

SOMBRILLA

FALL 2013 THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO

Honorable Quest

THE MANY FACETS
OF OUR NEWEST
FACULTY



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ON THE COVER: Kimberly Fonzo, assistant professor of English, is one of the newest additions to UTSA's faculty. The former theater actress found her passion for medieval literature backstage.
Special thanks to Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church for the setting and Hunter Vick, a junior English and history major, for costuming.

ON THIS PAGE: In the South Texas night air, a raw oil collection tank stands as a testament to the new 21st century black-gold rush along the Eagle Ford Shale. Hard-working Carrizo Springs is now facing extraordinary challenges from this unprecedented economic boom.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK RAY DUNN

LETTERS

Sombrilla Spring 2013

I particularly love the Spring 2013 issue. You guys really put out an outstanding publication. I wanted to share my input with you about your feature story about our first Roadrunner. That was really entertaining. Please let your staff know to keep up the great work and don't stop sending me *Sombrilla* because it is a really well-done magazine.

WILLIAM LOVE '01
Corpus Christi, Texas

Girl Power

Girl Scouts is a wonderful way to learn leadership skills along with engaging in fun activities such as camping. I was a girl guide in India and I went to Raichur to attend the national Jamboree. Girl Scouts is the No. 1 leadership development organization that teaches and helps girls grow emotionally and socially. It was important to me to join when I was in high school because I wanted to live

a happy life with girls that had similar ambitions of earning badges, going on trips and getting together regularly. We went to several neat places for camping.

I'm still involved. I took my daughter to the World Center in Pune, India, which was another exciting opportunity where she learned about the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. I want to take her to the one in Pax Lodge, London, before she graduates from high school. Girl Scouts isn't just about earning badges. Girl Scouts are proven leaders if they go through the entire program.

KALPANA M. IYENGAR
Ph.D. student, UTSA

Tangle of Memories

I am a Roadrunner who has recently dealt with Alzheimer's disease. My mom died April 20, 2012, from early-onset Alzheimer's. She was 66 years old. I applaud any and all research efforts.

WENDY CRAWFORD '92,
M.B.A. '94 Dayton, Ohio

Healing Water

The work that the team from Engineers Without Borders is doing is an awesome thing. I'm glad to be a part of UTSA Engineering. You make us proud.

PHILIP GABRIEL CASSO
Mechanical engineering major, UTSA

Where Roadrunners Roost

Your graphic about where Roadrunners roost indicated no alumni live in Oklahoma. I've been in Oklahoma since 1982. Born in Nebraska, raised in Texas and now permanently affixed to Oklahoma. You could have put me almost anywhere, but at least currently I should be representing Oklahoma. Thanks for your attention to a correction. And thank you for the great magazine. I am very proud of UTSA!

MARGARET ANDERSON '81
Newalla, Okla.

Editor's note: The number of UTSA alumni residing in Oklahoma is 221. We apologize for the omission. The correct graphic can be viewed at utsa.edu/sombrilla/roost.

Not a Hatchling

I am super glad this story was told. I was there at the UTSA versus the University of Arkansas game. I've told more than a few folks how I was present when our first Roadrunner mascot was hatched by Antonio Gonzalez III '82. Antonio, you did our school proud. It was an exciting time for us then, as it is now. Go 'Runners!

DANIEL ARISMENDEZ '79
San Antonio

Changing Lives

Whatever a human mind can conceive, a human mind can achieve! (Napoleon Hill) Martha Hathorn is a perfect example of determination to succeed in life. I'm a 78-year-young grandma and didn't have the opportunity to attend college, but two of my daughters graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. My mother used to tell us "Education is the best inheritance we can leave to our children. Nobody can steal it from their minds." I'm really proud of my children and my dear friend, Martha.

MAGDALENA VILLANUEVA
San Marcos, Texas

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EDITOR'S NOTE

What do you want?

If you could follow your dream, any dream, what would you do?

