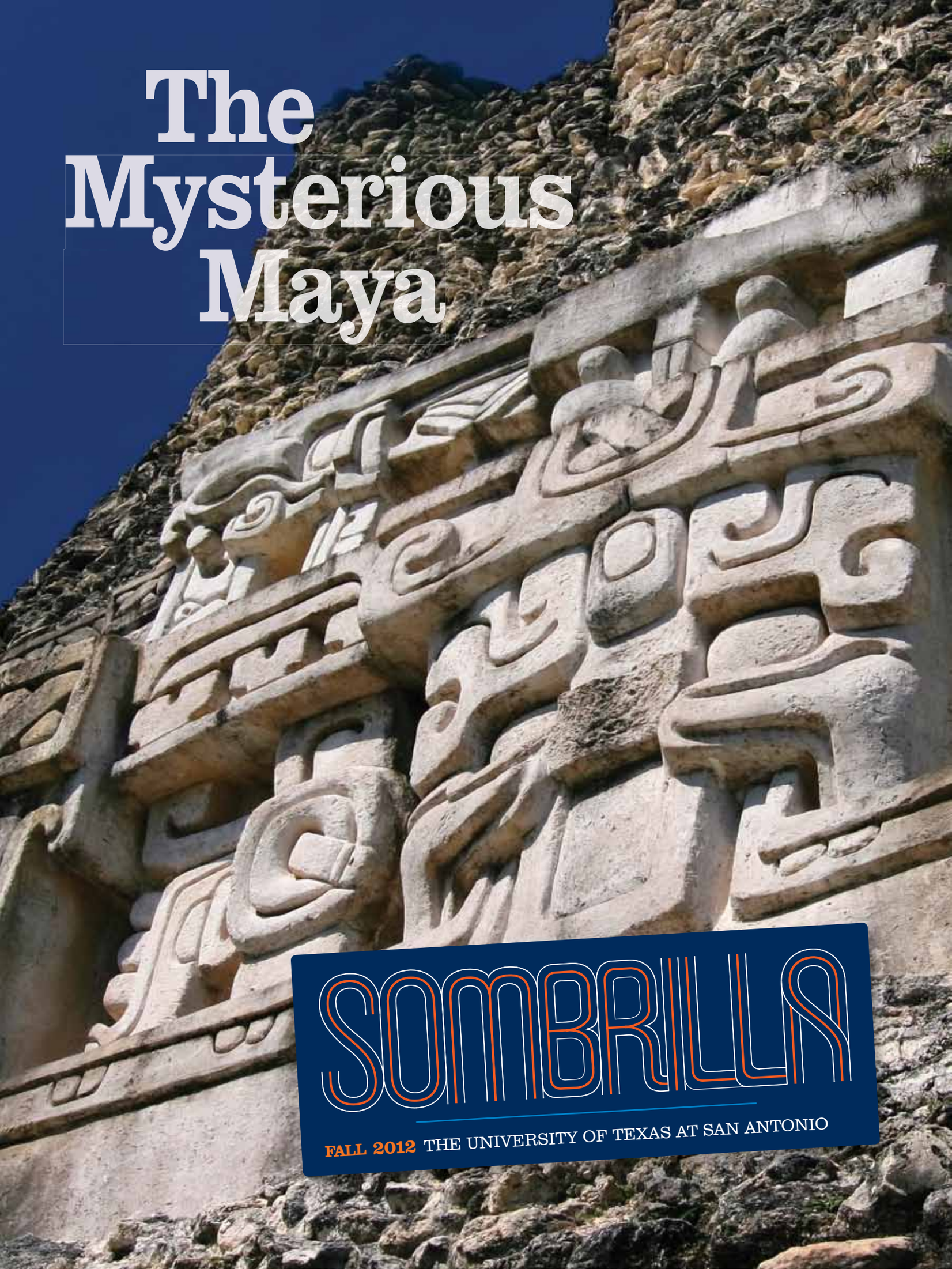
The Mysterious Maya



SOMBRILLA

FALL 2012 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

INSIDE

ON THE COVER: A close look at the frieze, or decorative band, on El Castillo in Xunantunich, Belize. El Castillo is the second largest structure in ancient and modern Belize.

ON THIS PAGE: UTSA graduate student Sarita Turcotte gazes out over the jungle from Temple 4 at one of the largest Mayan archaeological sites, Tikal, in Guatemala. The Maya have been the dominant culture in Mexico and Central America for more than 3,000 years.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELEAZAR HERNÁNDEZ

LETTERS

Sombrilla Spring 2012

Another fabulous issue! Congrats on this, and on all the CASE awards—y'all do amazing work!

ANNE PETERS
Staff

Making History

"Sixty to 70 percent of students who graduate from UTSA stay in the community and continue to contribute," according to campaign chair Jim Bodenstedt '96. What does that mean? It shows that the City of San Antonio is highly educated, which draws companies like USAA, Valero and Toyota. Having more corporations in turn creates jobs; jobs create spending and saving. Spending creates a healthy economy and saving creates a stable financial market where financing is an option because banks are confident in the economy. San Antonio is known to be a large little city. Pairing a Tier One university with a military city, not to mention the importance of Port San Antonio in a small-city atmosphere, spells nothing but success for San Antonio and for UTSA.

ELISABETH MARIE CUADROS '11
San Antonio

The Movement

I love *Sombrilla.* Photographer Mark McClendon went above and beyond the call of duty by participating in "The Movement" as well as documenting it. The students saw him as a friend and resource, asking for his perspective.

Thank you all so much for your partnership and support throughout the years.

EDNA A. DOMÍNGUEZ
Staff

I received my copy of *Sombrilla* in the mail yesterday, and I have to commend you and [writer] Vincent T. Davis on the great work with the article on "The Movement." I had no idea that it would have such an impact on me reading it with Mark McClendon's pictures.

I have to say, this is one of the best articles I have seen printed in *Sombrilla* in the seven years I have been here at UTSA. I say this because this article truly captured our students' experience on this trip. I was particularly moved by the editor's note about your experience in Atlanta.

More importantly, the students who have read the article, and seen the interactive map and video reflection, are amazed that their "little trip" is getting so much attention. They were already proud of the fact that they had this opportunity to go on the trip, and you have made them even more proud as this is something they will be able to share with family, friends, former teachers and each other for a lifetime.

My heartfelt thanks to you, Vincent and Mark for telling our story and sharing it with our alumni and supporters.

MARLON ANDERSON
Staff

Wow. You brought me to tears. It's so powerful. Thank you!

YVONNE PENA
Staff

Opportunity of a Lifetime

Chukky, keep the Nigerian flag flying. You are doing us proud. Make the change.

NKIRU ARAH
Buffalo, N.Y.

Bullfrogs and Butterflies

Sombrilla Fall 2011

I would like to write something about my daughter Terri Matiella, who you featured in *Sombrilla Magazine*. I am incredibly proud of her and her two younger sisters, Rachel and Sarah. They are my life and have provided me with precious grandchildren. I do not get to see them as much as I would like to, but I see them in my heart every day.

DONNA SASSEEN
San Angelo, Texas

Forever Young

Sombrilla Winter 2010

Just a note to Paul Kattapong, who you featured in the Winter 2010 issue of *Sombrilla.* I worked with this joyous man in Nellingen, West Germany, in the mid-1980s. His optimism and love of learning were a daily pick-me-up for all. You still look 39, Paul!

MARY ANN YEDINAK
Indianapolis, Ind.

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 The Graduate School, go to utsa.edu/graduate

To discover ways to give back, go to giving.utsa.edu

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

Reconnect with old classmates at utsa.edu/alumni

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

Go mobile: utsa.edu/mobileapp

For everything else, go to utsa.edu

Write Back!

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

SOMBRILLA

Fall 2012
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Oh, how I miss college

The day I graduated from college was one of the happiest of my life. It wasn't so much out of a sense of completion, of achieving a life goal. It was much more basic—I was finally leaving.

No more all-nighters spent at the nearby open-all-night pancake house, trying to figure out the difference between a rock and a mineral. No more semester projects begun the day before they were due and finished 15 minutes before class was to start. No more worries about whether the C I got on my Fundamentals of Math final (yes, math was a tough one for me) would be enough to pass me out of the class.

I was finally free.

It's been 12 years since I slid my purple and white tassel to the left, and I've never looked back. My only connection to the place that was home and hell had been the monthly loan statement I consistently received (and still do).

But recently that has changed.

I'm homesick for college.

I look back and remember the all-nighters spent at the 24-hour pancake house only *pretending* to study, the nights spent goofing around with my friends, *thinking* about that semester project I really should start—but that I'll certainly start tomorrow.

I even giggle about my performance as a young Evita in my musical theater class, where I pranced around the stage with a suitcase. My prof told me he hated the performance so much that he passed me so I would never have to take his class again.

Oh, how I miss college.

I find as I get older and the gap widens between my undergrad experience and me, I feel more connected to my alma mater. I follow the football team and I even fly a flag outside my home. The person I was a dozen years ago would never recognize the person I am today.

I kind of bleed purple—and I like it.

I still have those nightmares where I realize on the day of the final exam that I never attended math class. But now I think that if I could, I would choose to make that nightmare come true if it meant going back to college and living the good times all over again. Maybe.

Or maybe I don't have to. I work at a university, and with an office at the Main Campus, I'm fully immersed in the culture, the life, the rhythm of the place. I've discovered that I don't have to travel hundreds of miles to my alma mater just to experience school pride.

Here, everywhere I look, I see orange and blue shirts. As I pass through the John Peace Library, I see students clustered in study rooms, challenging each other and then laughing it off when the stress gets too high.

I love having lunch under the Sombrilla, where the sounds of diverse cultures mingle. As students at one table play my favorite '80s songs, students at another table speak with animation in a language I wish I knew, because it really sounds like they're having fun.

Students on skateboards whiz by. Couples hold hands on the way to class. I hear snatches of conversation about physics and the most recent football game. And I feel so much pride; I feel so connected.

> "Nostalgia is a file that removes the rough edges from the good old days."
>
> —DOUG LARSON, WRITER

I feel the energy that comes from being on a thriving college campus.

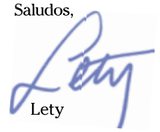
So maybe I am reliving my college days after all, but in an even better way. There are only deadlines, no exams. Even better, there's very little math.

And my closet is becoming crowded with all the orange and blue shirts and paraphernalia I am accumulating. I take my sons to football games, and every one of us has our special game-day shirt. We regularly chant "Go 'Runners" and even my 3-year-old knows the Roadrunner hand sign.

So, maybe I bleed orange and blue, as well as purple.

I think I need to buy another flag.

