and we had the largest gift ever after Mary E. McKinney, a former student, left us her estate valued at \$28 million.

So even though we're initially viewed as an underdog, I believe that UTSA is in a very strong position to be one of the leaders in the state and to be a Tier One institution. It may take five or 10 years

for us to become Tier One, and so what? Universities take a long time to build and we're relatively young. We have more than 80,000 alums and every year we get better. So I'm pleased with where we are right now and I can only say that I'm optimistic that we're going to achieve Tier One very soon.

FREDERICK Well, certainly if someone thinks you're an underdog, that's an opportunity to surprise them. But it's hard to categorize us as an underdog anymore.

ROMO Well, I will say this. In terms of this city, no one sees us as an underdog. They all see us as a winner. \$



Provost John Frederick views Vincent van Gogh's The Starry Night on UTSA's new 24-screen Visualization Wall. The high-definition screens allow viewers to clearly see the artist's brush strokes.

180°

165°

150°

135°

120°

105°

90°

75°

60°

45°

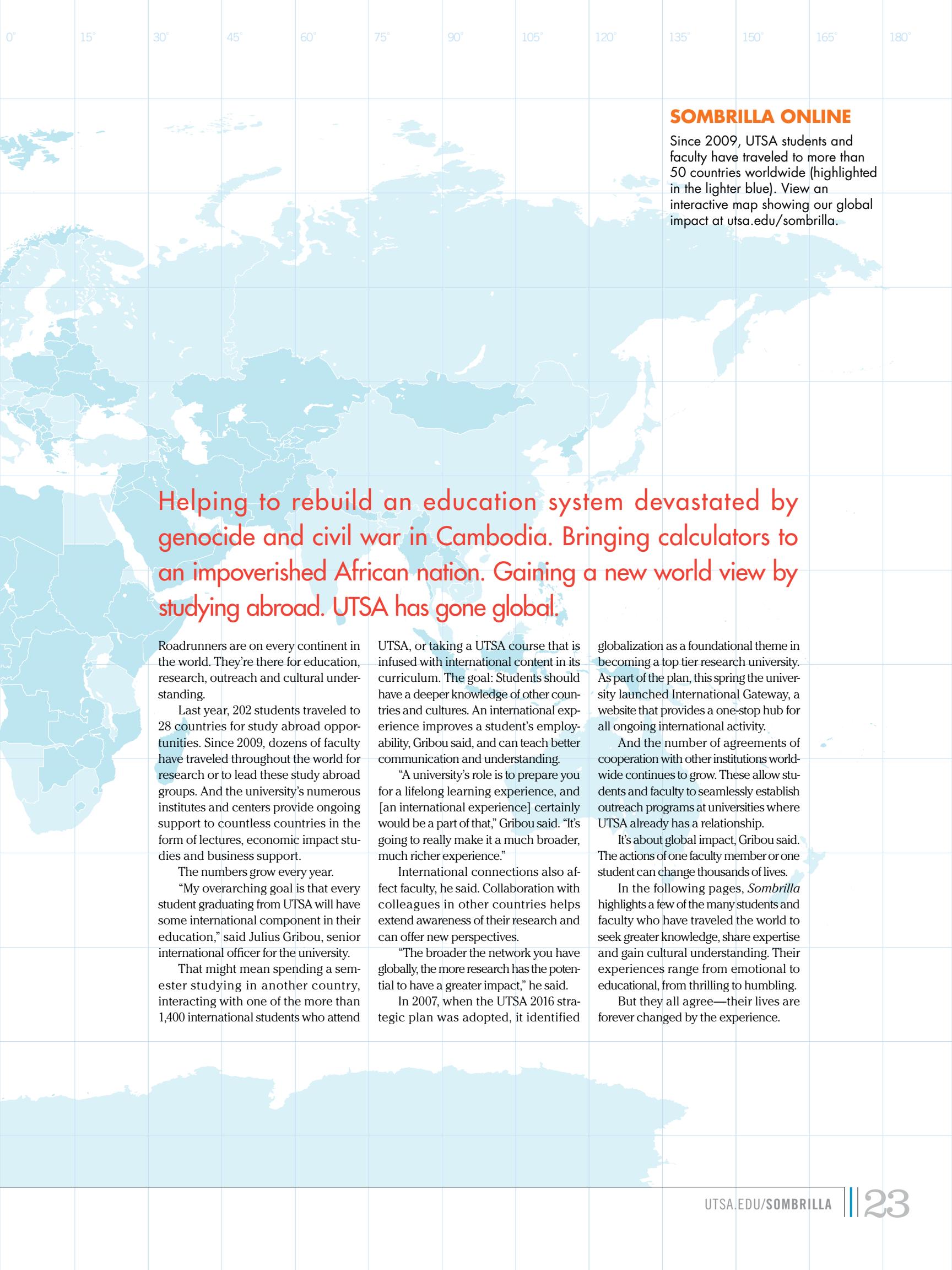
30°

15°

GETTING

GLOBAL

BY LETY LAUREL



SOMBRILLA ONLINE

Since 2009, UTSA students and faculty have traveled to more than 50 countries worldwide (highlighted in the lighter blue). View an interactive map showing our global impact at utsa.edu/sombrilla.

Helping to rebuild an education system devastated by genocide and civil war in Cambodia. Bringing calculators to an impoverished African nation. Gaining a new world view by studying abroad. UTSA has gone global.

Roadrunners are on every continent in the world. They're there for education, research, outreach and cultural understanding.

Last year, 202 students traveled to 28 countries for study abroad opportunities. Since 2009, dozens of faculty have traveled throughout the world for research or to lead these study abroad groups. And the university's numerous institutes and centers provide ongoing support to countless countries in the form of lectures, economic impact studies and business support.

The numbers grow every year.

"My overarching goal is that every student graduating from UTSA will have some international component in their education," said Julius Gribou, senior international officer for the university.

That might mean spending a semester studying in another country, interacting with one of the more than 1,400 international students who attend

UTSA, or taking a UTSA course that is infused with international content in its curriculum. The goal: Students should have a deeper knowledge of other countries and cultures. An international experience improves a student's employability, Gribou said, and can teach better communication and understanding.

"A university's role is to prepare you for a lifelong learning experience, and [an international experience] certainly would be a part of that," Gribou said. "It's going to really make it a much broader, much richer experience."

International connections also affect faculty, he said. Collaboration with colleagues in other countries helps extend awareness of their research and can offer new perspectives.

"The broader the network you have globally, the more research has the potential to have a greater impact," he said.

In 2007, when the UTSA 2016 strategic plan was adopted, it identified

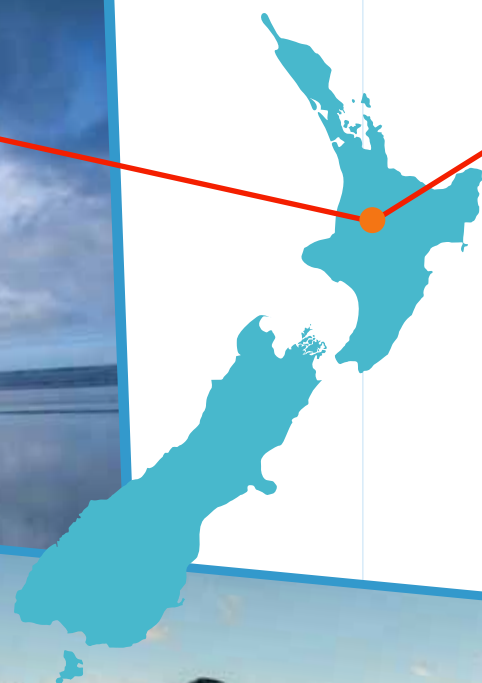
globalization as a foundational theme in becoming a top tier research university. As part of the plan, this spring the university launched International Gateway, a website that provides a one-stop hub for all ongoing international activity.