As I ate lunch in the *Sombrilla* one recent fall afternoon, I was forced to think about that question. It was staring me in the face in vivid red marker on a presentation board that had to be at least eight feet tall and 16 feet wide. "If you could pursue your dream with no fear of failure, what would you do?"

A crowd was gathered around the board and occasionally a brave soul would step forward, pick up a marker and start jotting down an answer. I watched with curiosity and with just a little bit of age-weary amusement.

So what would I do?

It's a loaded question, for sure. But one that was easier to answer when I was a kid.

Astronaut.

Dallas Cowboys cheerleader.

Dallas Cowboys cheerleader *and* astronaut.

Famous musician.

Back then I had no fear of failure, no little voice

in my head pointing out what was impractical or unachievable. I couldn't do a cartwheel, but I still believed I could somersault my way onto the most famous football field in the world. I was afraid of heights but dreamed of flying to the moon. I'm a shy introvert but I believed that someday I would perform for a packed audience at the Palais Garnier, the Paris Opera House.

And then I grew up.

That little voice in my head got louder and more persistent. I started thinking about what was the smartest path, the one that made sense. Words like "responsible," "honorable" and "economical" started beating incessant rhythms in my head.

The dreams stopped coming.

So on that recent fall day, I walked up to the presentation board, a lot older, a little bit wiser and with just a sliver remaining of the dreamer in me.

And I saw their dreams written in blue, green, red and orange. Some were tiny, almost hidden. Others were scrawled across the board, pictures and formulas punctuating their messages:

"Make an amazing historical discovery that changes how we see history itself!"

"Create the next greatest equation and become the next Einstein ($E=MC^2$)."

"Answer people's prayers."

"I would save all the endangered animals in the world."

I could feel the dreamer in me stirring. Growing. Dreaming once again. What would I do if I could pursue my dreams without being tethered by fear? I found my answer. And if you ever see that big presentation board, you just might see it tucked away on a corner.

I may be older, but I think maybe I had it right before. And maybe someday I'll see you in Paris. Or, rather, you'll see me.

Saludos,

Lety
Lety



Andre Childs, a junior physics major, writes down his dream of traveling all over the world. The board is a project by San Antonio resident Russ Garcia, who visited colleges and universities throughout Central Texas in October to ask the simple question: If you could pursue your dreams with no fear of failure, what would you do?



THE SOMBRILLA

The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams.

—OPRAH WINFREY

GO ONLINE!

Need more information? Check out these UTSA websites:

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

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

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For The Graduate School, go to utsa.edu/graduate

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For everything else, go to utsa.edu

Write Back!

We'd love to hear from you! How do you think we're doing? Have 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 and Marketing, UTSA, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

THE PASEO

A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS



WALKING IN THEIR SHOES

ITC EXHIBIT NAVIGATES VISITORS THROUGH THE DIPS AND TURNS OF THE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE

BY K.L. RODRIGUEZ



The stories are wrenching, inspiring, heartbreaking. A native of the Democratic Republic of Congo immigrated to the U.S. after his entire family was killed. A young Nigerian left everyone in his country—mother, siblings, friends—to attend a Minnesota community college on a scholarship. A Cambodian came after riding a bicycle 500 miles to Thailand, getting captured by the Khmer Rouge, escaping, falling into a booby trap and surviving a refugee camp.

Then there is the young wife from Mexico, whose husband swam across the Rio Grande River while she crossed in an inner tube, clinging to a handful of clothes.

Welcome to “Why We Came: The Immigration Experience,” a powerful and poignant exhibit at UTSA’s Institute of Texan Cultures.

The exhibit traces the experiences of 16 immigrants through a creative game board. Visitors select color-coded cards and immerse themselves in the journeys of actual immigrants, learning the motivations of becoming a U.S. citizen and understanding the challenges of the process. At the end, visitors take a citizenship test and share their own immigrant stories.

“I hope this will open people’s eyes to the complexity of immigration,” said Sarah Gould, the designer and curator of the exhibit. “It’s not easy.”

Benga Adeeko emigrated from Nigeria in 1978. It took him 15 years to become a citizen.