Saludos,



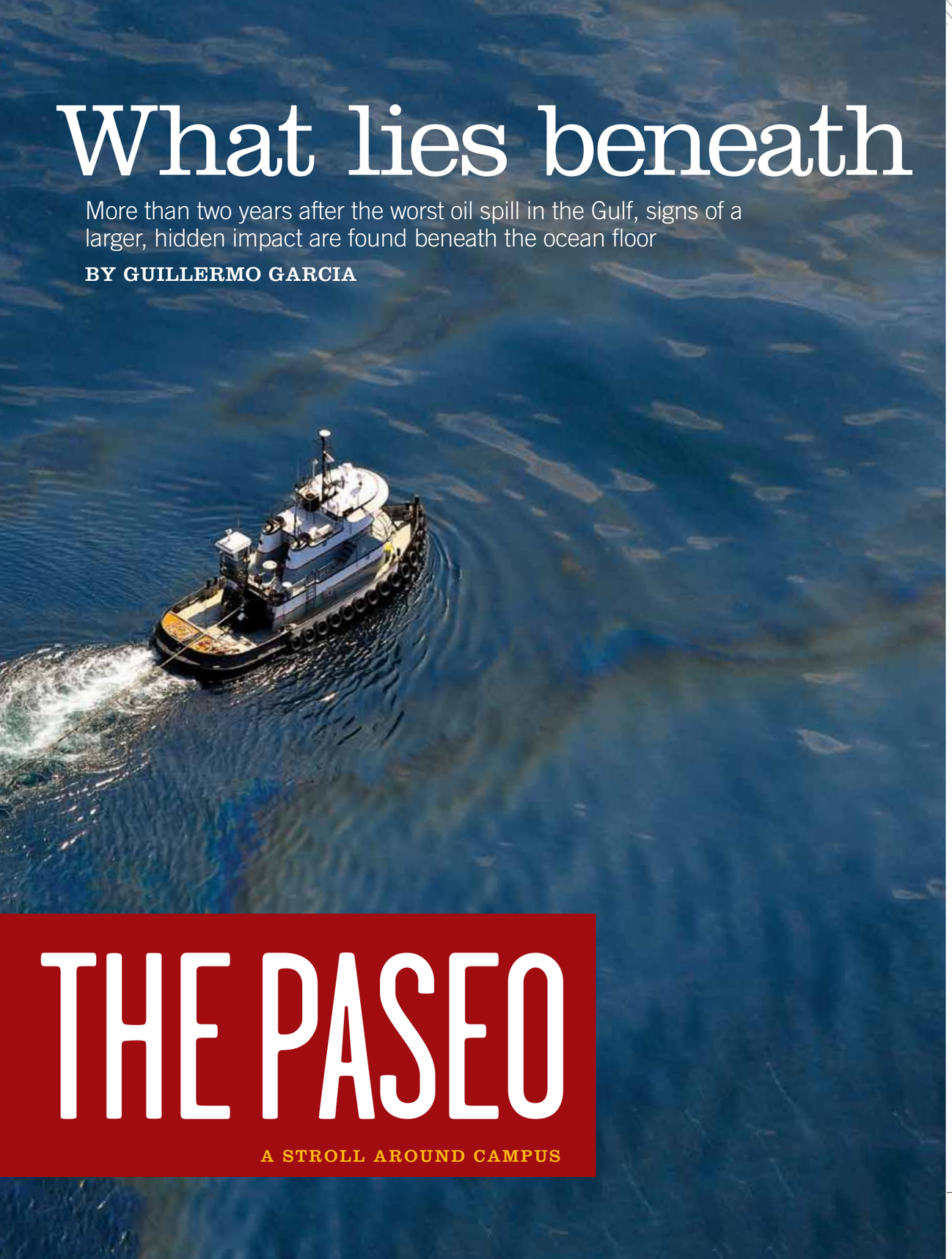
Lety

THE SOMBRILLA

What lies beneath

More than two years after the worst oil spill in the Gulf, signs of a larger, hidden impact are found beneath the ocean floor

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA



THE PASEO

A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS

Researchers looking at tiny worms, algae and other microscopic organisms among grains of sand at the water's edge have developed a remarkable, if incomplete, picture of the sub-surface impact on sea life caused by the BP oil spill, the most devastating ever to take place in the Gulf of Mexico.

Now-clean beaches off the Louisiana and Alabama Gulf Coast that were heavily impacted by the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil platform blowout stand in sharp contrast to the biological changes below the surface, a federal study concludes.

The study of DNA from organisms like coastal intertidal nematode worms, some as small as one millimeter, was led by researchers from the University of New Hampshire, along with scientists from Auburn University and UTSA. It was funded by a $200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The yearlong project was part of the government's time-sensitive, post-disaster study of the damage caused by the massive oil leak occurring more than a mile below the surface, which took three months to cap.

"Recovery is taking place, there is no doubt, but at what pace, and what is the process of that recovery, we just do not know," said Jyotsna Sharma-Srinivasan, a research assistant professor in UTSA's Department of Biology.

Official government estimates indicate that over an 89-day period, about 2.6 million gallons of oil a day poured out of the sea floor as a result of a methane gas explosion far below the seabed. Some estimates calculated that significantly more than 2.31 billion gallons were released into the ecosystem in a huge, dark plume that eventually made landfall along the upper Gulf Coast.

Samples from beaches around Alabama's Dauphin Island and Mobile Bay were collected shortly after the blowout but before the plume made landfall. Five months later, a second set of samples was collected after the coastal beaches were cleaned. Samples were also collected from Grand Isle, off the Louisiana coast, during a period in September 2010 when those beaches were heavily oiled.

Holly Bik, the study's lead author, took a spoonful of pre-spill sand from each beach and extracted millions of DNA genetic barcodes from every organism in that spoonful, Sharma-Srinivasan said.

"We then sequenced a specific 'barcode' region of DNA from our samples and compared these pieces of DNA to online databases to determine what species were living on each beach," she added.

The research team concluded that the oil had caused "massive harm to the microscopic creatures in coastal sands" and that a diverse mix of those organisms that existed before the spill has been obliterated, replaced by only a few species of fungi and nematodes.

"Shrimp and oysters were deeply impacted—their spawning grounds were destroyed—and the juveniles were wiped out," she said.

But it was not until the DNA sequencing samples were taken from the worms that a clearer picture of the impact on the ecosystem emerged.

In her portion of the study, Sharma-Srinivasan found that while there had been more than 70 different species of nematodes in the sampled Gulf waters before the accident, only about six species were found afterward.

"Some worm [species] turned out to be very resistant to the oil, maybe able to eat fungi that were able to break down the hydrocarbons," while other species were not, she said.

The scientists noted that they still don't have a clear picture of how long the spill's impact will be felt, whether the microscopic organisms' diversity will return to pre-spill numbers, or whether the shoreline will be repopulated by new organisms.

What is known is that microorganisms like nematodes are critical to maintaining a healthy marine habitat. They are "the machinery that keeps the ecosystem working," Bik said.

"In this instance, the worms act as a sort of miner's canary," Sharma-Srinivasan said, adding that the microscopic organisms are a crucial element in the complex food chain and play a major role in key ecosystem functions like nutrient recycling.

She noted that a cursory view of the surface water fails to reveal what apparently has been occurring far below.

"If people look at the Gulf waters and see no oil on the surface, they often conclude the area has recovered to its original state, but that often is not the case," she said. "The oil sinks below the sediment and may affect the entire ecosystem."

Nematodes, like other microscopic organisms, play a critical role in the ecosystem by serving as food for fish and shrimp, which are a valuable source of revenue for the area's fishermen. The worms also serve to keep the system healthy by eating bacteria and decaying matter, contributing to the decomposition process that is vital to the ecosystem's overall health, she said. They also introduce carbon and other important minerals back into the food chain.

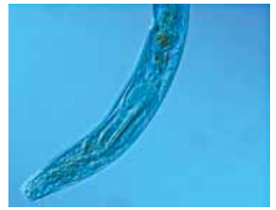
"What struck me was that you wouldn't have known there was an oil spill—most of our sample sites looked like normal beaches," said Bik, who at the time of the study was a researcher at the University of New Hampshire, but who now works at the University of California–Davis. "But when we analyzed the genomic data, there seemed to be all these biological repercussions going on."

The research was published in the journal *Public Library of Science ONE*.

In their report, the scientists concluded that the "marine habitats experienced visible, heavy impacts following the [spill], yet our scant knowledge of [what was there before the spill] has precluded a thorough assessment of this disturbance."

Yet, the study reported, based on the researchers' analysis of organisms before and after the massive spill, "our data suggest considerable initial impacts across Gulf beaches may be ongoing, despite the disappearance of visible surface oil in the region."

2.31 billion gallons of oil were released into the ecosystem.



A diverse mix of organisms has been wiped out, and only a few species of fungi and nematodes have replaced them.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
Dewey Davis, professor emeritus of education and interdisciplinary studies, was the first faculty member, hired in 1971. He retired in 1986 and has spent time traveling to 49 states, Canada and Ireland.

Marian Martinello, professor emerita of interdisciplinary learning and teaching, retired in 2000. Since retirement, she has written two books on historical inquiry and is working on a novel for young adults about a San Antonio chili queen.

Judith Walmsley, professor emerita in the Department of Chemistry, retired in 2010. She continues to serve on several committees at UTSA. She also continues to work on research projects.

Jim Broderick, professor emeritus and former chairman and division director of the Department of Art and Art History, began his tenure at UTSA in 1983 and retired in 2003. He is a visual artist with an exhibition record spanning 40 years and is now directing his studio efforts to drawing, painting and photography.

Forever Roadrunners

They may be retired from the university, but Retired Faculty Association members' love for UTSA lives on

BY REBECCA LUTHER

Over box lunches from Jason's Deli, 10 retired faculty members shared their war stories of a nascent university, one where job interviews were conducted in the president's temporary office in the athletics building and where many of the students were older than the faculty.

That luncheon would turn out to be the first meeting of the UTSA Retired Faculty Association, which was formally established in September 2011 by a memorandum of understanding with the university.

But even before the paperwork was drawn up, the members of the RFA were making their presence known on campus by attending and hosting faculty functions and by knocking on doors to get answers about available benefits beyond insurance and retirement programs. (Their happiest discovery to date? That all retired faculty can obtain a campus parking permit at no cost.)

Getting retired faculty back on campus, where they invested so much of their professional lives, is the impetus behind the RFA.

"We can be a service organization for the university and a social organization for ourselves," said RFA president Marian Martinello. "I see our group as having unlimited capabilities. It's only limited by our imagination, and collectively we have a phenomenal imagination."

For most of the two dozen RFA members, retirement didn't mean they quit working. It meant the luxury to choose only the projects they wanted. RFA member and professor emeritus Charles Field continues to mount exhibitions of his landscape paintings; his former colleague in the Department of Art and Art History Jim Broderick, the group's treasurer, works as a consultant to universities and independent colleges of art and design. Martinello has published two books on historical inquiry since she retired in 2002 and is completing a young adult novel.

"I may have retired, but my sense of connection to UTSA and my profession is still strong," she said.

Indeed, this is true of many of the group's founding members. Dewey Davis, who holds the distinction of being the first faculty member hired in 1971, has long been a familiar face at university events with his wife, Ruth. Martinello has been called upon frequently to serve the school in various capacities and currently serves on a subcommittee to develop an academic inquiry course that eventually will be required of all freshmen. Professor emerita of education Gillian Cook, who retired in 1998, is a docent at the Institute of Texan Cultures. And Judith Walmsley, who retired in 2010, still has a lab and office in the Department of Chemistry and is on campus more days than not.

And they give more than time. To date, more than 40 emeritis faculty have donated money to UTSA, with average giving of more than $37,000. Having a program to recognize RFA members' support for students through endowed scholarships and other means is one thing Martinello hopes the association can accomplish. Another RFA priority project—one they plan to begin this fall—is to collect and document their own oral histories of the university's early days.

One item on the RFA wish list will come to fruition soon: When members lamented the loss of the university's faculty-staff dining room a decade ago as a venue to form collaborations with colleagues across disciplines, they were invited to give input into a new faculty center to be constructed in the John Peace Library.

The center, due to be completed sometime in 2013, will be a space where both retired and current faculty can connect formally and informally, and, as Broderick said, enjoy "the intense pleasure…of a high-level of conversation with extraordinary people"— another perk of having an association of retired scholars.

"I love that," said Broderick, "and I hope to be doing it until my last gasp."


PATRICK RAY DUNN

¡Viva Mariachi!

Performance class will get students out of the classroom and onto the stage

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

Whether performed at restaurants or at family gatherings, weddings or other church ceremonies, mariachi has evolved over the last century into the music most closely associated with Mexico's cultural heritage.

This fall, a mariachi class dealing with the history, evolution and tradition of the iconic musical genre switched gears and has become a performance-based course.

Previously, the course "dealt with the academic understanding but not the performance aspect," said David Frego, chair of the Department of Music. "Now we will be going for the real-life experience that is so much more visceral, that grabs you by the heart, because the students will be learning technique," and then performing what they have learned, he said.

"We hope to develop a community ensemble that will represent the university, but will also become an integral part of the community's cultural and musical roots," Frego said.

The one-credit-hour class attracts many non-music majors, Frego noted.

The course's goals will include "getting students to perform more frequently, to get out there and play the music in public," said lecturer Michael Acevedo, a well-known local mariachi performer who plays on the San Antonio River Walk as well as other venues.

Begun as regional folk music in the 18th century, most likely in the state of Jalisco in southwestern Mexico, "mariachi" refers to the type of music—played on guitars, violins and trumpets—as well as to the musicians and the band that perform the music.

While mariachi groups in middle and high schools have been popular since the 1960s in the American Southwest, particularly in the San Antonio area, "you can probably count on one hand the number of university mariachi programs," Acevedo said.

UTSA's community ensemble will serve to educate both the students and the general public on the various mariachi styles, Frego said. It will also help strengthen students' mastery of the music while expanding their repertoire, which could lead to more musical engagements, Acevedo noted.

"Usually in high school or middle school, mariachi [students] will learn a few songs that they play repeatedly," Acevedo said. "One of the course goals will be to significantly expand both different techniques and the number of songs in their repertoire, because [a mariachi's] bread and butter comes from how many songs you know."

Acevedo performs with a group on the San Antonio River Walk and also serves as the mariachi and orchestral director at the Northside Independent School District's Sam Rayburn and Pat Neff middle schools.

He noted that his goal with the college-level course is to develop enough interest so the university could someday offer a minor in mariachi music.