And the number of agreements of cooperation with other institutions worldwide continues to grow. These allow students and faculty to seamlessly establish outreach programs at universities where UTSA already has a relationship.

It's about global impact, Gribou said. The actions of one faculty member or one student can change thousands of lives.

In the following pages, *Sombrilla* highlights a few of the many students and faculty who have traveled the world to seek greater knowledge, share expertise and gain cultural understanding. Their experiences range from emotional to educational, from thrilling to humbling.

But they all agree—their lives are forever changed by the experience.



J. Patrick Lizaso spent five months in New Zealand in a study abroad program.
Above: Lizaso at Bethell's Beach, New Zealand. Right: Lake Tekapo, New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND

When J. Patrick Lizaso began writing an essay about why he wanted to study in London, he drew a blank. He was completely uninspired. He wanted an adventure, and he didn't think London was where he would find it.

So he decided to surf through the myriad countries that offer study abroad programs. That's when he came upon New Zealand. Abruptly, he changed his plans and flew across the world to the southwest Pacific island country. It was the best decision he could have made, he said.

"I knew I wanted to live out my dreams," he said. "It was one of the greatest times of my life."

Lizaso, a senior finance and international business major, spent five months in New Zealand. He attended the University of Auckland, one of the top 50 universities in the world. Instead of learning only

about the New York Stock Exchange, as he would have by staying at UTSA, his finance classes in New Zealand taught him about the Australian Stock Exchange and the Tokyo Stock Exchange. With shorter class times than at UTSA, he had to teach himself how to thrive academically with less instruction. He had to study more. Independent learning made him a stronger student, he said.

But it wasn't just what he studied that made his experience such an educational one. He said he learned more about himself than he ever thought possible.

"When you're traveling, you strip everything away—family, friends, culture. You're just there," he said. "Sometimes it's a little scary. You find things out about yourself that you didn't know were there."

It was his first trip outside of the U.S., and he said the experience of being in another country, hearing the ideas others had about his homeland, was humbling.

"They watch the rest of the world. They know about the world," he said. "They knew American politics, Japanese,

British, South African, they knew a lot. It was good to see what everybody thought about America and form my own viewpoints from across the world."

And he found himself acting as a teacher as well. People were curious about his country and he was only too happy to correct some misperceptions.

"They are so curious about America," he said. "All they see is MTV, and in the movies all they see is people getting shot. They think that they will go to America and get shot. They also think America is all politics, and it's not just that. They saw that as Americans, we can be just like them."

And Lizaso got his adventure. He got to skydive. He spent 17 days backpacking along South Island. He took a vacation to nearby Australia, where he sat on the beach at 5 a.m. to watch the sunrise. He turned a layover in Japan into a 16-day excursion.

"It definitely changed me," he said. "I learned to form my own viewpoints, and it made my beliefs stronger. I learned so, so much. I wouldn't take it back at all."

CAMBODIA

The Cambodian genocide of the 1970s killed about 2 million people, most of whom were professional, educated, religious, sick or elderly, or ethnic minorities.

Many of the country's educators were among the dead.

"You can imagine when they were first rebuilding the universities, most of the professors had been killed," said Wayne E. Wright, associate professor of bicultural-bilingual studies. "Those that had survived had fled to other countries. A lot of the former students were in the same boat. They had to build these universities again from scratch without having the materials for the faculty, and they were doing an amazing job with what few resources they had."

Wright traveled to Cambodia in 2009 as a Fulbright Scholar charged with helping the country's leading university, the Royal University of Phnom Penh in the capital city, to further develop its graduate degree programs. While there, he taught three courses in the master's of education program. He also developed guidelines for the school's graduate programs and helped master's thesis students and faculty on research projects.

"The master's of education program is raising the quality of education," he said. For years, the country depended on international aid in the rebuilding process for

everything, including education. Slowly, that's changing. "What's exciting to see is, over time, more and more of the local professors and people are taking over and creating their own programs and getting the funding they need."

That same trend is happening nationwide, although even more slowly. Every sector of the country is rebuilding, from energy and human rights to infrastructure such as roads, dams and airports.

"Once the people have the research skills, they themselves are able to analyze the problems, come up with solutions, try them out, evaluate them to make sure they're working properly and make adjustments as they need," Wright said. "They'll make a lot more progress in developing the country."

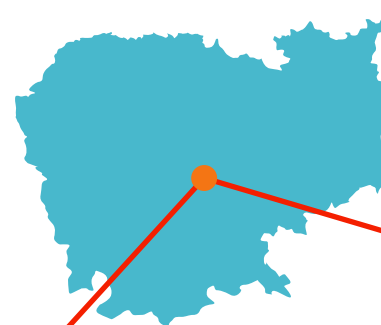
Wright's interest in the devastated region began when he was 19. In 1986, he spent two years in Washington, D.C., serving as a Mormon missionary with the Cambodian refugee population. When he returned home to Long Beach, Calif., he discovered that the city had the largest Cambodian population outside of Cambodia in the world. He became a paraprofessional teacher, helping in Cambodian classrooms, then received a degree in bilingual education. Soon after, he moved to Cambodia and lived there for almost two years working as a volunteer in the education and human rights sectors through a USAID-funded project.

There Wright met his wife, Phal. After he returned to the U.S., he worked for five years as a bilingual teacher for Cambodian students. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Arizona State University, focusing on language and education policies and programs for language minority students. When he moved to UTSA, he found out about the chance to return to Cambodia through the Fulbright program. It was a perfect match.

Wright said he's impressed by the resilience of the Cambodian people. "It's just horrible the traumatic things that they had experienced, and yet they always smiled," he said. "Then they were really willing and anxious to rebuild their lives in a new country."

His experience in Cambodia has changed his worldview, he said.

"I've been able to develop empathy to see how other people experience life and see the world. I think I'm a little more critical in terms of the issues that we deal with in this country, especially a lot of the political debates that come down to sound bites where problems aren't looked at through the perspective of others," he said. "And to see the kind of suffering people have gone through and how much that can destroy a society but at the same time how a people can rebound from something so tragic and so horrible and return to life as normal as possible. That changes you."



Wayne E. Wright, associate professor of bicultural-bilingual studies, traveled as a Fulbright Scholar to Cambodia in 2009. The sign above the door reads "Knowledge is a treasure attached to the body."

FRANCE

Studying abroad changed Frederic Courtois' life.

The three months he spent in France last year gave him more than the opportunity to finish the second of two required practicums for his master's in social work. It also gave him a job in his native country.

"This was very important for me," he said. "It allowed me to reconnect with my

own country. It's strange what happens through a university."

Courtois grew up in France, but left there to live in Mexico when he was a teenager. He hadn't been back in 23 years.

"It was a huge reeducation into my own country," he said. "I had to relearn how to communicate effectively with my own people. I identified with the Mexican culture and American culture and this presented a real challenge in the context

of social work in France."

For his practicum, Courtois launched a program to provide shelter to homeless people who have dogs as pets.

Because most shelters in France don't accept animals, these people were left in the streets with no help.