Adeeko and his wife, Moji, went from one part of the U.S. to another to further their education and endured a long and agonizing journey to citizenship. They struggled through unemployment, low wages and separation from family.

“It was heart wrenching,” he said.

“The waiting, the state of limbo and the uncertainty of what the outcome would be are what made the process difficult. Thank God for overcoming.”

Along with the Adeekos, Gould interviewed each immigrant featured in the exhibit and wove their stories throughout the display. There are six stations that visitors pass through, where they learn what the immigrants packed, how they adapted to a new environment, which traditions they kept and which they abandoned.

Adeeko, for example, maintained his native language. But he and his Nigerian wife raised their children speaking English only. The exhibit includes this quote that explains why: “Part of the reason was we didn’t want them to have the same accent handicap we do.”

Adeeko earned a bachelor’s in education from the University of Illinois, and an M.B.A. from Eastern Illinois University. Today, he serves as the director of endowment services and compliance at UTSA.

The exhibit notes the successes of other immigrants, such as Lan-Anh Ngo, a doctor, and Soan Ngo, a dentist. Lan-Anh Ngo came to the U.S. from Vietnam with her mother and attended high school in Texas. At 13, Soan Ngo escaped Vietnam by boat with his sister, nearly died at sea, and finally settled in Amarillo, Texas. The two met at Texas A&M University and got married.

“I came here with nothing and now I’m a physician,” Lan-Anh Ngo said.

The exhibit offers compelling trivia. Did you know the founders of Google, eBay and Yahoo are all immigrants?

“Many immigrants are entrepreneurs,” Gould said. “In fact, approximately one out of 10 immigrant workers owns a business. That means

immigrants are 30 percent more likely to start a business than a native-born American.”

What the “Why We Came” exhibit does best is explain the many paths to citizenship. There are 185 different kinds of visas. Some immigrants become citizens in as little as six or seven years, including those who are closely related to a U.S. citizen—such as a parent or spouse. Others who can naturalize quickly are wealthy investors and star athletes. But the path to citizenship for most, Gould said, is 10 to 20 years.

“For a lot of people, the process of immigration is confusing and kind of a mystery,” she said. “This exhibit is designed in the shape of a game board so you have to navigate the process.”

For Benga Adeeko, the pathway to citizenship is complete. But even after living in the United States for 35 years, he thinks about his home in Africa.

“Even though I came here to further my education, from time to time I still feel the guilt and pain of the heavy price I paid—and continue to pay—for that opportunity to be here,” he said, referring to family, friends and familiar places he left behind, especially his widowed mother. “When I listen to or read about people that immigrated here as refugees, escaping war, famine or personal persecution, I feel humbled that there are others that have paid a greater price than I did.”

Shukuru Saidi is one of them. In 2004, he fled the Democratic Republic of Congo and went to Tanzania after his entire family was killed.

“I feared for my life,” he said.

Saidi wound up in San Antonio—and his story is now displayed on the walls of the ITC so that visitors can try to understand, or at least appreciate, what he went through to be here. 

“When I listen to or read about people that immigrated here as refugees, escaping war, famine or personal persecution, I feel humbled that there are others that have paid a greater price than I did.”

—BENGA ADEEKO

THE PASEO



"We've raised our admissions standards, and students like what they see. Top-tier students want to come here because they know they will be surrounded by other top students, by top-tier faculty, and they will get a top-tier education."

—President Ricardo Romo,
at the Sept. 24 State of the
University address

BY THE NUMBERS

33

faculty promoted to
associate professor with
tenure in 2013

//IN BRIEF//

Nobel Nolan

Doctoral student
Amanda Nolan was
one of 600 scientists
chosen to attend
the Meeting of
Nobel Laureates and
Students in Lindau,
Germany. It was the
fourth time in five
years that a UTSA
student was selected
to attend.

Nolan, a chemistry
student, is working
on cancer stem cell
research.