While Frego said there is still work to do before a minor is created, "there is a great desire to go down that road. But first we need to build up critical mass, get more students interested in it to create a need for more classes."

"Your mayor here, Julián Castro, gave a total shout out to menudo during his [Democratic National Convention] speech. That was amazing. Although I do have to say part of me wishes, instead of menudo—most Americans know what menudo is—but he could at least given a plug to guisados or puffy tacos, or something like that, maybe something a little more San Antonio."

—Gustavo Arellano, AUTHOR OF *TACO USA* AND THE NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COLUMN "ASK A MEXICAN," *during his Sept. 12 lecture at the Downtown Campus*

//IN BRIEF//

High Praise

The UK-based *Times Higher Education* magazine ranked UTSA among the top 400 universities in the world, one of only 70 U.S. public universities to be included.

The 17,000 academic peers from 137 countries who were surveyed ranked the university on teaching, international outlook, industry income, research and citations.

Times Higher Education also ranked UTSA 53rd among 100 universities worldwide that are less than 50 years old.

Dress for Success

Center provides interview training and a wardrobe

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

The student was in a panic. A senior about to graduate, he had a job interview in two hours, but he didn't have the proper attire. That's where the Career Closet in the University Career Center came in.

"We quickly found him a nice charcoal suit, he checked it out and was on his way," recalls Audrey Magnuson, director of the Career Center.

An idea born of need last December—getting students professionally dressed for job or internship interviews—is proving successful this year.

The Career Closet loans out high-quality suits to students who would not otherwise have the clothes to make the right impression on a potential employer, said Magnuson.

"It has been just unbelievably successful, and the students' feedback has been very positive," she said.

With a $2,000 UTSA Family Fund grant, Magnuson was able to buy several men's business suits in common sizes as well as women's skirts and jackets.

"The idea came from my counselors, who were encountering a number of students who just did not have professional-quality clothing they could wear to interviews, job fairs or etiquette dinners," she said.

Since the fall semester, between 75 and 100 students have taken advantage of the free service.

Shirts are available in common sizes, and ties are also part of the loaner outfit. The only thing the service does not provide is shoes, she said.

"We are able to offer an extended service to our students, so they will have the confidence they need," Magnuson noted. "Now we help [students] with the complete package, putting their résumé together, helping them with interview practice and getting them professionally dressed for the interview."

EXAMPLE A

DON'T DO THIS!

No jeans, sweats, T-shirts, muscle shirts, ball caps or pajamas. Save those for home. Stow your MP3 player away and turn off your cell phone—texting can wait.
Leave your flip flops for the beach.

EXAMPLE B

DO THIS!

Keep it conservative. Men should wear a suit, tie and dress shoes. Subdued colors like gray, navy and black are best. Women should also wear a suit with pants or skirt. Colors should mimic the men's palette. Leave the spike heels and opt for professional flats or low heels.
And remember: brush your hair and teeth.

Web Extra:

Go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/closet to watch a video about the Career Closet.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK RAY DUNN

You've got a Friend

Student coaches help their peers navigate the stacks

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

For students tackling college-level research projects for the first time, the library can seem daunting. But the UTSA Libraries now has a staff of five student coaches available to assist other students in finding and utilizing tools like electronic databases to help in their research projects and class assignments.

The program, known as the Peer Research Coaches, is the first of its kind, said Library Dean Krisellen Maloney. It is funded by a $50,000 Hearst Foundation endowment, part of a $150,000 donation to the university by the media chain. Separately, local insurance firm USAA has donated $45,000 over two years for the program, Maloney said.

"We know that students are more likely to go to other students when they have questions, so we designed this program to have [the coaches] available within the library, both at the information desk and roaming throughout the library," she added.

Maloney noted that as many as 10,000 students daily use the John Peace Library on Main Campus, but she said that the coaches would also be rotating to the Downtown Campus library.

With more than 200 electronic and other databases available at the Main Campus library, students have a dizzying array of educational aids to draw from. But if they don't know such assistance is available, are too timid to raise their hand during class or don't fully understand their assignment, "all the research tools are not going to be very helpful," said Bryce Hower, a senior engineering major from Houston and one of five students selected to be coaches.

"Some students may look up things on Google or Wikipedia, but not know how to utilize library resources for deeper information gathering, so we will teach them how to find and use those resources," he said. "And for us, it is satisfying to know we actually helped a student learn something."

Maloney noted that the five student peers—she hopes to have eight by fall 2013—are paid a salary, but unlike work-study students, they won't have just one task to complete.

"We expect that the coaches will also be informing us about student behavior, and they will work on the Facebook team to help us formulate our message in a way that the students will understand," Maloney said.

The coaches will also "assist us in usability studies, to help us understand what students need from the libraries," she added.

The library has already begun using social media to let students know about the new resource. As the program develops, the greater depth of student research papers as well as the quality of students' experience on campus will be measures of its success.

"It's as simple as this: If we admit them, we are going to graduate them."
—Ricardo Romo, *talking about UTSA's new graduation rate improvement plan at his Oct. 3 State of the University address*

BY THE NUMBERS

50%

freshmen from the Class of 2016 that graduated in the top 25 percent of their high school classes

BY THE NUMBERS

75%

increase in research funding from 2006 to 2011

//IN BRIEF//

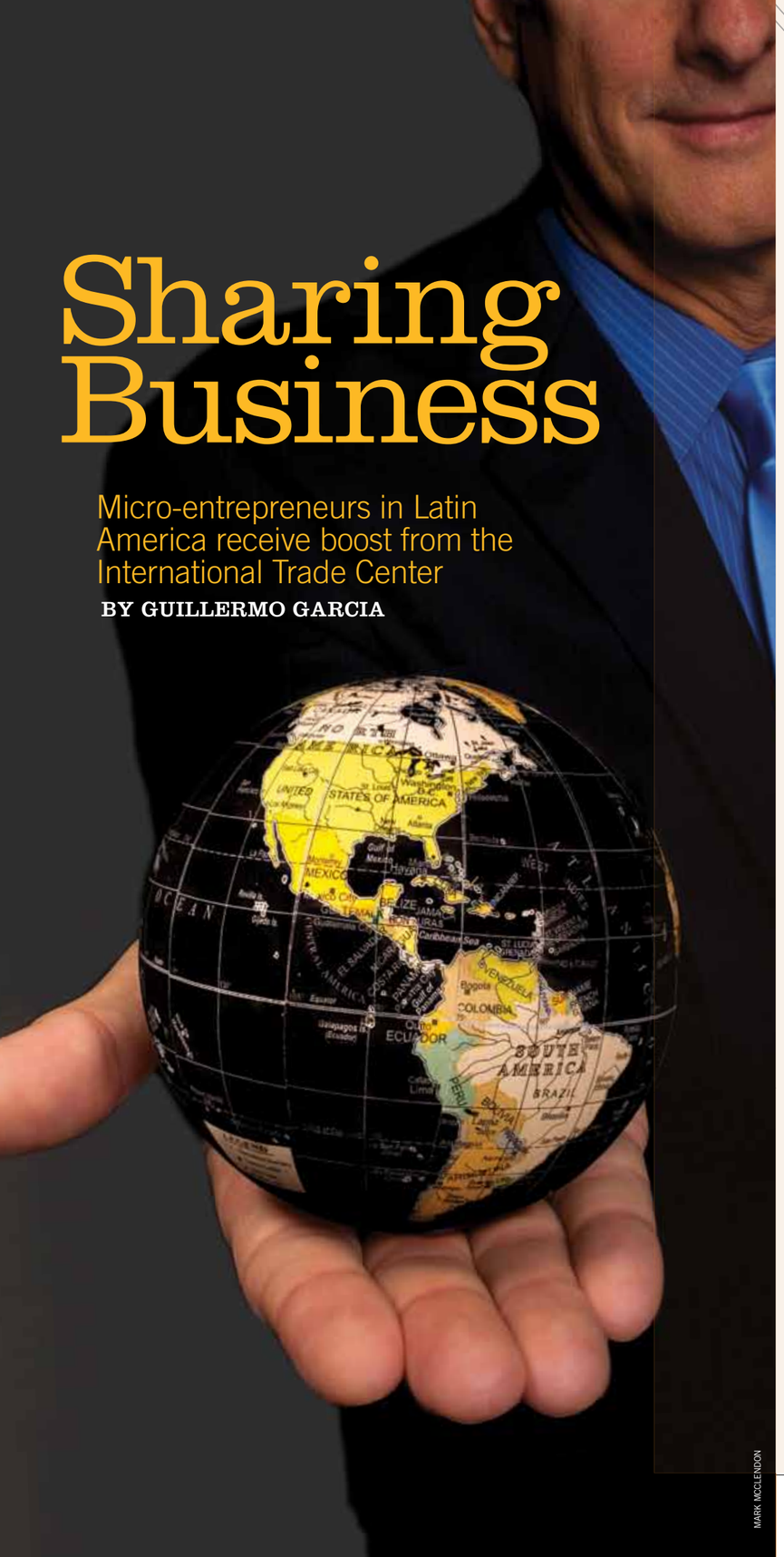
Monkey Business

Anthropology doctoral student Anne Kwiatt spent the summer in Singapore researching long-tailed macaque monkeys in their urban habitat, observing their behavior and studying their diet, following her receipt of a National Science Foundation fellowship. An element of her eight-week-long East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute research focuses on collecting detailed data about how urbanization has affected the monkeys' diet and how it affects their social structure and behavior.

Sharing Business

Micro-entrepreneurs in Latin America receive boost from the International Trade Center

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA



MARK MCCLENDON

In an effort to increase opportunities for small businesses—the critical backbone of many of Latin America's and the Caribbean's emerging economies—UTSA's Institute for Economic Development (IED) has expanded its effort to provide expert assistance to foreign governments in that part of the world.

Basing it on the model used in the U.S., the IED's International Trade Center is expanding its outreach services beyond Mexico, into the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The program's aim is to facilitate trade opportunities by setting up assistance networks for micro, small and medium-sized businesses and then link them to each other and to existing networks throughout the Americas via an online trade platform.

In doing so, the program will help Latin American governments promote the growth, innovation and competitiveness of their small business sector and help their business people benefit from international trade.

It will empower residents to generate a stable source of income for themselves, more tax revenue for their government and expanded market and trade opportunities for U.S. businesses, officials said.

"Seldom is there an opportunity to create a win-win-win situation," said Cliff Paredes, director of the International Trade Center, which hosts the federally funded program. "This program accomplishes that."

The expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean is funded by the U.S. Department of State and the Agency for International Development. The U.S. government has committed $1.9 million over the next three years to support the university's efforts in Central America and the Caribbean, Paredes noted.

He said the program is modeled after the Small Business Development Centers' program, which nationally "has been wildly successful. In 35 years, there have been 1,100 centers created across the United States, and for every dollar the government invests in the program, it receives almost two in tax revenue."

Focusing on one-on-one assistance provided free of charge, the SBDC programs were created by the federal government's Small Business Administration to provide technical and managerial assistance to U.S. small businesses.

"This SBDC model is essentially part of a national network which provides core services for small business start-ups as well as established businesses," Paredes said. He noted that the program's mission is to promote growth and boost productivity—and revenue—by improving a small business's management.

The university began hosting the South-West Texas Border SBDC Network in the mid-1980s. Through that system, some 10 centers were set up to serve 79 counties in the southern and western parts of Texas to undertake market research tailored specifically to individual clients wanting to start or expand their small businesses.

With the successes on the 1,250-mile Texas-Mexico border, officials decided to expand the effort beyond the U.S.

UTSA's International Trade Center, which began in 1992, is the largest and most successful trade assistance organization in the state. It helps companies join and become competitive in the global marketplace through technical trade consulting, customized market research and training.

The program is flourishing. Beginning with Mexico, the center has assisted in the launch of 108 SBDC programs outside the U.S., including 10 in El Salvador and, most recently, a pair of pilot projects in Colombia.

"The program in Mexico has mushroomed," Paredes said. "Since 2003, when a university in Guadalajara approached us, a network has been created that has assisted or helped create tens of thousands of small businesses that account for hundreds of thousands of jobs, many in rural areas."

Negotiations are ongoing and a memorandum of understanding has been signed with Brazil that officials are hopeful will generate new trade opportunities between that country and the United States.

Earlier this year, UTSA also assisted in launching the Caribbean Small Business Development Center, a project to create small business assistance networks in Saint Lucia, Dominica, Belize, Jamaica and Barbados. The initiative partners the university with the Organization of American States, the U.S. Department of State Mission to the OAS, and the Caribbean Export Development Agency.