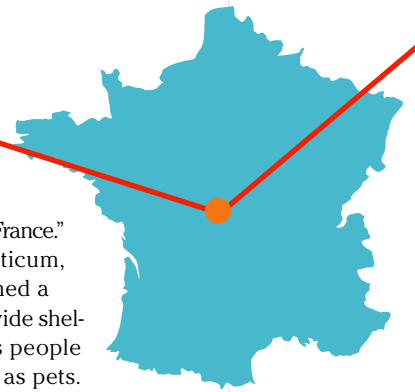
"It went really well," he said. "I had quite a bit of freedom to select different approaches. I started with straight outreach, identified the needs of the individuals, and adapted interventions based on their needs. I then collaborated with other social service partners in the area to identify housing and services for them as soon as we could."

When he was done with his practicum, he returned to UTSA and graduated in December. Despite a competitive job market in France, he found a job right away. He now works with Sauvegarde de la Mayenne et Sarthe near Le Mans, about two hours southwest of Paris. He manages a five-month intensive program that serves as an alternative to incarceration for 14- to 18-year-old males.

"We take the youths to a remote isolated area and engage with them in activities like sports, community service and psychotherapy as a means to forge a group, reconnect broken bonds with their families and restore a sense of belonging," he said.

Courtois was the first student from the Department of Social Work to do an international field placement. He said the experience was invaluable, as were the UTSA professors who helped him along the way.

"Right now with the economic situation in the U.S., it is very difficult to find a job in social services," he said. "To do my practicum at the time I did in France and be able to perform adequately in their eyes certainly helped me to find a job quicker than it would have gone otherwise."



Frederick Courtois '10 stands in front of an old farmhouse that was converted into an office called Monthermont, located in the Mayenne area west of Le Mans, France. The house was built in the 18th century.



Left: Kathleen Mittag, professor of math and statistics, sits with white lion cubs in South Africa in 2006. **Bottom:** Mittag with pre-service math teachers in Namibia in 2010.



NAMIBIA

When Kathleen Mittag traveled with her husband to South Africa for a vacation, she decided to take a tour of local schools. That's when she saw a classroom of 90 kindergarten students crammed into a boxcar.

"That had to be, I would say, the worst-funded school I have ever seen," said the UTSA math and statistics professor. "The classroom was in a container like you see on a railroad car or on the backs of 18-wheelers. That's where the class was. A container. They needed so much."

So she gave the school a box of old calculators that had been sitting in her garage. For the African students, it was a gift of technology they had never before seen. For Mittag, it was the beginning of a six-year relationship with the continent.

Mittag has been back to Africa twice since then, mainly at her own expense, to hand out more calculators and teaching supplies and to conduct research. In 2010, she traveled to Namibia to meet

with pre-service teachers and observe their teaching styles. It's part of a study comparing the math skills of teachers in Africa and teachers in the U.S.

What she's seen so far is that teachers and students are the same throughout the world, she said. In Africa, she has seen an unwavering determination on the part of the educators to teach, and a yearning on the part of the students to learn.

"A teacher has to be dedicated, and these teachers are dedicated just like the teachers we have in the U.S.," she said. "They face the same problems we face. We face kids from broken homes, they face kids from broken homes. We face kids with low socioeconomic [levels], they definitely have low socioeconomic [levels]. We all have the same struggles. And the kids are the same everywhere, too. They all want to learn when they come into school."

Although traveling to Africa began as recreation, Mittag said her mission has changed. She has already learned so much about the people and the

education system, and she wants to know more. Eventually, she'd like to travel to China and regions of South America to compare the education systems there.

"I'd like to see how students are learning [around the world] and compare it to here," she said. But already, she has a hypothesis. "I think it's going to be the same everywhere. It's a matter of money but also it's a matter of the dedication of the teachers and the students. The parents or guardians also have a role. It's a group project, basically."

She's been changed by her experiences, she said.

"It did open my eyes to the circumstances that some of the kids have, and they still have wonderful attitudes and they are still learning and they want to learn," she said. "It's been a rewarding experience. And I'll go back." §

DOWN *UTSA is forging* HOME *ties with the* IN THE *community it serves* CITY

By Rudy Arispe



Sitting in a semicircle in a classroom in the basement of the Durango Building, 13 schoolchildren are learning to fine-tune their violin strokes at the direction of Gabriela Torres, assistant director of the UTSA Downtown String Project.

"A, B, F-sharp, G," Torres instructs them. Then, on cue, the adolescent musicians strike the strings of their violins with varied short and long strokes as they work on a new line from the Cole Porter musical, *Can Can*.

Amy Baez, 9, is enrolled in the music program along with her 11-year-old brother, Jahaziel. She said she looks forward to attending the two-hour class, which is held after school on Mondays and Thursdays.

"It's good to come here because we get to learn a lot of new things," said the fourth grader. "It makes me feel good when we play our music, and I'm learning to play the violin just like they do at the symphony."

The string project is just one of many programs undertaken by the Downtown Campus to forge bonds of goodwill and support with the local community.

"We have a number of programs and coursework that link the university with the community and the

neighborhood," said Jesse Zapata, vice provost of the Downtown Campus. "A lot of them have to do with our location. For instance, public administration is a natural with all the government entities that surround us. Criminal justice is a natural because of the nearby law enforcement entities, and architecture is a natural because of the surrounding urban environment."

The string project, for example, offers musical instruction in cello, violin, viola and guitar two days a week to 72 inner-city kids from San Antonio, South San and Edgewood independent school districts, who, without these free or low-cost classes, might otherwise not have access to quality music lessons.

Classes are taught by six UTSA music majors who gain just as much in practical teaching experience as the children do in developing their musical talents.

"We're meeting a critical need. These children don't have opportunities that students do who live in more affluent parts of the city," said Gene Dowdy, UTSA associate professor of music and founder/director of the project. "Historically, in underserved school districts, such as South San and San Antonio, their budgets don't allow them to hire teachers to provide their students with classical orchestra training."

BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Nestled within the urban environment, the College of Architecture is just a few miles from the Dignowity Hill Historic District on the city's East Side.

This neighborhood, with its Victorian-style houses and Craftsman bungalows, was established in the late 1800s as an exclusive residential area for the city's elite. But, over time, the area has begun to show its age. Once-grand houses now stand neglected.

In response, student Laura Carrera founded the Historic Preservation Association student organization at UTSA, whose 70 members serve as project leaders for the restoration of homes in the Dignowity Hill neighborhood. At the group's first major neighborhood event in November 2010, about 250 students partnered with the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation to refurbish 13 homes in the district listed as endangered properties.

"It was an amazing experience for graduate students to get involved with the community and make a difference while using their knowledge



and getting an opportunity to learn to be leaders," Carrera said. "It's been very rewarding."

The neighborhood benefits as well, she said.

"Seeing young people working on these buildings inspires neighbors to do rehab projects instead of waiting for a building to fall apart," she said. They know they have the support of architecture students who will be willing to help, she added.

The students' work doesn't end there, however. Architecture students are also working with the San Antonio Alternative Housing Corp., a nonprofit organization that provides housing for low- and moderate-income communities, with the design and construction of four energy-efficient homes on the city's West Side near the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

The project, which has \$65,000 allocated per home, was funded by a federal HUD grant. Three teams of graduate students designed and built the 1,050-square-foot houses after researching various home materials, construction methods and components of sustainability.

Rod Radle, executive director of the housing agency, said his organization and the College of Architecture will monitor and compare the energy usage of each home over the next several years to help determine the most cost-effective way to build energy efficient and affordable homes in San Antonio.

"Theoretically, hundreds of homes will be built,"

Radle said. "The College of Architecture is not just impacting the community with these four homes, but can have an impact through the development of hundreds of houses for low- to moderate-income families in the future."

CRIME AND JUSTICE

In March 2009, Nanette C.'s 14-year-old son was attacked by another student while waiting at a bus stop near his middle school. Three of his teeth were broken and his nose was bloodied. His total medical and dental bills exceeded \$1,200.