Music with brains

NEUROSCIENTIST AND RADIOLOGY PROF TRADES LABS FOR JAZZ

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

Donald Robin, who during the day is a neuroscientist and professor at UTSA, isn't the type who walks around in a lab coat and tie.

With attire consisting of a T-shirt, a pair of well-worn shorts and flip-flops, one gets the idea that there is more to this professor's life than lecturing on the complexities of the human brain.

After dark, one gets a much clearer picture. Once the sun has set, Robin sheds what few Ph.D. trappings remain, powers down his computer and plugs in his guitar to play in a band with an unlikely name: Royal Punisher.

A Royal Punisher performance includes a mix of improvisation with such standards as Thelonious Monk's "Epsitrophy" and Frank Zappa's "Blessed Relief."

This summer, the quartet recorded and produced its first album of original compositions, due out this fall.

"We could have done it before, but we weren't ready," Robin said of the recording sessions. "It took us three years playing together to get us ready."

The laid-back musician/scientist is also assistant director in UTSA's Honors College. He teaches a course that pairs neuroscience students and art students and explores how the brain guides art and how art affects the brain. Another course "evaluates the ideas that people believe in, whether the idea works or not. There are the ideas of 'perpetual motion,' or taking sea salt to improve your health. Basically, it is 'voodoo,' if someone believes in it, but we know it doesn't work," he said.

Robin also heads the Human Performance Division of the Research Imaging Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he was named radiology professor of the year in 2011-12.

Penchants for both music and academia came early in Robin's life.

Born in Boston while his father was on the faculty at Harvard University medical school, he began playing the violin at age 4.

First taught by his father's best friend, who was in the string section of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Robin said the internal musical light didn't ignite until the grand old age of 6. He picked up a guitar about the same time that his father put Miles Davis' critically acclaimed, revolutionary classic, "Kind of Blue," on the turntable.

"That was it. I fell in love," he said. He has been playing ever since.

The name of his group, Royal Punisher, is more befitting a heavy metal band than a jazz quartet with decades of rock and improvisation "chops." It became the group's formal handle after Robin visited a winery in Napa Valley that produces a zinfandel of the same name. His band mates loved the name.

The quartet performs regularly at their home bar, Bone-shakers, near downtown San Antonio, and continues to attract the local arts crowd as it plays in non-jazz venues around town. This year, it was named the top jazz act by readers of the *San Antonio Current*.

"We are getting people to listen to us who had never much listened to jazz," Robin said. "And we are playing in venues where we are bringing jazz to high school and college students, which is not bad."

The band is already inspiring some elementary and middle school students: Robin's three children, ages 11, 9 and 6, are learning to play the piano, guitar and drums and they also sing.

The next generation of "punisher" musicians may shortly be taking the stage with their scientist father. 



ILLUSTRATION BY PHILLIP LUNA

Donald Robin, professor and assistant director of UTSA's Honors College, is a neuroscientist by day and jazz artist by night. His band, Royal Punisher, plays in venues throughout San Antonio and includes Don Phillip Luna on bass, Estevan Garcia on the alto sax and Kory Cook on the drums.



"I have always been attracted to the Baroque, and I grew up in the barrio. I see the beauty in both, so I wanted to put those two elements together. I like the high drama. I feel like I'm staging my own opera."

—Arturo Almeida, curator of the UTSA art collection, about his San Antonio art show "Side by Side," as quoted June 30 in the San Antonio Express-News

Something to Smile About

NEW COSMETICS MODEL SMILES FOR A MISSION

BY RUDY ARISPE

Alexis Harris isn't just another pretty face. She's the new easy, breezy face of CoverGirl—and she's ready to share the limelight with superstars Sofia Vergara, Queen Latifah and Pink, whose long lashes and shimmering lips shine in magazine and TV ads all over the world.

Harris was handpicked from among 20,000 contestants who submitted essays and videos to *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, explaining why they should be the new CoverGirl. The popular host announced a nationwide search in January.

Now the best is yet to come. Harris, a 19-year-old senior anthropology major, will be fussed over by stylists and hair and make-up artists as she and her idol, DeGeneres, work together in a CoverGirl photo shoot that will appear in an upcoming issue of *People* magazine.