Paredes said that one of the more exciting projects is in El Salvador, whose economic infrastructure was ravaged by a more than decade-long civil war. A cooperative, founded and run by women living in rural, economically depressed areas, formed a business to manufacture and market fruit liquor that they bottle and sell.

"The women produce and sell, for $6 apiece, wine in a very nice wine bottle," Paredes said. "They have created a stable source of income where they literally had nothing, not even electricity. They have gone from living at subsistence level with little hope and no opportunity to where we now have a group of empowered women who are succeeding to the point that they are getting their daughters involved in a growing business."

Paredes noted that "these are truly transformational programs, and what UTSA has done in hosting the regional center is something that has not been attempted, much less accomplished, by any other university. The success this program is accomplishing is something that will outlive me and all of us here, and it is something that the university is proud of."

One business that benefitted from the Institute for Economic Development's expansion into Latin America and the Caribbean is a cooperative developed in El Salvador. Run by women living in economically depressed areas, it manufactures and markets fruit liquor.

BY THE NUMBERS

$4.2m

grant from the U.S. Department of Education for The Academy for Teacher Excellence in the College of Education and Human Development. The grant will be used to increase the number of culturally and linguistically diverse students who want to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics at schools with diverse student populations.

BY THE NUMBERS

$112m

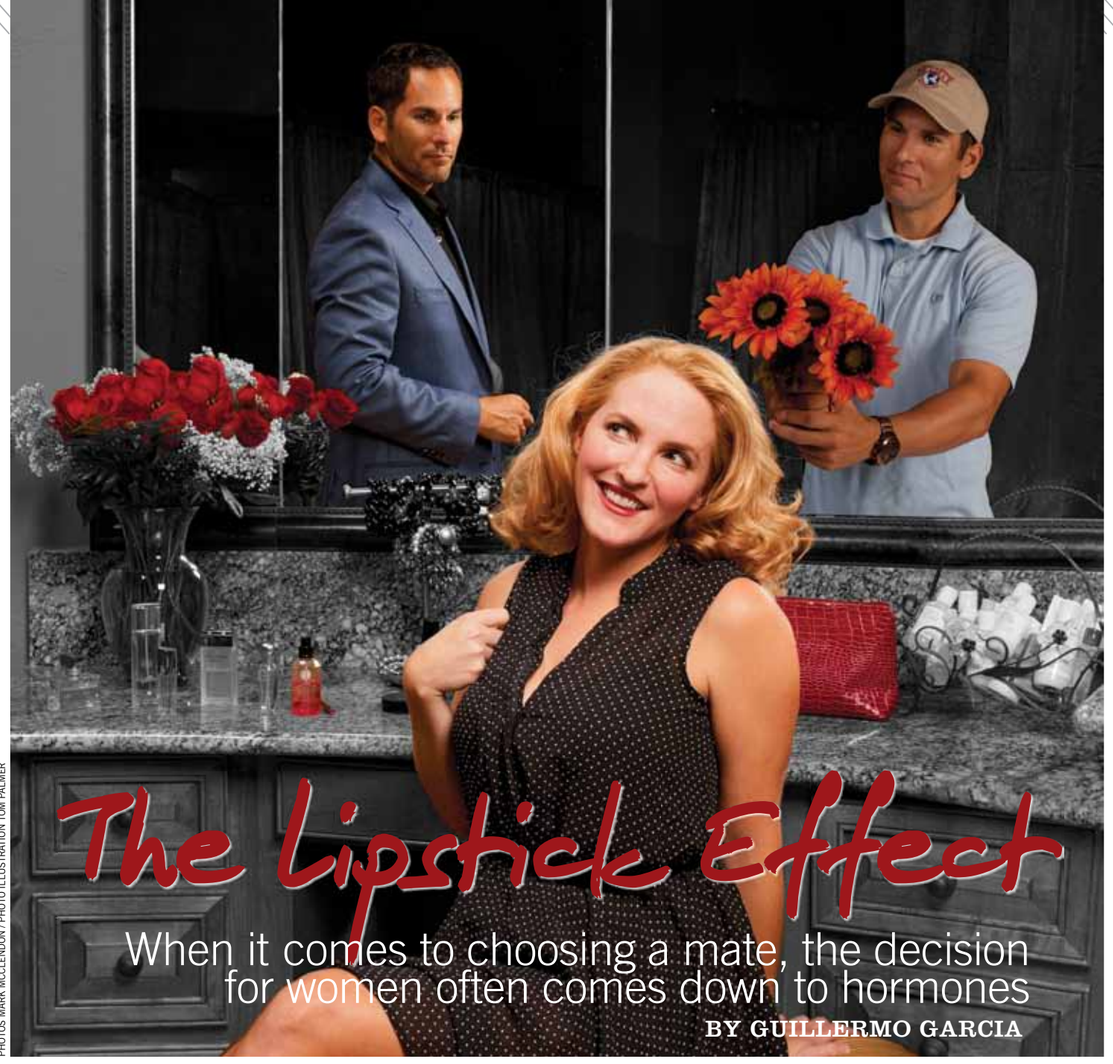
The amount reached by the university's first-ever capital campaign. That represents 93.9 percent of the campaign's $120 million goal, which is scheduled to close in December 2015.

//IN BRIEF//

World-Class Partners

The College of Public Policy has been named the lead partner of the SA2020 Government Accountability and Civic Engagement focus area, one of 11 areas outlined in Mayor Julián Castro's plan to transform San Antonio into a world-class city over the next eight years.

The college has supported SA2020 by hosting discussions about increasing and improving civic engagement and government accountability and creating a Citizens' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to improve citizen-government relations.



PHOTOS MARK MCCLENDON / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION TOM PALMER

The Lipstick Effect

When it comes to choosing a mate, the decision for women often comes down to hormones

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

Kristina Durante doesn't flinch when the media describes her research as an examination of "The Lipstick Effect."

She is a UTSA assistant professor and the co-author of a series of thought-provoking studies on how women's hormones affect everything from the way they dress to the men they choose.

Durante, who joined the faculty in 2011, draws on evolutionary psychology to examine women's behavior and the hormonal mechanisms that guide their decision-making.

The change in a woman's behavior during ovulation—when she is most fertile—can be a dramatic departure from the way she normally walks, talks, dresses and makes decisions, Durante's studies found. It has more to do with science than with a woman's stereotyped fickle nature, she said, noting that it comes down to hormones.

At a time of the month when a woman is most likely to become pregnant, the estrogen flooding her body can profoundly impact her physically, emotionally and intellectually, triggering unconscious shifts in her behavior. Durante is particularly focused on how these behavioral shifts alter women's spending patterns.

It is that fundamental shift leading up to and including the five days a woman is ovulating that is of keen interest to marketers of the multibillion-dollar beauty care industry.

Durante and her fellow researchers also discovered that a similar shift in women's behavior happens during tough economic times.

Looking at how social and biological factors influence consumer behavior, they found that with a sluggish economy, women tend to, as she puts it, "nonconsciously do their clothes and cosmetics shopping at Macy's instead of Wal-Mart," while also spending more on clothing, jewelry and beauty enhancers.

Durante said the studies' implications have the potential to significantly alter how marketers tailor and refine their pitch to buyers of beauty products.

The reasoning is as basic as it is Darwinian.

"When economic times are tough, there is greater competition for a well-off mate, and since there are fewer of the well-to-do potential mates, women justify—in response to the recession cues—spending on that Chanel lipstick that we'd not ordinarily get," she explained.

Durante and fellow researchers focused their studies on 2007, when massive layoffs and widespread home foreclosures battered the economy during what has been termed the nation's toughest economic period since the Great Depression of 1929.

Results from an examination of the behavior patterns of more than two dozen unmarried undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 24 confirmed that women's consumer preferences change during economic recession, Durante said.

It's all to find a well-off mate, but finding that perfect mate is also impacted by hormones.

In separate studies, Durante and researchers from the University of Minnesota and Singapore Management University found that when women ovulate, they "nonconsciously" gravitate toward men who tend to be womanizers and rogues, even while seeking a stable, long-term relationship.

Ovulating women are most receptive and more attracted to the prototypical "cad," who "is likely to be unfaithful and who often is not looking for the long-term, stable relationship" that women say they prefer, Durante said.

To determine that, the researchers chose as study participants 318 women, aged 18 to 39, with an income range from $15,000 a year to more than $150,000, and included college students as well as successful businesswomen. Most of the women did not have children; some were married or in relationships while others were not. Most importantly, all were normally ovulating at the time they were tested, but only women who were not taking either hormonal contraceptives or prescription medication were chosen to participate.

Their job was simple: interact through an online video chat with men who were introducing themselves as potential dating partners and determine which they found more appealing.

To get the right contrast, the researchers hired an actor to play both a typical cad and a dad. With the help of a Hollywood screenwriter, Durante crafted the cad scripts to portray "a man who was charismatic, confident, charming but who came across as somewhat unreliable [likely to be someone who would not make a reliable long-term partner]," she said. "We crafted the dad script to portray a man who was reliable, dependable, less confident and charming but who was explicitly seeking a serious relationship and [wanted to] have kids one day."

One clip shows a confident, raffish man in a black pullover who looks straight into the camera and boldly suggests that the female on the other end join him for what he promises will be a good time.

The next shows a man wearing a white polo shirt, who, while never looking directly at the camera, acts low-key and in an unassuming voice says that while he has "never been good at the dating thing," he is nonetheless looking for a committed relationship.

The women viewing the videos were led to believe the two men were twins, although Durante noted that the roles were played by the same actor.

Participants consistently showed significantly more interest in the cad than the potential dad. And they wrongly predicted that the rake would be a better partner and future father.

Durante acknowledged the cad versus dad conundrum.

"It is a paradox, especially with younger women," Durante said. "We want the 'nice' guy who wants stability and a long-term relationship. But we still pursue, and get our hearts broken by, the guy who is not so nice but is attractive and charismatic."

How does she explain this behavior?

"When we are our most fertile, we are attracted to the highly masculine, socially dominant man with the symmetric face who is exuding confidence because those are the desirable genes we want to pass on to our children, even when we 'know' that the jerk is not likely to stick around."

Durante is quick to note that women are not consciously aware that they are interested in a cad to snag his good genes; they are only aware of the strong attraction to this type of man.

There's also the erroneous belief that women can change their partners, she said.

"Women tend to over-perceive their ability to 'change' the sexy cad and turn him into what would be a good dad—a stable, dependable mate who will be a good father to their children and be there to help change the diapers at least half of the time," Durante said.

For decades, scientific research—often used by marketers hoping to boost sales of clothing, beauty products and jewelry—has shown that leading up to the time women begin ovulating, they become more attracted to men with chiseled, symmetrical faces and deeper voices, whom Durante laughingly referred to as "the George Clooney type."

Kristina Durante, assistant professor in the College of Business, is the author of several thought-provoking studies on how women's hormones affect everything from the way they dress to the men they choose.

Durante noted that "the big-picture overview [for the attraction to the cad] provides an answer to why some women keep pursuing the 'wrong' guy. The hormones associated with ovulation may be leading women to deceive themselves about this type of man."

Durante's research also found that "very often, the friends of the woman have much sharper insight about the cad than the woman herself. Perhaps we should start to listen more closely when our friends think our boyfriend is the jerk we don't see."

There may be significant variance in women's attraction to the cad, depending on the level of circulating estrogen, but that point remains far from clear, she said.

The professor's provocative findings have been covered by such media outlets as *Business Week*, *Cosmopolitan*, *USA Today*, Fox News and CNN, and has garnered both praise and criticism.

Even though Durante acknowledges that her research has the capacity to stir up controversy, she nonetheless points out that much of her scientific research examines behavior that operates at the nonconscious level, noting: "we are not always aware of the real reasons behind our choices."

But she defends both her research topics and the methods she uses to arrive at her conclusions.

"My research is based on a solid theoretical framework," she said. "It's been embraced by marketers for its insight into some of the nonconscious and often overlooked motivators behind our conscious decisions. Hormones are hormones and we have the ability to override them. They are very subtle motivators. These are not absolutes."

Web Extra:

To view an extended interview with Kristina Durante, and watch a cad and dad wooing women, go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/lipstick.

"I believe that especially now, a college degree is more valuable than ever. Times are tough, but, trust me, they're a lot tougher for people who don't have a college degree."

—Ricardo Romo, *at his Oct. 3 State of the University address*

//IN BRIEF//

Scholarly Recognition

Three UTSA professors and an alumnus have been selected for 2012–13 Fulbright Scholar grants, the largest international exchange program in the world. UTSA associate professor of history Wing Chung Ng will teach at Hong Kong Baptist University. John Alexander, associate professor of architecture, will research and teach in Italy, while Kimberly Cuero, associate professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching, will spend her year abroad in Colombia. Additionally, music graduate Aaron Carter Cohn '11, will spend his year in Nigeria.