"When I went to the school and saw my son with blood all over him, it was heart-wrenching, and I went into a rage," said Nanette, who asked that her full name not be used. "I was very upset and I wanted that boy to have to pay for what he did and to be punished."

While prosecutors wouldn't pursue the case, they told Nanette and her family about a program run by the UTSA Department of Criminal Justice—the Restore to Justice Initiative. In addition to reintegrating recently released offenders into society, the program provides an opportunity for victims to meet their offenders to tell them of the suffering their actions caused.

A month after the incident, Nanette and her

family met with the assailant and his father.

"My son read a letter and talked about how the incident brought a lot of pain to me, his dad and younger brothers," she said. "My son also told the other boy about the embarrassment he suffered at school."

After her family spoke, Nanette said the offender looked at her son and apologized.

"After learning about his family dynamics and [his] being raised by a single parent, and after hearing a heart-felt apology, I felt sorry for him," Nanette said. "I went from rage and hatred to feeling a sense of peace and understanding. That's what this program did to us. This never would have happened if we had gone through the justice system. I might have still hated him."

She added that the boy's father told his son that he would have to get a job to repay the family's dental bill.

Roger Enriquez, associate professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, said the program offers a different way of looking at safety. "[Offenders] listen to people impacted by crime. It provides an opportunity for offenders and victims to meet one another, and to assist the offender in realizing the impact their crimes have had," he said.

In addition to the Restore to Justice initiative, criminal justice students also deal with more traditional crime-fighting techniques. With a grant from



the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance, students work with the San Antonio Police Department in the Crime Analysis Consortium. The consortium trains student interns in law enforcement analytical support.

"We work with the San Antonio Police Department to train students to be crime analysts," Enriquez said. "[The SAPD] will use their financial and human resources fighting crime and not have to use resources for training personnel to be crime analysts. While our students work with the SAPD, they might find themselves in different agencies at the state or federal level. And they are able to learn on the job."

Now in its second year of funding, the partnership has enriched the learning experience of the students and provided key analytical support to core investigative units within the police department, said SAPD Assistant Chief Geraldine Garcia.

The students work hand in hand with detectives and supervisors on ongoing investigations.

"During their tenure, these students became invaluable go-to support personnel while gaining practical experience," Garcia said. "This first-of-its-kind program for San Antonio truly illustrates the potential benefit that can be gleaned by public safety agencies partnering with colleges and universities to expand the overall police mission and benefit the community."

PARTNERING FOR HOPE

When Anthony Oliver, 52, came to San Antonio from North Carolina to live with his 32-year-old daughter and her three children, the Gulf War veteran soon found out there wasn't enough room for him in their small apartment.

Oliver sought shelter at Haven for Hope of Bexar County, a private, nonprofit organization that offers education, job training and behavioral health services as well as shelter to men, women and children in Bexar County. While the facility's staff helped him get an apartment and file for disability and retirement, UTSA's College of Public Policy helped him reconnect with his musical background.

As part of the college's efforts to support the neighboring community, the Department of Social Work created the B Heard Music Café, where students recruited professional musicians to donate their time to perform alongside Haven for Hope musicians. The students also obtained instruments for the Haven members, said Bob Ambrosino, senior lecturer in the Department of Social Work.

It was just one of several collaborations between the social work department, SAMMinistries and Haven for Hope.

"I started practicing music again to take up my time in between filing my claims," said Oliver, who learned to play the guitar and keyboard when he

was 12. "The [B Heard Music] café has inspired me to practice and rehearse more, and I'm following my passion, which has been re-ignited."

The overall goal is to develop a unique connection between the San Antonio community and the Haven for Hope community through music, Ambrosino said.

"We have found that there are many homeless people who were musicians at some time in their life, but have lost touch with their connection to music as a result of becoming homeless," he said.

Programs such as B Heard Music Café allow students to be exposed to a hands-on learning experience that will transform their lives, and to connect with the larger community in which they live and work, Ambrosino said.

Zapata said the Department of Social Work's involvement at Haven for Hope illustrates the many powerful contributions that UTSA makes to the San Antonio community through the Downtown Campus.

"The students all gain experience with and a better understanding of the needs of the people that they serve or will serve," he said. "I believe the work they do is a wonderful example of how UTSA contributes to the community. It also illustrates how UTSA is committed to collaborating with a variety of community agencies and organizations for the betterment of San Antonio." §







COMMUNITY

UNITING OUR ALUMNI

RACE DASHES RECORDS

The 27th Annual UTSA Diploma Dash 5K San Antonio City Championship Race & Fitness Walk drew record-breaking crowds.

An estimated 2,300 attended the February dash, which included 1,930 runners, surpassing last year's 1,238 total by more than 50 percent.

The race was established in 1984 to raise money for student scholarships and alumni programs. Race co-chair and alumni board member Melissa Aguillon said the association raised close to \$25,000 in sponsorships.

"We've always had a strong support base and we had a really good response this year," Aguillon said. "Our Diploma Dash has now become known as one of the city's premier 5K events—it's been exciting to see our event grow this year."

More than 800 students ran in the race, an increase of 500 from last year. Corporate and individual

running teams made up the rest of the participants—The Capital Group led the way with 15 sponsored teams; Valero had five teams.

The association awarded prizes and medals in a variety of categories. Chass Armstrong came in first in the Overall category with a time of 15:27.

One of the sponsors was alumna and committee member Catherine Austin '07, who owns Run Wild Sports in the Pearl Brewery complex. Austin hosted two packet pick-up days at her store. "I love going back to UTSA," she said. "It was a lot of fun and a great turnout."

Jim Mickey '78, associate vice president for alumni programs and marketing, said he's happy with the event's success. "We would like to thank all our participants and sponsors, especially Time Warner and H-E-B," he said.

—Vincent T. Davis



Mary Bess Autry, (seen far left), began a family tradition when she attended UTSA in the 1970s. Since her graduation 30 years ago, three generations have followed. Pictured next to Mary Bess (left to right) is her husband, Walter; great-granddaughter Aimee; great-great grandson Cameron; son Jim and his wife, Maggie; and great-granddaughter Nikki. The dog's name is Sadie.

“OVERHEARD”

I couldn't turn my assignment in on time because it was raining, and I drive a motorcycle.

—Catherine Picot-Prieue, FRENCH INSTRUCTOR, recounting the dumbest excuse she ever heard from a student, as quoted in *The Paisano*, Jan. 24, 2011

NUMBERS

**4.5
MILLION**

Approximate gross square feet of all UTSA buildings

A Family Affair

Four generations of Autrys are UTSA alumni

BY VINCENT T. DAVIS

When Mary Bess Autry graduated from Jefferson High School in 1947, she made up her mind that she was done with studying. She'd left behind the days of getting frazzled at the thought of a test or poring through another book late into the night.

All that changed when her older sister, Lillian Dunlap, talked her into pursuing higher education. Mary Autry never could have guessed she'd become the trailblazer for generations to follow.

She enrolled in a two-year program at San Antonio College, but it would be more than 25 years before she would attend UTSA and become the first in her family to earn a bachelor's degree.

"It was the best thing I ever did," she said.

Since Mary Autry graduated from UTSA in 1981 with a bachelor's in physical education, three Autrys have followed. Her son, James "Jim" Autry, graduated in 1987 with a degree in

psychology. Her grandson, James Taylor Autry, graduated in 2008 with a degree in information systems. Two years later her great-granddaughter, Kathleen Nichole "Nikki" Autry, crossed the UTSA stage with a degree in biology.