"I still keep pinching myself to make sure this isn't a dream," Harris said.

Since being named a CoverGirl in March, Harris' life has been a rollercoaster. In April, she traveled to Las Vegas to work the red carpet as a correspondent for *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* at the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. She interviewed some of country music's hottest stars, including Shania Twain, Tim McGraw and Lady Antebellum.

Was she nervous? "No, not all," Harris said. "I just didn't want to embarrass myself."

She was also a correspondent for CoverGirl at the BET Awards in Los Angeles in late June. Just a few weeks earlier, Harris wrapped her first eight-hour CoverGirl photo shoot at that city's famed Milk Studios, where the make-up brand photographs all of its famous faces.

"It was awesome. They did my hair, make-up and nails, and I got to try on all these fabulous clothes," the young model recalled of the back-to-school themed photo shoot. "They let me keep the shoes, the letterman's jacket that I wore and the bright orange Capri pants and pink top."

Harris' once-in-a-lifetime inclusion into the CoverGirl club started

Alexis Harris, a senior anthropology major, was surprised on national television in March with news that she would be the next model for CoverGirl cosmetics.

PHOTO: MICHAEL ROZMAN/WARNER BROS.

after she submitted her online application in January.

"I waited for a long time and never heard back," she said. "In March, one of the producers called and said they had tickets for me to go see Ellen because they knew I was such a huge fan. I had written about a million times to get tickets and nothing ever happened."

Harris took her mother and 9-year-old brother to the taping. Once they arrived, a producer told her that they had made a mistake and had only one ticket, but not to worry because her mom and brother would get to sit backstage instead and would be well taken care of.

During the show, DeGeneres told the audience that she had a special announcement to make, saying she had finally selected the next CoverGirl, and that she was going to introduce the winner to the audience.

"She said, 'But first I'm going to bring her family onstage.' Then my mother, brother, grandmother and sister-in-law walked out," Harris said. "I started crying my eyes out. She showed my submission tape to the audience, and then called me down to the stage."

During a mock press conference, Harris stood next to DeGeneres, herself a CoverGirl brand ambassador, and fielded a few playful questions from make-believe members of the press. Finally, DeGeneres presented the new CoverGirl with a \$20,000 check.

Harris has already put much of that money to good use. She used it to support her nonprofit SMILE (Students Making Impact In Lives Everywhere), which she founded in June 2012 in her hometown of Killeen, Texas. The organization collected food to distribute to people in soup kitchens and assisted area families with collection drives for clothes and school supplies.

"It's about giving back to your community and doing good things in the world wherever you can," she said.

Harris, who expects to graduate in May 2014, plans to earn a master's degree and then a Ph.D. in public policy. She credits her mother, Keesha, for her drive and ambition.

"She has been a big part of my support system," Harris said. "She's someone I've looked up to growing up. I admire the way she has balanced her life, work and family."

Her mother, a program manager with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Texas, said she is happy for her daughter's recent success.

"I am extremely grateful and appreciative simply because Alexis allows me to share this moment with her," she said. "She is the positive influence young people need."

So what was it like for Harris to finally meet her idol?

"It was a dream come true. I was just happy to be in the audience," Harris said. "She has these big, blue eyes, and she's so down-to-earth."

//IN BRIEF//

Breaking Ground

Sue Ann Pemberton, a senior lecturer of historic preservation and architecture in the College of Architecture and fellow of the American Institute of Architects, recently was elected to serve as president of the San Antonio Conservation Society for the 2013-2014 term. She is the first architect and preservation professional to serve as president.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,692

freshmen in fall 2013



PHOTO BY PATRICK RAY DUNN



ILLUSTRATION BY TOM PALMER

“MOST MUSICIANS ARE NOT TRAINED THE WAY THESE STUDENTS ARE ... TRADITIONAL PARADIGMS ARE GOING AWAY, SO IT'S INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT THAT MUSICIANS TODAY LEARN TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.”