The Fulbrights offer advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching opportunities worldwide.

SPORTS BRIEFS

JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

The Roadrunners women's cross country team successfully defended its UTSA Ricardo Romo Classic title Sept. 14.

CROSS COUNTRY

The women were victorious at their first three meets to open the 2012 season. The Roadrunners were led by two-time Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Athlete of the Week Alyssa Diaz, who finished as the squad's top performer four times. Meanwhile, the men had a three-meet winning streak in the middle of the season, and Mike Medrano was UTSA's top finisher at every event leading up to October's WAC Championships.

MEN'S GOLF

The Roadrunners finished the fall season on a strong note by placing sixth at the Herb Wimberly Intercollegiate in Las Cruces, N.M. Junior Ryan Werre opened the 54-hole event with a season-best four-under-par 67 and finished with a two-under 69 en route to tying for seventh place. One week earlier, senior Stanton Tondre, who led the squad with a 72.17 stroke average during the fall campaign, registered a runner-up showing at the Lone Star Invitational to guide the Roadrunners to seventh place.

JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

Senior Stanton Tondre registered a runner-up showing Oct. 16 at the Lone Star Invitational at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort to guide the Roadrunners to seventh place.

FOOTBALL

UTSA opened its second year of play with five consecutive victories and picked up its first-ever road and Football Bowl Subdivision win with a 33–31 come-from-behind victory in the season opener at South Alabama. The Roadrunners later won their first-ever WAC game, 35–14, on Sept. 29 at New Mexico State.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Junior Fabiola Arriaga opened the fall with a pair of top-five finishes and her 71.17 stroke average for the month of September led the WAC and was tied for fifth-best in the nation. The Torreón, Mexico, native placed fifth at the season-opening Dale McNamara Invitational before tying a school record with a 54-hole score of 212 at the Golfweek Conference Challenge en route to a tie for second place. She set a personal best and scored the lowest round of any conference player this fall with a four-under-par 68 in the second round of the Golfweek Conference Challenge.

JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS

Junior outside hitter McKenzie Adams became the first player to earn two WAC Player of the Week awards during the season.

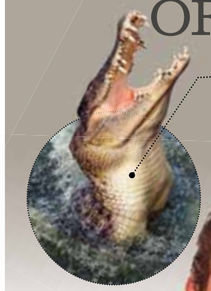
VOLLEYBALL

The Roadrunners opened the 2012 campaign by winning 13 of their first 20 matches, including six of their first 10 WAC contests. Junior outside hitter McKenzie Adams became the first player to earn two WAC Player of the Week awards during the season and the Roadrunners set a program record for largest margin of victory in the rally-scoring era (since 2008) after netting an 18-point win in the second set against UT Arlington on Oct. 6.

SOCCER

UTSA opened WAC play at home and scored a pair of 1–1 ties against Seattle and Idaho on Sept. 28 and 30, respectively. The Roadrunners later claimed their first league victory on Oct. 7 when they posted a 2–1 triumph at San Jose State.

OFF THE FIELD:



RAGIN' CAJUN: Growing up in East Texas, Williamson developed a taste for Cajun food early in life. His favorite dish? Alligator tail.

WANNA BE LIKE MIKE: Michael Jordan is his inspiration. "I like to look at people who started out average and became something great."

WHEN NOT RUNNING TRACK, you can catch Williamson playing beach volleyball at his apartment complex. It's his newest guilty pleasure and a great sport for a jumper, he said.

FAVORITE SAYING: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." —Kevin Durant

PATRICK RAY DUNN

SPOTLIGHT

Tyler Williamson

BY LETY LAUREL

It was the day before the national championship meet, and Tyler Williamson, UTSA's record-breaking long-jumper, wanted nothing more than to go to bed early. Instead, when his boss asked him to take an extra shift as an attendant at a San Antonio neighborhood pool, he grudgingly agreed.

The decision saved a 3-year-old's life.

Williamson was in the middle of his shift on June 3 when toddler Jaden Muhlenbruch was found unconscious at the bottom of the pool. After the boy was pulled out of the water by a neighbor, Williamson used CPR to resuscitate him.

"I felt really lucky that I was there," he said. "I felt like he was really lucky, too."

Williamson was certified in CPR while in high school. He didn't remember much, but he let instinct and training take over.

"It was scary, but one of the most rewarding things was to see how precious life is," the 22-year-old said.

Early the next day he was bound for Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship. He didn't do as well as he had hoped, but he's been working hard in the off-season, training at least two hours a day and watching what he eats to maintain five percent body fat. He said he's never been in as good shape as he is now.

"I'm pushing harder than I have in the past. I'm getting really good right now," he noted. "I think this year is going to be a really good year for me."

For this prediction, the senior kinesiology major credits his strict diet of lean meats and lots of vegetables and fruits.

"This sudden fascination with nutrition is what has really elevated my level of athleticism," he said. "With track, everybody is about the same athletic ability, so it's a matter of who works harder, who takes care of their bodies the best. You have to train your body to be like a refined machine."

Williamson has experienced a shift in attitude lately, which has also affected his performance. It wasn't only saving a boy's life that gave him a new perspective. It was the realization that being a good person and living life the best way possible is the only way to earn respect.

"I just want to be better than the person I was yesterday," said the Houston native. "You can be a great athlete and a terrible person and people won't respect you."

He grew up with his grandfather always reminding him to "live between the ditches," or choose a straight and narrow path.

"It didn't really hit me until my junior year [in college] that what he means is if you want to reach your goal, you can't really deviate," Williamson said. "He still reminds me every now and then."

After graduation, Williamson hopes to snag a job as a college track coach. He's also toying with the idea of running professionally. Eventually he'd like to earn a master's degree in nutrition and become a dietician.

"I want to help people," he said. "I want to be an inspiration to people about how to eat right. And I want to let people know not just how to be good athletes but how to be good people."

Unraveling a Mystery

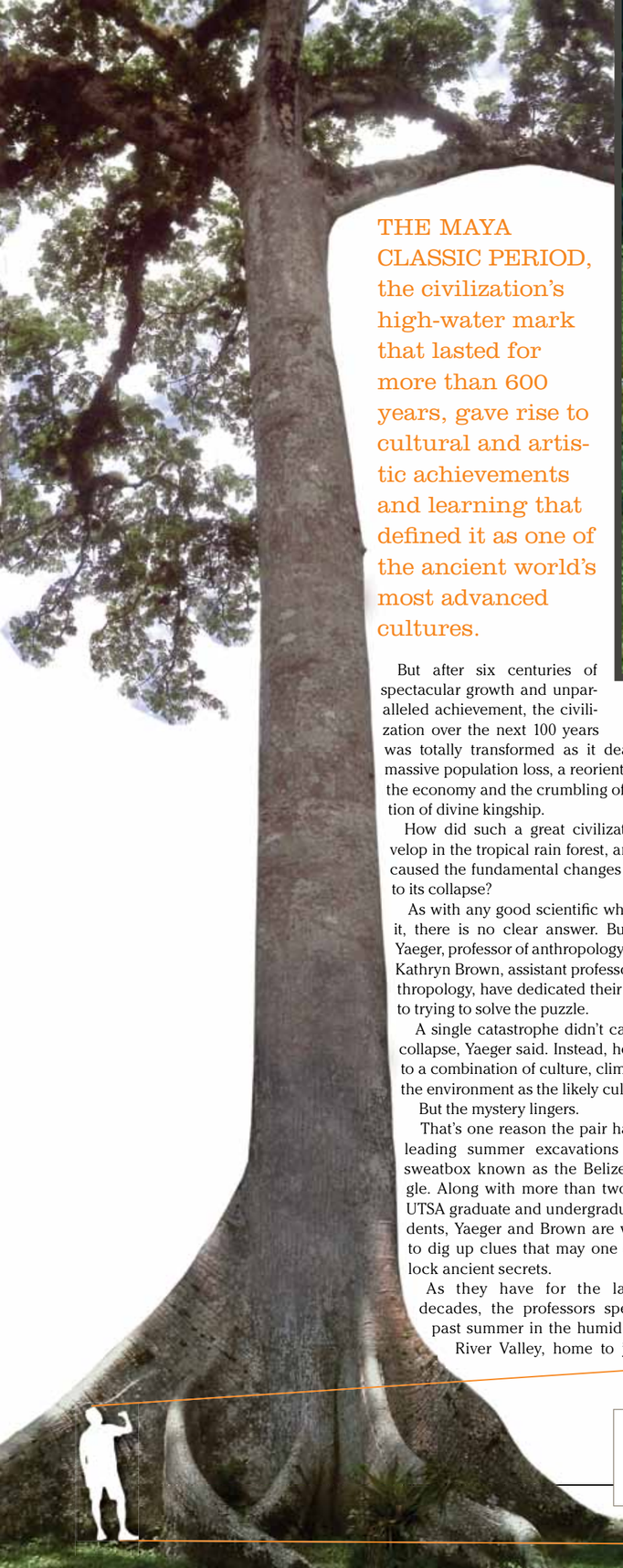
BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELEAZAR HERNÁNDEZ

Nearly 2,000 years before Christ was born,

the jungle lowlands of Central America gave birth to a civilization that would introduce the Western Hemisphere to its first fully developed writing system, amazing art and architecture, a complex calendar and a startlingly accurate astronomical system based on precise mathematics that used the concept of zero.>>

El Castillo in Xunantunich, Belize, is one of the country's most important archaeological sites and the second tallest building in ancient Belize.



THE MAYA CLASSIC PERIOD, the civilization's high-water mark that lasted for more than 600 years, gave rise to cultural and artistic achievements and learning that defined it as one of the ancient world's most advanced cultures.

But after six centuries of spectacular growth and unparalleled achievement, the civilization over the next 100 years was totally transformed as it dealt with massive population loss, a reorientation of the economy and the crumbling of the notion of divine kingship.

How did such a great civilization develop in the tropical rain forest, and what caused the fundamental changes leading to its collapse?

As with any good scientific who-done-it, there is no clear answer. But Jason Yaeger, professor of anthropology, and M. Kathryn Brown, assistant professor of anthropology, have dedicated their careers to trying to solve the puzzle.

A single catastrophe didn't cause the collapse, Yaeger said. Instead, he points to a combination of culture, climate and the environment as the likely culprits.

But the mystery lingers.

That's one reason the pair has been leading summer excavations in the sweatbox known as the Belizean jungle. Along with more than two dozen UTSA graduate and undergraduate students, Yaeger and Brown are working to dig up clues that may one day unlock ancient secrets.

As they have for the last two decades, the professors spent this past summer in the humid Mopan River Valley, home to jaguars, jungle bugs and fire ants, exploring two distinct Maya time periods.

Yaeger's research focuses on the changing relationships between two Belizean cities, Xunantunich and Buenavista, and documenting how competition between the two impacted the people who lived in the nearby countryside during the Maya Classic Period, from roughly 250 to 900 A.D.

Brown, who earned her M.A. at UTSA in 1995 before completing her doctorate at Southern Methodist University, is heading fieldwork at Xunantunich as part of the Mopan Valley Preclassic Project, focusing on a time period starting less than a millennium before Christ. While much is known about the Classic Period, relatively little is known about the Preclassic Period, she explained.

Brown remains amazed at the Maya's ability to build elaborate architecture using simple tools. She noted that like many of her students, the archaeology bug bit her during her first field experience.

For Yaeger, his fascination with the Maya came early in life, when as a middle-schooler he visited Chichen Itza, one of the best-known sites in the Mexican Yucatan.

"I was amazed at the massive pyramids, the militaristic art and the hieroglyphic writing, all of which was so different from anything I experienced as a farm boy growing up in rural Michigan," he said.

"Maya civilization is so different from Western civilization in terms of technology, religion and environment," Yaeger noted. "And yet there are many parallels—archaeologists spend their careers understanding the similarities and differences among civilizations, which helps us better understand our species and our own civilization."

Anthropology assistant professor M. Kathryn Brown walks with children from the Lacandon Indian tribe from the Metzabok village of Chiapas in southern Mexico. They had little contact with the outside world before the 1940s, and there are only between 650 and 1,000 tribe members left. For more than two decades Brown and Jason Yaeger, professor of anthropology, have led summer field school digs at Maya sites in the Mopan River Valley of Belize. PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON YAEGER

Rachel Vara, one of more than two dozen UTSA students who participated in the summer field school, clears dirt and debris from around a human bone found at a burial site at Xunantunich.