The Autry matriarch is part of a growing number of alumni who have blazed a path for relatives to follow. Jim Mickey, associate vice president for alumni programs and marketing, said family legacies create pride and inspire future generations to follow. Mickey himself graduated in '78 and has two daughters who are alumnae. Eventually his alma mater became their first choice when they applied to college.

"We are a very young university," Mickey said. "And as more people go to UTSA and graduate, we will be able to begin building a legacy where our children, grandchildren and their children come to UTSA as their first choice."

UNEXPECTED MILESTONES

Recently, the Autry family met at the home Mary Autry shares

with her husband, Walter, in Pipe Creek, in the Hill Country near Bandera. Years ago, while Mary Autry pursued her dream of becoming a physical education teacher, working as a personnel manager at the university to help pay for her courses, Walter cleared the land and built their house near a creek. The creek is now a dammed lake, and a pier stretches over emerald water. Nearby, the family talked about the years that have passed since Walter built the home, and why four generations of Autrys have attended UTSA over 27 years. They hadn't considered graduating from the same university as a milestone until a campus official brought it to their attention.

"It just kind of happened," said Jim Autry, now 61. "That was when we realized that it was pretty unique."

For Mary Autry, getting to graduation day was a long struggle. School took a back seat when Jim was born. It wasn't until UTSA's Main Campus opened in 1975 that she returned to college, juggling night courses, work and family. She eventually retired from her job and became a full-time student. She attacked her studies the same way her husband had cleared their land of rocks and cedar and oak trees—one hill at a time.

NEW GENERATIONS

Like his mother, Jim Autry had to interrupt his education when life got in the way. He was drafted into the Army and served one year in Vietnam. When he returned to San Antonio, he took college courses sporadically over the next decade with the help of the GI Bill. It wasn't until 1984 that he got serious about earning a degree.

"One day I took psychology and I knew that was it," Jim Autry said. His diploma, now framed and hanging on the wall, still brings tears to his mother's eyes.

James Taylor Autry, 34, said he, too, owes his academic success to his grandmother. He remembers her teaching him Spanish when he was a child and attending a Walter Mondale/Geraldine Ferraro rally.

"There was no question that I'd be going to college. It wasn't a decision I had to make," he said. "She was always teaching something—we always felt like we were engaged in some intellectual activity; she was a very gripping force."

Great-grandchild Nikki Autry took honors courses as a pre-med major before switching to research. She said the first time the significance of following her great-grandmother's path hit her was graduation day.

And, like her great-grandmother before her, Nikki Autry juggles school with family. Her son, Cameron, is only in the first grade, but already he's talking about the day when he'll walk across the same stage as his relatives.

"Well, going to UTSA, that would be cool," Jim Autry said.

For Mary Autry, education didn't come easily, but it came with rewards. To give back to her school, she and her husband joined the Alumni Association 20 years ago. They're still active members. And to commemorate her family's accomplishments, she's leaving an indelible mark of her family's pride for their alma mater. Last year, she bought bricks from the UTSA Pave the Paseo campaign that helps pay for scholarships and activities on campus.

"It was something nice I could do for everybody as Christmas presents," she said.

Between the University Center buildings are four 4-by-8-inch bricks with the names of four generations of the Autry family, etched in stone for the ages. \$

CLASS NOTES

Class Notes and In Memoriam are compilations of alumni submissions and reports from newspapers and other media outlets.

1974

RICHARD MIDDLETON, M.A. in education, is retiring this summer after 21 years as superintendent of the North East Independent School District. He will become vice president for the nonprofit College Board's Southwestern Regional Office, based in Austin.

1975

JOSE N. URANGA, M.A. in environmental science, has published his second book in the Buenavida series, *The Death of the Brown Americano*. The book is historical fiction focusing on the Hispanic assimilation experience in the territory of New Mexico in the late 1800s. Jose is a retired attorney living in Sarasota, Fla.

1976

MARILYN LANFEAR, B.F.A. in art, is a San Antonio artist. Her recent exhibit at the Art League Museum, *Marilyn Lanfear: Storyteller*, was a retrospective recognizing Marilyn as the San Antonio Art League Artist of the Year 2010.

1979

MARÍA ANTONIETTA BERRIOZÁBAL, B.A. in political science, expects to publish her book, *María: Daughter of Immigrants*, this year. María was the first Mexican American woman elected to the San Antonio City Council, where she served for 10 years. Under the Clinton administration, she served as a delegate to the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women. She also had a teaching fellowship at Harvard University.

SHIRLYN B. MCKENZIE, M.S. in biology, recently received the TIAA-CREF Distinguished Medical Educator Award and the Member of the Year Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Shirlyn is widely credited with building a nationally recognized clinical laboratory sciences program at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. She was named chair of the department in

1985 and was promoted to full professor in 1995. She retired in January 2009, but has since returned as chair emeritus and distinguished teaching professor emeritus.

1981

LELIA LOCKETT, B.S. in physical education, is coach of the girls basketball team at John F. Kennedy High School in San Antonio. Lelia has spent her entire 30-year career in the Edgewood Independent School District.

1987

SHIRLEY BOTELER MOCK, M.A. in anthropology, is the author of *Dreaming with the Ancestors: Black Seminole Women in Texas and Mexico*, recently published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Shirley is a research fellow at the Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin.

1992

CHARLES GUY STIDHAM III, B.A. in political science, M.P.A. '01, is president and owner of Mortgage of Texas & Financial, Ltd. Guy has been in the mortgage lending industry in San Antonio since 1995.

1995

ALICE CEPEDA, B.A. in sociology, M.S. in sociology '99, is a sociology professor and associate director of the Center for Drug and Social Policy Research, Graduate College of Social Work, at the University of Houston. In September she was awarded the National Award of Excellence in Research by a New Investigator by the National Hispanic Science Network on Drug Abuse. Alice received a Ph.D. in sociology from City University of New York in 2004.

BETH ANN RAFFERTY, B.A. in business, is chief financial officer and vice president for finance at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio. She was previously the institute's treasurer. Beth joined the SwRI staff in 1991 as a specialist in the business operations department.

BRIAN TROESCH, B.A. in political science, is senior vice president of sales, marketing and business development at Arbinet Corp.

1996

YVONNE WHEELER, B.A. in communication, is director of communications at Morningside Ministries in San Antonio. Yvonne previously worked at Christus Santa Rosa Health System, where she served as program manager of public relations.

1998

ALBERT TORRES, B.S. in math, is the head football coach at his alma mater, Edison High School, in San Antonio. He is married to **MARIA GARCIA**, B.A. in psychology '96.

1999

ANN C. WOOD, M.F.A. in art, is an artist who has exhibited her paintings throughout the United States. She most recently had shows at the San Jacinto College South Campus in Houston and the Galveston Arts Center.

2002

MICHELLE BEADLE, B.A. in communication, is co-host of *SportsNation* on ESPN.

2004

ERIC CORTEZ, B.S. in electrical engineering, is a software engineer at L-3 Communications in Waco. He was recently featured in *Hispanic Career World* magazine.

2006

JARED N. BROWN, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is co-founder and engineer at Avello Bioenergy in Boone, Iowa. He is married to **PARI GHAFARI BROWN**, B.A. in psychology '03, M.A. in education '07. Jared also earned an M.S. in mechanical engineering and biorenewable resources and technology from Iowa State University in 2009. Pari teaches second grade in Ankeny, Iowa. Jared and Pari have one daughter, Vivian, born Feb. 10, 2010. They live in Ames, Iowa.



// IN BRIEF //

UTSA Day at the Capitol

Students, faculty, alumni and staff traveled to Austin in March to advocate for higher education.