Ceiba trees are common in Belize. Some can grow higher than 230 feet, and feature huge buttress roots that can be taller than the average person. The Maya believed the trees connected the underworld, Earth and the heavens.

MAYA FLOURISH IN MESOAMERICA

Around A.D. 200, the Maya, already numbering in the millions, populated a vast area of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and Central America within the larger area known as Mesoamerica.

At the civilization's height, the Maya were busily expanding a string of powerful city-states containing elegant, elaborately painted palaces, temples with vaulted ceilings and pyramids, some nearly as tall as the length of a football field. Remnants of many pyramids are popular tourist sites today. There are also troves of valuable archaeological sites long buried under centuries of earth.

"We have a great deal of information about the Classic Period, but Preclassic buildings are often deeply buried and difficult to excavate," Brown said. "Recent research is discovering that the ancient Maya developed a complex civilization much earlier than we previously thought."

One hallmark of the civilization's complexity was its sophisticated perception of the passage of time, and of past and future. Time was crucial for the Maya, not only to know when to plant crops, but also to determine the best time to wage war and to make other decisions.

They believed in recurring cycles of creation—and corresponding destruction—so they plotted and tracked an era that lasted more than 5,000 years. This calendar, known as the Long Count, set their creation cycle as having begun more than 3,100 years B.C., more than a millennium before their first settlements were established along the Mexican Pacific Coast. The calendar also looked far into the future, December 2012, when this era ends and the next one begins.

The Maya also had an understanding of mathematics that was more advanced than the Egyptians, Greeks or Romans. It allowed them to monitor the movement of the sun, moon, stars and planets via the many observatories they built to mark the equinox and solstice.

The Maya expanded trade routes extending northwest to present-day Mexico City and south to Panama. They used maize—from which they believed the gods made humans—and cocoa beans as currency in return for jade, shell ornaments, obsidian and other precious metals.

They were also highly skilled farmers, draining swamps and clearing large tracts of forest for terraced fruit orchards and gardens in which they grew maize, cacao (chocolate), chilies, beans, squash, tomatoes, avocados and pumpkins.

The Maya's system of government was both earthly and divine. They were ruled by men who were considered to be human representations of the gods. Those god-kings used elaborate rituals to display their majesty as they commissioned written records in pottery, stone and elaborately painted murals to describe their military triumphs and other significant events.

They paid the price of leadership: during special events, the leaders used stingray barbs to cut themselves, drawing royal blood to be offered to the deities.

Brown likes to tell her students that it was a great life to be a Maya king—except on bloodletting days.

The Maya also offered animal and human sacrifice, especially children, young women and slaves, but also captured warrior captains from rival cities, in a constant effort to appease the gods.

They created what they termed "tree stones," large stone slabs known as stelae on which they carved complex hieroglyphic texts about their gods, their mortal leaders, their genealogy and their military conquests. The slabs were built not only to celebrate significant events of the day, but also for posterity.

Over the years, archaeologists have poured over remnants of this lost culture, carefully piecing together bits of bone and slivers of ceramic to fill in the blanks of history. >>

Anthropology professor Jason Yaeger with Sebastian Salgado-Flores, a Phd student, at an abandoned Maya shrine in southern Mexico. The shrine is filled with pottery shards. PHOTO COURTESY OF M. KATHRYN BROWN

STUDENT DIGGERS

"The more I know about the Maya, the more I am amazed at what they were able to accomplish," said Eleazar Hernández '12, first-year anthropology doctoral student who joined Yaeger and Brown in 2011 and again this summer in Belize. "Their architectural prowess is amazing."

Hernández, who holds a master's degree in art history with a focus on the Maya, was invited by Brown to attend the summer field school at Xunantunich after researchers thought they might be on the verge of uncovering a sacred ceremonial mask.

"Unfortunately, we did not find a mask, but I did find my future," Hernández said with a grin. "Once I had the opportunity to see everything that goes into Maya archaeology, I was hooked. I had only seen Maya architecture and artifacts in books or museums. Now I am front and center, excavating and working at a Maya site with people who will be my lifelong friends. Some of us have built up a special bond while we are there."

Brown said she became hooked in 1986, when as an undergraduate she participated in uncovering a burial site at San Juan Island, off the coast of Belize.

"Excavating the burial site allowed me to connect with the human side of the ancient Maya past and made me want to learn all that I could about not only the individual, but the society to which he belonged," she said.

That sense of discovery—being the first to touch something that was last touched by Maya hands millennia ago—was renewed this summer. As her students painstakingly dusted away dirt, inch by inch, they hit the proverbial archaeologist's jackpot—a burial site. Two skeletons were found face down, with the heads facing south. One had a ceramic snuff bottle in its hand, a personal item of the deceased.

While such critical information as the sex, approximate age and general health of the individuals is still being analyzed, it is clear they were people of some importance because of the location of the burial site.

"The excitement and awe that our students experienced last summer ignited an interest in archaeology that they will carry forever, whether they become archaeologists or not," Yaeger said.

"Students usually get bitten by the archaeology bug in their first field experience," he added. "Sometimes they find something unusual or unique, like a burial. But for many it is the simple excitement of being the first person in 1,000 years to see a wall or touch a piece of broken pottery that they've excavated."

Hernández has his own puzzle. Not far from the burial site lies a large ramp dating from around 600 B.C., one of the first Preclassic ramps to be discovered in Belize. Because of its location, Hernández said it might have served as a meeting point where the population would gather for important festivals. His task is to determine the ramp's physical dimensions and the possible reason for its construction.

While steps at tall buildings and pyramids were commonplace, large ramps are rare at Maya Preclassic sites, Brown said.

The Maya did not use wheels for transport, Hernández said. "So why was there such a large ramp there? Was it used to control water flow or to channel water away from the structures during the rainy season? [The questions of] why is it there, what are its dimensions and what sort of purpose did such a structure serve [are what] I will help explore next summer," he said.

Most of the structures that Brown and her students are excavating date from the Preclassic Period. Brown calls Xunantunich "an interesting research location," because it has a large Preclassic ceremonial center that had been abandoned by A.D. 250. The site was later reoccupied, and a larger, more impressive ceremonial site was constructed in the Late Classic Period just up the hill from the abandoned location.

The site is one of the largest Maya ceremonial centers yet discovered in Belize. It also is the country's longest established archaeological park; the first organized dig there was in the early 20th century, but Europeans first visited the site in the mid-1800s. The area also contains El Castillo (The Castle), a 43-meter-tall pyramid complex that is the second tallest building in ancient or modern Belize.

Brown said Xunantunich was strategically located along important river trade routes that provided a link between some of the ancient Maya's largest, most important city-states and the Caribbean Sea.

"River systems were critical for transportation and trade routes," Brown noted. "But also water sources were crucial for planting, and periodic flooding was important, creating good silt that was productive for agriculture."

Brown said she is especially interested in understanding the development of public buildings in the area because so few Middle Preclassic pyramids have been excavated, in part because the Maya custom was to build in layers, placing newer structures atop older ones.

One of Brown's goals at the site is to determine the size and form of specific structures and to analyze construction techniques used by the ancient architects. Extraordinary mathematicians, they were also proficient engineers, building large rainwater reservoirs and cisterns.

And they did it all without the use of metal tools or beasts of burden, Brown noted.

DESCENDANTS REMAIN

Descendants of the Classic Maya still live today scattered over 150,000 square miles in Mexico's Yucatan as well as in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Roughly 6 million people speak Mayan today. Some Maya eke out a subsistence living, others are merchants and manufacturers, while others are government ministers and professors.

Yet their ancient forefathers were a commanding presence in the jungles, swamps and mountains of Mesoamerica for nearly 3,000 years, from about 1,200 B.C. to the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in the early part of the 16th century. In fact, the last independent Maya kingdom—Tayasal in Guatemala—wasn't conquered until 1697.

"The Maya is a success story, with regard to human ingenuity," Brown said. "They were incredibly adaptive and they tamed and transformed the lowland jungle environment into a productive agricultural landscape filled with large and impressive cities."

It is hard to imagine that such an advanced civilization could rise from such a harsh jungle environment, she said—but it did.

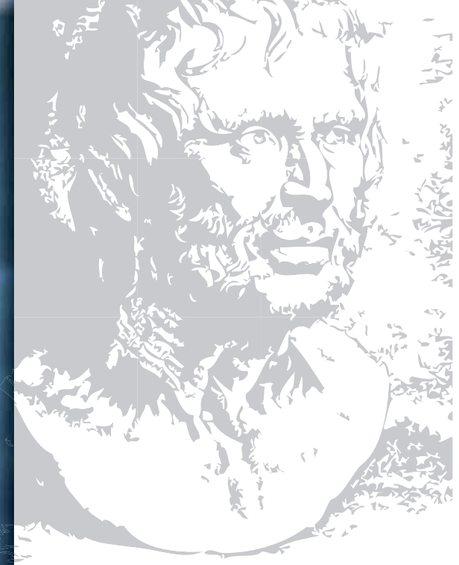
The Maya not only survived, but also thrived like no other civilization before—or since.

Lotte Jensen (left) and Amy Jennings (right) carefully excavate a burial site to remove bones that may have been buried for more than 1,000 years. The undergraduate students participated in the month-long UTSA field school at Xunantunich in the Mopan River Valley of Belize.

ON TOUGHER TURF

Conference USA will offer a new set of rivals, traditions and possibilities

BY DAVID FLORES



It was Roman dramatist, philosopher and politician Seneca who said that luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. >>

PATRICK RAY DUNN

“The stakes have gone up . . . It’s going to be a fight. It’s going to be a climb. It’s going to be a tough transition. There will be no free lunches.” —Football coach Larry Coker

Seneca walked the Earth centuries before college football became virtually a secular religion in the United States, and long before the dollar’s allure changed the landscape of conference alignments across the country. But if he were alive today, Seneca undoubtedly would give UTSA a wink and a nod for being prepared when Conference USA came knocking at the door of the Roadrunners’ fledgling football program.

If anything, the Roadrunners, President Ricardo Romo and Athletic Director Lynn Hickey have demonstrated that there’s nothing as fortuitous as being in the right place at the right time. And standing ready to seize the moment.

“We have people like Dr. Romo and people like Lynn, and the community has been so proactive in putting our brand out,” said UTSA football coach Larry Coker. “It’s like the Conference USA people said, ‘Wow, yeah, boy, San Antonio is a great city and they’ve got this [Alamodome] and good attendance, and people backing the program.’”

After finishing 4–6 in its inaugural season last year as an independent in the NCAA’s Football Championship Subdivision, formerly Division I-AA, UTSA gained membership to a pair of Football Bowl Subdivision conferences in an 18-month span.

UTSA is on track to become a full-fledged FBS member in 2014. No other NCAA athletic program has gone from having no football team to full membership in the FBS, formerly Division I-A, in just four years.

The Roadrunners accepted an invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference in November 2010. The official move into the conference was July 1. By then, the Roadrunners had already begun talks with C-USA and accepted an invitation to join that conference. The Roadrunners will join C-USA at the start of the 2013–14 school year and pay a $2 million membership fee.

“The stakes have gone up,” Coker said, referring to the FBS competition the Roadrunners will face. “It’s going to be a fight. It’s going to be a climb. It’s going to be a tough transition. There will be no free lunches. We’ll be the underdog in a lot of those games.

“It’s going to be a huge challenge for us, but there’s a hunger for football here. I think we have an affordable ticket to games, and the atmosphere at the Alamodome, the tailgating and everything else, has made UTSA football an event.”

Conference officials could not help but be impressed by the fact that UTSA set NCAA single-game (56,743) and season-average (35,521) attendance records for a first-year program. The Roadrunners play their home games at the 65,000-seat Alamodome.

“The attendance had to catch everybody’s attention,” Coker said. UTSA would have ranked first in the WAC and second in C-USA in average home attendance.

UTSA is among four football-playing schools moving to Conference USA in the 2013 season, offsetting the departures of Houston, SMU, Central Florida and Memphis, which are bound for the Big East.

Hickey said the move to the new conference will affect all of UTSA’s 17 sports.

“This is not just about football,” she said. “We will see increased visibility regionally and nationally, which will help our recruiting, our fundraising and our branding.”

Romo said the Big East’s raid into C-USA essentially altered the direction of the entire UTSA athletics program.

“That changed the dynamics quickly,” Romo said. “Basically, where they wouldn’t have paid any attention to us for two or three more years, all of a sudden they said, ‘We want you guys.’ And they came after us. We always thought Conference USA would be a great conference for us. We always felt they had the kind of teams we would want to play. It’s perfect for us because of the geography.”

The three other schools joining UTSA in C-USA football are North Texas, Florida International and Louisiana Tech, making it a 14-team conference. North Texas and Florida International are departing the Sun Belt Conference, and Louisiana Tech is leaving the WAC.

UNC Charlotte and Old Dominion (Virginia) also will join C-USA, but their football teams won’t compete in league play until 2015.

Current C-USA schools are Alabama–Birmingham, East Carolina, Marshall, Rice, Southern Mississippi, UT El Paso, Tulane and Tulsa.

While the ante will go up for UTSA, the Roadrunners stand to make more money in C-USA than by staying in the WAC because of TV revenue and other payouts.

“[C-USA] has always had a reputation of keeping athletics and academics prioritized correctly,” Hickey said. “Conference USA is a nationally recognized brand, so the opportunities we’re going to have from ESPN, FOX and CBS Sports are going to be a new way of life for us.

“When you look at the map, the group of schools that we’re going to be able to compete with will allow our fans to be a part of this. We’re going to have new rivalries, but we’re also going to be able to keep some of our old rivalries. It’s a win-win because it’s the best of everything.”

C-USA will be divided into two divisions, with the winner of each meeting in a conference championship game. League officials haven’t announced the division alignments yet, but UTSA is expected to be in the same division with North Texas, Rice, UT El Paso, Tulsa, Louisiana Tech and Tulane.

UTSA safety Mauricio Sanchez, a sophomore who graduated from Warren High School in San Antonio, said the Roadrunners’ quick rise to the FBS ranks has given them a sense of urgency.

“It’s a big challenge, but that’s what champions are made of,” Sanchez said. “You have to have a goal in place and do whatever it takes to reach it. We’ve been working hard because we know we’ll be going against tougher competition.”

While Coker expressed surprise that a conference invitation came so quickly, he said UTSA’s preparation and the lure of San Antonio and the Alamodome accelerated the Roadrunners’ ascent to the FBS.

“Five years is kind of the magic figure,” he said. “I figured that if we proved ourselves and you’re competitive and you’re recruiting better, I thought we would be very attractive in five years.”

Instead the invitation came within two years.

C-USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky left no doubt about what he thought of UTSA and San Antonio when he welcomed the Roadrunners into the conference.

“We’re so impressed by the work that’s being done at UTSA and the community of San Antonio,” Banowsky said. “I have been in Texas for a long time, so I know how dynamic and vibrant that community is and how much it has to offer.

“As we introduced the possibility to the other members in the conference, people were really taken aback by the potential and wonderful opportunity that a relationship with not only the city of San Antonio but, more importantly, UTSA, is.”

Banowsky said San Antonio would be a “wonderful venue” for the C-USA football championship game (Alamodome) or the league’s postseason basketball tournament (AT&T Center).

Landing either event would be a boon for San Antonio, which has hosted three Big 12 football championship games. The city also has been the site of three NCAA men’s basketball Final Fours and two women’s Final Fours. While San Antonio has been mentioned as a site for C-USA championship events, no serious discussions have been held. Any negotiations would have to be put on hold for at least a year, since UTSA will compete in the WAC throughout the 2012–13 school term.

UTSA competed in the Southland Conference from 1991 until the end of the 2011–12 school year. While UTSA won’t start C-USA play until next year, Coker said the Roadrunners already are benefitting from being associated with a bigger conference.

“There’s no doubt that it’s raised our profile and it’s made a difference in our recruiting,” Coker said.

Coker, who led Miami to the 2001 Bowl Championship Series national title, said he had never seen the landscape of college football change as drastically as it did during this offseason. That Texas A&M would leave the Big 12, and rival Texas, to defect to the Southeastern Conference was inconceivable just a few years ago. But that was before the dominoes started falling and conference realignments trumped decades of tradition.

“I could never imagine an A&M going to the SEC or a Missouri going to the SEC,” Coker said. “Then you’ve got West Virginia coming to the Big 12. It’s really been unbelievable. It’s really left an opening for us.”

And UTSA was ready to fill it. >>

Cross country (left) and volleyball (top right) are among the 17 sports programs at UTSA that will join C-USA.

PHOTOS BY JEFF HUEHN

CONFERENCE MEMBERS 2013-14

ROADRUNNER SPORTS

UTSA competes in 17 men's and women's sports:

BASEBALL
BASKETBALL
CROSS COUNTRY
FOOTBALL
GOLF
SOCCER
SOFTBALL
TENNIS
TRACK & FIELD
VOLLEYBALL

Web Extra:

Who should be the next big Texas rivals? Go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/rivals to read what people are saying.

THE RETURNING CLASSMEN:

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: Greenville, N.C.
ENROLLMENT: 27,816
MASCOT: Pirates
COLORS: Purple and gold

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: Huntington, W.Va.
ENROLLMENT: 13,814
MASCOT: Thundering Herd
COLORS: Green and white

RICE UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: Houston, Texas
ENROLLMENT: 5,760
MASCOT: Owls
COLORS: Blue and gray

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
LOCATION: Hattiesburg, Miss.
ENROLLMENT: 16,000
MASCOT: Golden Eagles
COLORS: Black and gold

TULANE UNIVERSITY
LOCATION: New Orleans, La.
ENROLLMENT: 11,911
MASCOT: Green Wave
COLORS: Olive green and sky blue

UNIVERSITY OF TULSA
LOCATION: Tulsa, Okla.
ENROLLMENT: 4,100
MASCOT: Golden Hurricanes
COLORS: Old gold, royal blue and crimson

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
LOCATION: Birmingham, Ala.
ENROLLMENT: 17,543
MASCOT: Blazers
COLORS: Forest green and old gold

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
LOCATION: El Paso, Texas
ENROLLMENT: 22,000
MASCOT: Miners
COLORS: Dark blue and orange with silver accent

THE NEW CLASSMEN:

Each new member will join the league in all sports for 2013. The metro area population of the newcomers, including UTSA, is nearly 18 million.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

LOCATION: Charlotte, N.C.
ENROLLMENT: 25,063
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 16
MASCOT: 49ers
COLORS: Green and white
Football will begin competition play in 2013, with a full conference schedule in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

LOCATION: Miami, Fla.
ENROLLMENT: 48,000
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 18
MASCOT: Panthers
COLORS: Blue and gold
It is one of the fastest-growing universities in the United States.

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

LOCATION: Ruston, La.
ENROLLMENT: 11,743
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 16
MASCOT: Bulldogs
COLORS: Blue and red
In 2011, the football team won the WAC Championship and participated in the Poinsettia Bowl. The women's basketball team has participated in 27 NCAA Tournaments, advancing to 13 Final Fours, playing in eight national championship games and winning three national titles.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

LOCATION: Denton, Texas
ENROLLMENT: 35,694
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 16
MASCOT: Mean Green Eagle
COLORS: Green and white
The $78 million Apogee Stadium opened in 2011. UNT has approximately 336,000 living alumni, with 216,000 living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

OLD DOMINION

LOCATION: Norfolk, Va.
ENROLLMENT: 24,466
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 12
MASCOT: Big Blue
COLORS: Slate blue, silver, Cerulean blue
Old Dominion is responsible for 32 team and individual national championships. Old Dominion accepted membership into C-USA effective July 1, 2013. With the exception of football, all of the university's teams compete at the Division I level.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

ENROLLMENT: 30,474
SPORTS PROGRAMS: 17
MASCOT: Roadrunners
COLORS: Orange and blue
In their first season of football in 2011, the Roadrunners averaged 35,521 attendees for their games at the Alamodome. UTSA is an NCAA Division I program in a market that reaches more than 880,000 television households and has more than 1.8 million people aged 12 or older living in the greater metropolitan region.

COMMUNITY

UNITING OUR ALUMNI

MARK MCCLENDON

Back Shed Startup

Lifesaving technology born out of dissertation

BY LETY LAUREL

Jordan Kaufmann does all her work in a nondescript shed in her backyard.

Fully equipped with an air conditioner and a fan, the shed has everything Kaufmann believes she needs to create the next generation of cardiovascular stent-grafts that may someday save lives.

"I figure if all those software startups can begin in a garage, this one can start in a shed in my backyard," she joked.

In May, Kaufmann launched Cardiovate, a technology startup that will create the stent-grafts to prevent post-surgery aneurysm leakage.

Kaufmann, who received her Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from UTSA in 2012, was sitting at breakfast one day in 2007, brainstorming dissertation topics with her professors, when the subject of aneurysms came up.

There are shortcomings in the current technology, they realized. Stent-grafts are tubes supported by metal mesh that are inserted into arteries, most commonly to support areas that have weakened, or aneurysms. Those that treat aneurysms can migrate. Blood travels around them, which can cause the aneurysm to rupture, leading to death.

So why not create a stent-graft that will encourage tissue growth?

"We looked at it from a tissue-engineering perspective," she said.

A typical graft is inserted into the artery and latches on with barbs pitted into the artery wall. But Kaufmann decided to see what would happen if she brought the wall to the graft, coaxing tissue development between the two.

It took almost six years to create a unique scaffold to promote tissue formation. Called a tissue-engineering scaffold for aneurysm repair (TESAR), it builds a tissue barrier between the blood and the graft after it is implanted. Once the scaffold is in place, the aneurysm stops expanding and the risk of rupture decreases.

After new tissue is in place, the scaffold degrades and is safely reabsorbed by the body.

"It was a very long process to get here," Kaufmann said. It wasn't until after the animal studies came back with better results than traditional grafts that she allowed herself to celebrate.

"I thought, hey, this might actually be something. It was pretty cool."

Her dissertation completed, she decided to turn the technology she had developed into a business.

"Everybody graduates and then works for some big company. That's the recommended way of doing things, to go to work for somebody and learn the ropes and then go do it yourself," she said. "But I thought the opportunity was there, and if you let technology sit for too long, it becomes obsolete. You have to jump on it while it's there. So I figured, why not?"

Shortly after she got her doctorate, Kaufmann won the University of Texas Horizon Fund Student Investment Competition, which provided $50,000 in seed funding for developing TESAR.

With the money, she is working in her shed to get the business off the ground. Her next goal is to get the technology into humans.

"If we can do that, I will mark that as a success," she said. "If we can get anything past that, I will be ecstatic."

Kaufmann is working with College of Engineering Dean Mauli Agrawal and Steven Bailey, division chief for cardiology in the School of Medicine of UT Health Science Center San Antonio, to refine the manufacturing of TESAR.

They expect to make the product available for licensing in 2013. Ideally, it would then be available for use in vascular surgery after federal government evaluation.

"It could be on the market in five years," said Agrawal, adding that the marketing of the technology will depend on regulatory agencies in different countries around the world.

"So much technology dies coming out of the university," Kaufmann said. "You did all this work, you have five or six years of your life spent on this one little thing and then it doesn't go anywhere. But to be able to say, 'Hey, it's got a shot of being able to go somewhere,' that's pretty cool."

But the plan could still fail, which is something she admits scares her.

"Most startups fail," she said. "You have the odds stacked against you. They fail for some random thing that you never saw coming and you have no control over. It's a little scary that you can put all this [time and effort] into it and it can all fall apart."

But Agrawal doesn't think that's going to happen.

"Jordan is an example of the new breed of UTSA engineering student. She is highly intelligent, innovative and motivated," he said. "I am confident she will make Cardiovate successful and, most importantly, take this technology to the folks who need it—the patients."

Kaufmann is used to taking chances. She has always preferred getting involved with projects from their inception.

"I think you get to do a lot more that way. I like projects that I can start instead of jumping on someone else's."

A lover of puzzles and problem solving, she knew from an early age that her future would involve engineering. But it was watching a classmate in elementary school who was unable to run with her friends because of juvenile arthritis that had her thinking about medical technology.

"I started thinking, how can we get her to where she can run without hurting?" she said. "I don't think it occurred to me until years later that that was my first inclination that I could do something in this field."

What drives Kaufmann is the knowledge that she can have a lasting effect on someone's life.

"It's this idea that you can have an impact, whether it is making something for a friend who can't run or something like I'm doing now for aneurysms," she said. "It's kind of neat to be able to have that influence and be able to do something."

OPPOSITE: Jordan Kaufmann, Ph.D. '12, transformed her dissertation topic into Cardiovate, a technology startup that will create stent-grafts to prevent post-surgery aneurysm leakage.

INSET: Called a tissue-engineering scaffold for aneurysm repair (TESAR), it builds a tissue barrier between the blood and the graft.

!

"When you hear the name Taiwan, sometimes do you think of Thailand instead? No? That's because of our hard work in the past half century so now people know Taiwan. Only 23 countries recognize Taiwan as its own country and all of them are small countries. One hundred and sixty something countries don't recognize us, so we're both a country and we're not a country, but we are doing very well as a semi-country."