University representatives met with legislators to discuss issues such as funding for research programs and student financial aid. The House and Senate also passed resolutions recognizing the UTSA Alumni Association for its work in raising money for scholarships.

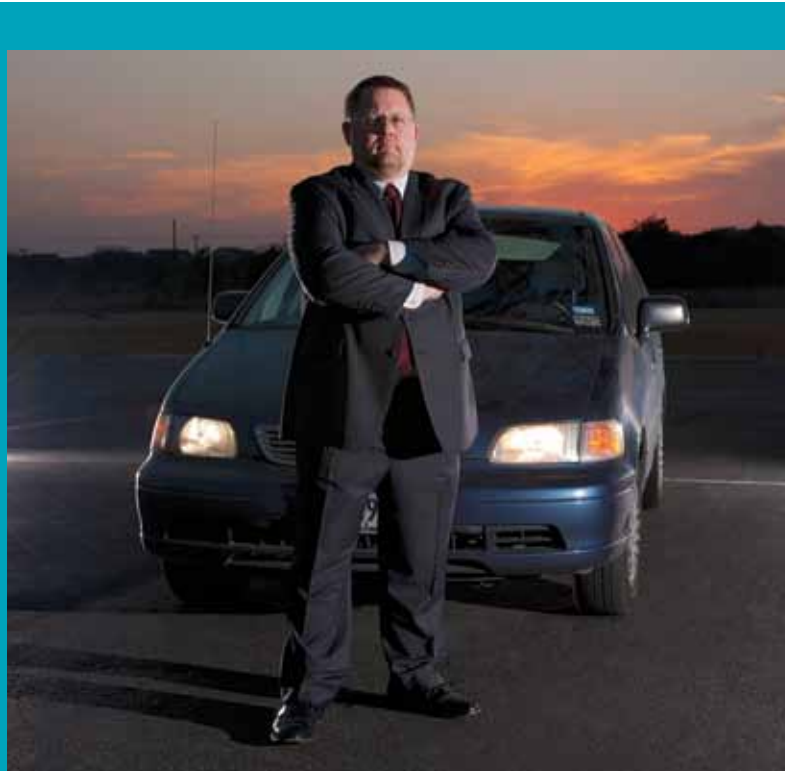
Each year, university supporters meet with state lawmakers to help increase public and legislative support for the university.

NUMBERS

\$459

MILLION

Total annual operating funds for UTSA



JUST REALITY, NOT REALITY TV

SCOTT FULMER '98

Scott Fulmer is a private investigator, and he wants you to know one thing: It's not like TV.

"It's exciting, but I don't drive a Ferrari, I don't look like Thomas Magnum and I don't get beat up like Jim Rockford did," said Fulmer, seated in his office in a garage apartment at his San Antonio home.

Fulmer, 47, worked for several agencies and businesses as a private eye before starting his own firm, Scott B. Fulmer Investigations, in San Antonio in 2006.

"I do a little bit of everything," said Fulmer, who earned a B.A. in criminal justice. "It's important in this business to have a niche. My niche is covert video surveillance. Workers' comp fraud, insurance liability. If you know how to do surveillance it doesn't really matter if it's workers' comp or domestic. It's kind of the same thing. I do child custody cases, divorce, infidelity."

Regarding the latter, he said, "it's not like the show on Fox, *Cheaters*," where the client tags along, leading to

sensational, made-for-TV confrontations. "That's unethical. It's not like that at all."

Fulmer reels off some of the typical cases he's been involved in.

There was the workers' comp case where a woman was claiming a back injury. Fulmer went through her trash, found evidence she was going to Fiesta Texas, followed her there and did video surveillance. "The best video was her on one of the roller coasters. No back problem here."

There was the custody case where, Fulmer said, he needed a flow chart to keep track of who was who. "The grandmother/mother wanted custody of her son's child from a girlfriend, a one-night stand. These things can get really, really crazy."

There was the Border Patrol agent found to be helping illegal immigrants into the U.S., and the Drug Enforcement Administration officer who absconded "with a ton of drug money."

There was the stripper who had been slightly injured in an auto accident with an 18-wheeler and wanted \$1 million to settle. Fulmer

videotaped her at her place of employment. "She was making moves that most healthy people couldn't do, much less someone who had been involved in an automobile accident."

Regarding surveillance, Fulmer said, again, it's not like television.

It can be extremely boring, with many hours of waiting for the right break. And "no one ever seems to sweat on surveillance on TV. ... It's not rocket science, it's not splitting the atom, but there are nuances. I tell people when I hire them that we could train a monkey to hold a camera, but that's not going to help us."

Fulmer, a San Antonio native, said he was inspired to be a private eye when, as a boy, he read the true story *Jay J. Armes, Investigator: The World's Most Successful Private Eye*.

"He led a very exciting life," Fulmer said. "He had his hands blown off by dynamite when he was a kid, so he has hooks. His name is Armes and he has hooks. He intrigued me, and ever since then I wanted to be a private investigator."

After graduating from Marshall High School, Fulmer served a year as a Mormon missionary, then joined the Army, first with the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky., then later with the 2nd Armored Division out of Fort Hood, Texas.

In 1990-91, the Army "invited me to go to the Gulf War. How could I say no?" he said, laughing.

When he left the military he enrolled at San Antonio College, then transferred to UTSA his junior year to gain the academic background needed to enhance his future career as a private eye.

As he talks about his work, it's clear Fulmer enjoys the chase, the cat-and-mouse, the challenge of just discovering a bit of hidden truth.

"I'm a licensed private investigator, licensed by the state of Texas," he said. "But I don't arrest people. I could carry a gun but I don't. Private investigators in reality don't have a lot more authority than just your regular citizen. But we're aware of how to find information."

And, best of all, it's not like TV.
—JOE MICHAEL FEIST



Alumni Roger '85 and Lisa Soler '86 became the 1,000th and 1,001st life members on the alumni association's rolls in December.

Milestone Members

Association has more than 1,000 life members

BY VINCENT T. DAVIS

Alumni Roger and Lisa Soler have always supported their alma mater through their business, but recently they wanted to contribute more to the school that provided their educations.

In December 2010, the couple became the 1,000th and 1,001st life members on the association's rolls. A 1985 graduate, Roger Soler said the distinction is nice, but he's more excited about his role as a life member.

"Being the 1,000th member is as important as being the 999th member," he said. "I wish more people would get involved as long as they have the means to give back and be part of the alumni association."

Lisa Soler, who graduated in 1986, said they both believed becoming life members was a good way to help the university. The numbers were just an unexpected bonus.

"It just kind of tickled me, I guess," she said about their membership card numbers. "It was kind of an uncanny thing—it's nice

that it's that many people already."

Lisa Soler said she still remembers the days when she used to park in a dirt lot on campus. "I love seeing UTSA grow," she said.

The Solers have owned Soler's Sports for 21 years, specializing in running and biking accessories and apparel.

Roger Soler grew up in Lima, Peru, where running became his passion at a young age. He set records that drew the attention of running coaches in the United States and received a scholarship to Allan Hancock College in California. He later transferred to UTSA, where he set records in the outdoor 1,500 and 5,000 meters that still stand 25 years later.

Roger Soler said he hopes that future generations attending UTSA will take advantage of the opportunities that they receive.

"Not everyone is fortunate," he said. "But if they become professional and successful, I hope they look back and give to someone who is coming behind them." §

CLASS NOTES

2006

ABIGAIL G. MOORE, M.A. in counseling, is executive director of the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Abigail previously served as the agency's education director. She holds a professional counselor license, chemical dependency counselor license and an advanced prevention specialist certification.

CECILIA PAZ MUJICA, B.A. in art, is a San Antonio artist and the winner of the Fiesta 2011 poster contest. Her work also won in 2008. This year's winning poster design is a colorful Fiesta wreath with symbols Cecilia associates with the festivities, all set against a black background. Cecilia is also an instructor of children's arts programs and has done art design projects for the City of Schertz.

JAVIER "JAY" ZAMBRANO, M.P.A., is executive director of the ¡Adelante! U.S. Education Leadership Fund. Jay most recently was director of development for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso.

2007

KRISTIN KAYE, B.A. in psychology, is an assistant district attorney in Palestine, Texas. She received her law degree in 2010 from St. Mary's University.

MATTHEW N. RAMIREZ, B.A. in communication, is co-author of *The Adventures of Paleta Man*, a children's book published in Spanish and English by Lobo Video Productions, LLC. Matthew has written, directed, edited and acted in numerous independent films, and is a musician.

MICHAEL VAN STEENBURG, B.S. in mechanical engineering, is chief technology officer for

EnergyOne Technologies Inc., a Lexington, Ky., company he co-founded. EnergyOne is a provider of renewable energy solutions and next-generation technologies.

2008

TERENCE "TERRY" ALGER, M.B.A. in business, received the Forest R. McFarland Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). Terry is the manager of the Advanced Combustion and Emissions Section in the Engine, Emissions and Vehicle Research Division at Southwest Research Institute. He specializes in combustion research and optical diagnostics.

2009

GERALDINE "GERI" BERGER, Ed.D. in educational leadership, is principal of Brandeis High School in San Antonio's Northside Independent School District. She was named the 2011 Texas High School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

2010

VICTORIA DE LA GARZA, B.A. in finance, is corporate events planner for 4WARD Financial Marketing Inc. in Houston.

NICHOLAS FLORES, B.S. in mechanical engineering, and **DANIEL MENDEZ**, B.S. in mechanical engineering '10, are partners in a company called Invictus, which aims to eliminate cranial deformities premature infants with a support device that fits on the head. The two won the Beta Summit at the San Antonio InnoTech conference in March.

BENJAMIN MENDOZA, B.A. in history, is a world history and college readiness teacher at Edison High School in San Antonio. He's also an amateur boxer.

ALUMS—KEEP IN TOUCH

We want to know what you've been up to lately. New jobs, relocations, accomplishments, marriages—whatever your news, share it with friends and classmates. Email: alumni@utsa.edu or write to Office of Alumni Programs, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, TX 78249.



“OVERHEARD”

The ring represents hard work [and] the pleasure of being at UTSA, and that we have to keep on working to make this university better.

—Sergio Roberto Maltos Jr.,

The first recipient of the redesigned UTSA Ring, Dec. 21, 2010

NUMBERS

30

Number of years *The Paisano*, UTSA's independent student newspaper, has been publishing

Her Goal: Protecting Kids

BY VINCENT T. DAVIS

Brooke Ralston wants to solve crimes against the young someday. As one of the 2010–2011 UTSA Alumni Association scholarship recipients, she's gaining the education that will help her on her way.

Ralston, 21, received the scholarship based on extracurricular activities that include volunteering with Brent Barry's 5K Run for Child Abuse and managing the debate team. Ralston made the 2008 President's List, and is a member of the National Honor Society and Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Ralston said the scholarship, given by alumni Susan and Doug Campbell, has helped her continue to excel in school and in her extracurricular activities.

"It takes away a lot of financial stress," she said. "I was excited someone recognized my accomplishments; it felt good to have my hard work noticed."

Her days start and end with school and one of three jobs that she juggles at Ulta Beauty, the Kumon Math and Reading Center and Anne Marie's Catering.

"It's a tight schedule," she said, "But it works."

And part of being true to herself is

combining her interest in criminal justice and her major, psychology.

"I knew I wanted to do something with the best of both worlds," Ralston said. "I decided it was the [FBI] that interested me the most."

The San Antonio native said she's always wanted to do something in the law enforcement field and was inspired by her favorite television show, *Bones*, about an FBI forensic anthropologist. And her interest was further fueled when she learned there was an FBI office in San Antonio near family and friends.

After graduating, Ralston plans to apply with the bureau as a field agent in the crimes against children department. After earning the necessary experience, her ultimate goal is to serve as deputy director of the FBI.

Her scholarship benefactors, who have supported scholarships since 2006, said they are honored to support a student with a promising future.

"My husband and I had the pleasure of meeting Brooke at last year's Scholarship Salute and were so impressed with her drive and determination to complete her degree, as well as the thought she's given to what she wants to do after graduation," said Susan Campbell, vice president of the Alumni Association. Both Campbells, who are life members of the Alumni Association, said they firmly believe that to build a strong community, individuals need to help each other as much as they can through volunteer hours, sharing expertise or supporting programs financially.

"We want to support those organizations and institutions that have helped us become the people we are today," she said. "I am a two-time UTSA alum [B.B.A. in management '89, M.B.A. '10], so I know firsthand the quality of the education provided by UTSA. It's horrible to think that a bright, motivated student might not pursue a college education simply because of cost." §

Brooke Ralston, a 2010–2011 UTSA Alumni Association scholarship recipient, wants to serve as deputy director of the FBI someday.

FORGING AHEAD

MARGARET A. HUNNICUTT '96

Margaret Hunnicutt, survivor.

That may be the best way to describe the UTSA alum who has struggled, endured and triumphed, both as an individual and a businesswoman.

Last year, Hunnicutt was named Business Woman of the Year by the Tempe, Ariz., Chamber of Commerce. The award recognized both her stewardship of the Tempe Schools Credit Union, which she heads as president and chief executive officer, and her extensive civic volunteerism.

But the goal of corporate success once seemed elusive.

Massachusetts-born, Hunnicutt had a traditional upbringing, she said, marrying young. She and her first husband went through the loss of a child, an adoption and the birth of premature twins.

But the marriage failed. Hunnicutt found herself suddenly divorced, with little education, and young children to care for. She met and married a military man who was stationed in San Antonio, but they divorced shortly after.

"I was a single mother going to school, and it took me 13 years to earn my bachelor's degree," she said, recalling obstacles she had to overcome. "I didn't get my CPA until I moved to Arizona, and I was already over 40."

A couple of years after graduating with a degree in accounting, Hunnicutt moved to the Phoenix area, where she unexpectedly reconnected with an old boyfriend from high school, now her husband. "We should have married in 1977," said Hunnicutt.

And she's continued to overcome adversity. When her son was a senior in high school, he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a type of cancer. Through it all, she remained tenacious and committed. "You





can't control what happens in life, but you have to stay focused on what your goals are," she said. "Rely on your own core values and don't give up. Never give up."

In Tempe, Hunnicutt has emerged as a prominent business leader with an executive mettle forged amidst economic recession. Her industry was hit hard during the subprime mortgage meltdown, in which credit unions became collateral victims of an over-leveraged banking industry.

"We have mortgage loans on our books, foreclosures happen, strategic defaults and unemployment," she said, describing the economic impact. "All of this put a damper on our members' financial lives."

Exhibiting the same tenacity that drove her to earn her degree, Hunnicutt went to work to keep the credit union—a focal point for community lending—from financial collapse. Unable to issue stock as banks can to raise cash, she instead explored ways to slash costs.

"We had to cut expenses ... by a million dollars a year for two years and another \$800,000 in 2010," she said. The strategy paid off. "We went from a \$5.4 million loss in 2009 to \$220,000 net profit in 2010."

Having kept the cooperative afloat during economic turmoil elevated Hunnicutt's community standing. The credit union continues to strengthen in economic recovery.