—Daniel Liao, TAIPEI DIRECTOR GENERAL AND AMBASSADOR *at a Sept. 12 lecture hosted by the East Asia Institute*

BY THE NUMBERS

2,136

record number of international students enrolled in fall 2012. They represent 85 countries.

//IN BRIEF//

Another First

Yvonne Katz '74, a former school superintendent who earned her master's degree in UTSA's first graduating class, has made a $1 million commitment to support the Office of Alumni Programs and students who are pursuing careers in education. UTSA will dedicate the Dr. Yvonne Katz Alumni Center later this year to celebrate the nearly four decades of support she has given to UTSA.

//IN BRIEF//

From Labs to the Market

Taking research findings observed in laboratories in San Antonio and turning them into drugs to treat disease is the focus of the Center for Innovation in Drug Discovery being built at both UTSA and the UT Health Science Center San Antonio.

Doug E. Frantz and Stanton McHardy in the UTSA Department of Chemistry are building a medicinal chemistry core facility in laboratories on the Main Campus.

"Several top-tier universities have established centers dedicated to the discovery and development of new drugs that will treat devastating human diseases," said Frantz, whose vision was a driving force in the center's formation. "The most successful of these enterprises have included faculty and research staff who bring pharmaceutical industry experience to the table."

BY THE NUMBERS

5th

UTSA's national ranking for the number of undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics, according to *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine*

BY THE NUMBERS

7th

national rank among Hispanic Serving Institutions for having eight undergraduate alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers

PATRICK RAY DUNN

HONORABLE SERVICE

KIM D. DENVER, B.A. '88

It was Kim D. Denver's 45th birthday. He was on his ninth day at his new job in Washington, D.C. and delivering his first testimony before Congress.

"If you ever thought about cramming for a test or studying for a final, this was [like] that to some exponential power," he said.

Denver, who was appointed a year ago as deputy assistant secretary of the Army for procurement, has now testified twice before Congress about contract oversight in Afghanistan.

In his role, he manages the Army's procurement mission, which last year included nearly 470,000 contracts and awards valued at more than $125 billion, or about 23 percent of total federal spending. He directs the evaluation, measurement and improvement of more than 270 Army contracting offices worldwide.

He has overseen contracts for major weapons systems, base logistics support, construction and wartime operational contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Testifying before Congress is an honor," he said. "It's a humbling experience. It's something that I would have never thought I'd be doing."

Denver grew up on the Southeast side of San Antonio. After graduating from Highlands High School, he enrolled at UTSA. He worked at two local banks while attending school, and thought his future career would be in business or law.

"I can remember at the earliest age, I clearly wanted to be in leadership in some capacity," he said. "I treated every day like I was building my résumé. Whether it was in school or in my job or profession, I wanted to make sure I was ready whenever the opportunity came."

Opportunity arrived in the form of an internship with the Army right after Denver graduated from UTSA with a B.A. in business administration in 1988. The internship led to a career in contracting in Arkansas and Florida, and then, in 2008, to a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Two years later, he was appointed to his current position.

"It certainly is a challenging position, but I would tell you that it has been an honor knowing that I would be able to make an impact across the Army and also on behalf of our taxpayers, too," he said.

"You can serve in many careers and never be able to have the opportunity to serve in this capacity. So that's why I say it's certainly an honor."—LETY LAUREL

CLASS NOTES

1975

\\ **EMILY CAMILLE INESS**, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual education, and a children's book author and retired educator, has penned *Pongo the Brave River Cat, Pongo el Gato Valiente del Rio*.

1980

\\ **SYLVIA REYNA**, M.A. in education, has been named chief of school leadership for the Dallas Independent School District after serving as chief of administration for the Fort Worth Independent School District.

1981

\\ **JOE IZBRAND**, B.A. in political science, has been hired as the chief communications officer at UTSA.

1982

\\ **JOHN P. MCMURRAY**, M.B.A. in business, has been appointed to the Vericrest Financial Inc. advisory board.

1985

\\ **ELLEN BROOKER**, B.A. in history, was honored as the 2012 Dynamic Woman of the Year at a Chickasaw Nation Arts and Culture Awards ceremony in Oklahoma in October.

1986

\\ **BRIAN ST. JOHN**, M.F.A. in art, has been named the San Antonio Art League's Artist of the Year for 2012, the organization's centennial year.

1987

\\ **LAURA LOZANO**, B.S. in mechanical engineering and M.B.A. '98 from Our Lady of the Lake University, has been named business director of border security and State of Texas for Motorola Solutions.

1989

\\ **ROLAND BENAVIDES**, B.F.A. in art and design, has joined Fossil Exhibits International, a trade show and event marketing firm, as lead creative manager.

\\ **TODD JOYNER**, B.B.A. in management, is president and CEO of Great Northern Project Development, LLC in Houston.

\\ **BARCLAY C. TRIMBLE**, B.B.A. in accounting, has been appointed as superintendent for the Outer Banks Group—Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

1991

\\ **RUBEN MICHAEL FLORES**, B.A. in political science, was named president of Palo Alto College by the Alamo Colleges Board of Trustees.

1992

\\ **CARL MUNIZ**, B.B.A. in accounting, is the controller at Bartlett Cocke general contractors in San Antonio.

1994

\\ **JOHN ENGATES**, B.B.A. in accounting, chief technology officer of Rackspace in San Antonio, delivered the Day 2 keynote address at the 11th International Cloud Expo conference in Santa Clara, Calif.

\\ **LORENA GONZALEZ**, M.A. in bicultural/bilingual studies, is the Urban Strategies Director of National Hispanic Initiatives, and received the 2012 Inspiration Award at the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 3rd Annual Women's Awards Luncheon.

1995

\\ **CHRIS HUMAN**, B.B.A. in accounting, has been named vice president/commercial loan officer for Southwest Securities FSB's San Antonio office.

1997

\\ **ROB KILLEN**, B.A. in political science, and his wife Melissa, are the parents of Emily Caitlin Killen, who was born in May.

\\ **PETE PEREZ**, M.S. in environmental management, has been named acting director of the Regional Business Directorate for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division. >>

PATRICK RAY DUNN

DISHING IT UP

LETTY HOLMBO, E.M.B.A. '04

Letty Holmbo knows her way around a kitchen. On a recent Tuesday, she flitted around a mini-kitchen on the set of San Antonio's CBS affiliate news show, *Great Day SA*, giving instructions on how to prepare the perfect pork tenderloin and chutney.

While the pork sizzled, Holmbo explained the benefits of eating beets. Two of her children, Ashton, 6, and Isabella, 8, watched on nearby bleachers in the studio with their grandmother.

Her kids are the inspiration for many of her recipes. Holmbo makes sure to tell the audience that her son created the day's featured beverage, hibiscus lemonade.

In minutes the live broadcast is over, and Holmbo, hair falling out of a ponytail, spends more time cleaning up than she did cooking.

"My daughter, she's a superwoman," said her mother, Georgina Stewart. "I don't know how she does everything."

Indeed, Holmbo juggles being a mom of three—the youngest, Aaron, is a year old—with her full-time job as culinary corporate dietitian for H-E-B Grocery in San Antonio. She develops recipes for company-wide marketing materials, such as *My Texas Life*. She also oversees corporate nutrition programs, does occasional TV spots, and develops programs for community nutrition outreach efforts. Outside of H-E-B, she provides nutrition consultation for the Autism Treatment Center and volunteers at her church.

"I'm one of those people that loves all kinds of jobs and ideas," she said. She also loves mentoring people who are interested in nutrition and dietetics.

Holmbo's passion for nutrition was recently recognized by *Today's Dietician*, which named her one of the top 10 dieticians in the country.

She graduated from Taft High School in San Antonio and earned a bachelor of science degree in nutrition from the University of the Incarnate Word. Later, she earned her Executive M.B.A. from UTSA.

"I always loved cooking, and I love food, so I figured, why not?" she said. "What I really love about being a dietician is the versatility in whatever you do. You can find whatever fits your personality and your family."—LETY LAUREL

//IN BRIEF//

Water, Water, Anywhere?

Nearly 600 million people around the world face a water shortage. That number is expected to dramatically increase.

So nearly three dozen UTSA researchers will collaborate on water-related issues under the aegis of UTSA's new Water Institute of Texas. They will provide data, information and technology, and policy solutions for decision makers and companies developing short- and long-term water sustainability strategies.

"Typically, we think of water shortages as problems that affect only third-world countries," said Mauli Agrawal, dean of the College of Engineering. "However, water scarcity is a major issue for South Texas, where the land is arid and the population continues to grow. Locally, farmers, city residents, businesses, energy producers, the oil and gas industry and natural species all vie for water, leading to a unique spectrum of technological, social and political issues."

\\ **MARVIN E. WALKER**, B.S. in kinesiology, has been named assistant coach for the Binghamton University women's basketball team in New York.

1998

\\ **NICK JOHNSON**, B.A. in psychology, is the owner of Alibi's Sports and Spirits bar at Sunset Station in San Antonio.

2004

\\ **ANDY WALTMAN**, B.A. in communication, is vice president at VIP Staffing and is on the board of directors of the San Antonio Manufacturing Association.

2005

\\ **MOISES CRUZ**, B.S. in civil engineering, and **DIEGO GORGAZZI**, B.S. in civil engineering '02, recently started their firm, A-1 Engineering LLC, to provide structural engineering services in San Antonio and South Texas.

\\ **DEREK SCHRIVER**, B.B.A. in accounting, M.S. in accounting '07, along with **CHRIS CARMONA**, B.B.A. in accounting '02, have started a CPA firm in San Antonio called Schriver Carmona Carrera PLLC.

2006

\\ **LAURENN GARCIA**, B.B.A. in accounting, M.S. in accounting '07, is now at Phillips 66 in Houston.

\\ **ALEXANDER SAMMONS**, B.S. in chemistry, and chief technology officer at Soloshot Inc., noted that the San Antonio startup has created an automatic, robotic cameraman to allow for hands-free filming.

2010

\\ **JOHN PATRICK SMITH**, B.S. in biology, has joined the staff of San Antonio-based The Playhouse as a scenic technician.

2012

\\ **JESSICA BATTES**, M.F.A. in art, has an exhibition of new works combining cloth and clay at the Blue Star Contemporary Art Center in San Antonio.

PATRICK RAY DUNN

TAKING THE HELM

BRIAN WOODS, M.A. '88, ED.D. '12

In some ways, Brian Woods is just like any other parent.

He wonders whether his 8-year-old son is getting an appropriate education or is just being taught what's needed to pass a test.

He thinks about whether his son gets enough exposure to music and other creative elective courses, and about whether he is learning to be a team player.

But unlike most parents, Woods, superintendent of San Antonio's Northside Independent School District, the state's fourth largest, sees his concerns multiplied by almost 100,000.

Still, his goal is straightforward—high-quality education for all.

"Across all the dozens of ways that we measure student performance, we want to keep making progress. We want to have success," he said.

When Woods accepted the superintendent's post this summer, he inherited a school district with a booming population, a shrinking budget and a wide variety of student needs.

Being at the helm has its challenges, but they aren't unique to his district, he said.

School districts across the state took a significant hit after the Texas Legislature cut $5.4 billion out of public education last year. As a result, Northside reduced its budget by $61.4 million and eliminated almost 1,000 positions.

The district stands to lose even more if a federal budget stalemate results in across-the-board cuts as part of a federal deficit-reduction deal.

"For a superintendent, when you talk about the things that you have to worry about, budget and finance are in the top two or three in any conversation," Woods said. The vast majority of Northside's budget—87 percent—goes to staff. "So when you're talking about big cuts, it impacts your ability to keep people on who help kids, and it impacts our ability to do those things that are above and beyond what the state requires."

But if there is anyone who can tackle these challenges, it's Woods, said former Northside superintendent John Folks, who is now a senior lecturer in the UTSA College of Education and Human Development.

"Education today is an especially complicated business with all the accountability and testing and school finance [issues]," Folks said. But Woods has intelligence, common sense and strong communication and decision-making abilities, he added.

Woods, who got his start teaching social studies in 1992, never imagined he'd be superintendent. His training through UTSA's educational leadership program prepared him to tackle the job, he said.

Now that he is leading Northside, he will be busy tackling finance problems, keeping the quality of education high and advocating for public education. But the driving force behind all his actions is clear: "You have to make the most of what you have, you do absolutely what you think is in the best interest of the students as your priority in decision making."

—LETY LAUREL

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NOW & THEN

Jean Schnitz, former president of the Texas Folklore Society, has performed at the annual Texas Folklife Festival since 1981. The festival, held at the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures, marked its 41st anniversary this summer.