Hunnicutt finds herself now happily married and a grandmother. She added that she looked forward to helping her son—now clear of the cancer that once threatened his life—celebrate his 28th birthday.

"You can't play the victim card," she said. "Life throws you curveballs you have to deal with. But you have to make sure you stay focused on what's important, both with family and career."

To this day, Hunnicutt continues to reap the dividends of that personal philosophy.

—TONY CANTÚ

IN MEMORIAM

1976

MARIE COLLINS JACOBSON, M.A. in education, died Oct. 7, 2010, at age 60.

1977

JOHN CHARLES CROWDER, B.S. in math, M.B.A. '81, died Nov. 22, 2010, at age 57.

TERRY HAUSMAN, B.A. in early childhood education, died Jan. 12, 2011, at age 55.

1980

ELAINE CARDENAS, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, died Oct. 19, 2010, at age 59.

RICHARD PEREZ, B.S. in math, died Sept. 14, 2010, at age 62.

1980

IGNACIO M. VIDAL, M.A. in education, died Sept. 16, 2010, at age 60.

WILLIAM ALAN WALLER, B.B.A. in accounting, died Oct. 7, 2010, at age 55.

1981

MARCIA GYGLI KING, M.F.A., died Jan. 18, 2011, at age 79.

1981

VIRGINIA ELLIS HOLLIFIELD STEGALL, B.A. in history, died Dec. 25, 2010, at age 77.

1982

LOUISE C. KRON, B.A. in American studies, died Sept. 27, 2010, at age 89.

1983

WILLIAM BLOCKER MATTHEWS, B.B.A. in accounting, died Dec. 17, 2010, at age 50.

1985

ROSEMARIE BASALDUA, M.A. in education, died Dec. 17, 2010, at age 64.

DAVID F. MERRELL, M.A. in history, died Sept. 13, 2010, at age 61.

RITA BILLINGTON POLEN, M.A. in education, died Jan. 13, 2011, at age 64.

1986

NEOMAL RATNAYEKE, B.B.A. in accounting, died Jan. 15, 2011, at age 53.

1987

STEVEN DANIEL SPRAGUE, B.S. in biology, died Jan. 19, 2011, at age 45.

1988

NORMAN CLAYTON POAGE, B.B.A. in accounting, died Dec. 24, 2010, at the age of 65.

1989

DIANA MARIA LAGUNA, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, died Jan. 24, 2011, at age 71.

1991

SUSAN JANE BARNETT, B.B.A. in accounting, died Oct. 25, 2010, at age 58.

VIKTOR DARRELL DANIELIUS, B.B.A. in accounting, died Dec. 19, 2009, at age 46.

1996

LAWRENCE V. BELCHER, B.A. in English, died Oct. 14, 2010, at age 38.

1998

JENNIFER WRINKLE, B.S. in math, died Nov. 8, 2010, at age 36.

1999

JAMES M. EHRLICH, B.B.A. in management, died Jan. 30, 2011, at age 35.

2000

ROCHELLE "SHELLY" NEELY, B.F.A. in art, died Nov. 2, 2010, at age 62.

2002

JASON LEE ARCHIBALD, B.B.A. in construction management, died Feb. 14, 2011, at age 34.

GILBERT C. CASTILLO, B.A. in political science, died Feb. 21, 2010, at age 53.

2003

EUGENE T. O'BRIEN, M.A. in anthropology, died March 5, 2011, at age 78.

TAINDEE LEE SWORDS, B.F.A. in art, died April 27, 2011, at age 35.

2006

TRICIA ANN SHEPHERD BARROW, B.A. in geography, died Oct. 25, 2010, at age 36.

GILBERT LOPEZ, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, died Jan. 11, 2011, at age 58.

2009

JON LOFTON, B.A. in psychology, died Feb. 26, 2011, at age 34.

// IN BRIEF //

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Alumni Association proposed bylaw changes include the responsibilities and number of directors, terms of office, membership, alumni clubs and clarification of the appointment of the executive director. For more information, go to alumni/utsa.edu/bylaws.

“OVERHEARD”

I bet the Bobcats can out-tailgate 'em.

—Dave Bailiff,

RICE COACH suggesting Texas State fans will out celebrate UTSA fans when the two football teams meet, as quoted in the Jan. 7, 2011, San Antonio Express-News



// IN BRIEF //

Driving Blue

The Alumni Association recently sponsored a contest looking for the most creative UTSA personalized license plate. Winners were Tim '05 and Ashley Mazzanti '09, with BLUMAN. Tim was a founding member of the Blue Crew, fans who paint themselves blue and show their UTSA spirit at games. Tim and Ashley were also the first couple to hold their wedding reception in the University Center, in June 2009.



Mr. and Ms. UTSA, Roger Frigstad and Krystal Nicholson, raised money for scholarships during their campaigns.

Reigning for Dollars

Mr. and Ms. UTSA earned titles by fundraising, campaigning

BY VINCENT T. DAVIS

This year's Mr. and Ms. UTSA, Roger Frigstad and Krystal Nicholson, are ready for a reign of community service and spreading UTSA pride.

The UTSA Alumni Association sponsors the annual contest that recognizes students who embody the spirit of UTSA, excel academically, are involved in campus life and community service and support giving back to UTSA.

Anne Englert, director of alumni programs, said the contest, held during Homecoming, has been a signature student event on campus since 1985.

"A lot of people who have been named Mr. and Ms. UTSA have come back to serve on the Alumni Association board as well as several committees," Englert said. "They just never turn it off."

For the first time, this year's contestants were challenged to raise money for the association as part of their campaign. The purpose, Englert said, was to educate the public about the association's mission of providing scholarships to students. The contestants raised a total of \$11,000 during their campaigns.

Englert said fundraising accounted for 30 percent of the selection process.

The students were also ranked according to their applications, which made up 10 percent of their overall score; interviews, which counted for 30 percent; and student votes, for another 30 percent.

"I think what's great about Mr. and Ms. UTSA is they get to become the face of the student body throughout the year," Englert said. "It crosses many generations—when a 22-year-old is talking to a 30-year-old or a 55-year-old, they all have one thing in common and that's UTSA."

The pair will make appearances at more than 20 venues throughout the year, including Fiesta events, the UTSA Ring Ceremony and the Convocation ceremony.

Nicholson, a UTSA Ambassador, volunteers at commencement ceremonies and is a campus tour guide. The junior education major from Houston works with the Boys & Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, the UTSA Ring Ceremony and the annual UTSA Diploma Dash 5K San Antonio City Championship Race & Fitness Walk.

Nicholson raised \$1,500 during her campaign for the crown and said she's proud to have been chosen. Her biggest surprise was that she had reached her fundraising goal to the penny.

Nicholson and her supporters, playfully called Team Krystal, sold \$8 fish fry plates in her hometown of Houston and \$5 chicken plates in San Antonio. She also gathered orders from faculty, students, friends, family and local businesses.

Her message to fellow students on campus is to "give it your all, you never know what the results will be unless you try."

Frigstad, a senior management major from Chicago, is the Student Government Association treasurer and member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Frigstad and his campaign team went door to door and visited more than 20 organizations. They handed out brochures asking for support and raised \$3,000 in donations.

During his campaign, Frigstad said his best quality as Mr. UTSA would be his leadership and his ability to motivate people to achieve goals and maintain a positive outlook.

"Being Mr. UTSA is a huge privilege that I am excited to have," Frigstad said. "I am more than grateful that I am Mr. UTSA and plan on being the best." **\$**

**The Rush
is on**

**Make Your Play
to Join the
Alumni
Association**

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

Now is the time to join. Select a gift of your choice, including a unique commemorative football shirt, as a thank you.

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