—MORGAN KING

Grant Carfer is already recording his own album. That's the easy part for the 21-year-old. What comes next is why he's sitting in Morgan King's Introduction to the Music Industry class.

"I have a lot of questions because I'm recording my album and plan to do everything for it and to promote it," said the music marketing major. "I also want to be a record label owner and help other up-and-coming artists with their careers."

King's class covers everything about careers in music, from composing and producing to becoming a jingle writer or music therapist. It is especially geared toward those who have dreams of performing professionally or who plan to work in related fields.

The course analyzes publishing, record companies, copyrights and royalty payments, said King, a senior lecturer in the

music department who has taught the introductory course for the past four years.

"Most of us don't know about these things," he said. "We also talk about the history of the business going back to the invention of the phonograph and how it changed the whole music business, to the idea of copyrights, and the development of technology to today's digital downloads."

King can speak from personal experience about the ups and downs of a music career and what it takes to make it in the industry. His first professional gig straight out of college was playing saxophone with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra and touring the country by bus with the group for nine months during the late '70s. Later, King moved back to San Antonio and was a pit musician for touring Broadway shows and for Johnny Mathis, Sammy Davis Jr., Liberace and Vikki Carr during private performances

at the Convention Center. After years as a freelance musician, King began teaching at UTSA. That was 20 years ago.

In addition to Introduction to the Music Industry, King also teaches History of Rock, History of Jazz, and Jazz Skills. Recently, he was part of the band for a performance by the Four Tops and the Temptations at the Majestic Theater in San Antonio.

"Most musicians are not trained the way these students are. [The students] are set up to succeed from a business aspect," he said. "What's happening now is those traditional paradigms are going away, so it's increasingly important that musicians today learn to take care of themselves."

That's why Alex Flores is taking the class. The music marketing major sees a future for herself in the cutthroat industry.

"I sing and write music. I've already learned so much in the first few days of this class, such as the legal aspects, what to do

and not to do, and career options," she said.

While the class is a requirement for Flores' major, students like Dillan Williams are interested in learning the business of music just in case they need a Plan B for their career tracks.

Williams, a political science major, said he's always been interested in politics and government, but he can't quite discard the idea of pursuing a music career.

"I make a lot of music, so I want to learn the ins and outs of the industry and how to market myself and get my name out there," he said.

Psychology major Marcus Medina is also considering whether to pursue a career in his degree field or one in music. He already works in the industry as a deejay and musician.

"I've always been interested in music," he said. "I want to learn more about the industry and about copyright laws in case I want to pursue music later on in life." 🐦

Rock 'n' Roll

A MUSIC CAREER MEANS LEARNING THE INS AND OUTS OF THE BUSINESS
BY RUDY ARISPE

IT'S NOT ALL

! "Let's assume that to some degree UTSA is the beneficiary of the fact that kids might not be able to get into the flagship [UT Austin]. It's UTSA, not UT Arlington. It's UTSA, not UTEP. It's UTSA, not UT Tyler that has experienced this growth. What is the secret sauce? What is it about this campus, this institution, that has become such a magnet?"
—Evan Smith, editor-in-chief and CEO of Texas Tribune, in an Aug. 19 interview with President Ricardo Romo about enrollment, demographic changes and graduation rates

BY THE NUMBERS

100
student companies in the Roadrunner business incubator

BY THE NUMBERS

85
countries represented by UTSA students

"It was a tremendous achievement to win the WAC Commissioner's Cup in our first season in the league. The credit goes to all the hard work and dedication from our student-athletes and coaches. We've always felt we had a well-rounded department, one in which we are successful across the board in all of our sports. Winning our third conference Commissioner's Cup in the last six years is a great reward and representation of that success."

—Lynn Hickey, UTSA athletics director, in June

SPORTS BRIEFS



Eric Soza is the first Roadrunners football player ever to be named to a national award preseason watch list. He was named to both the Manning Award and inaugural Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award in August.

FOOTBALL

Senior quarterback Eric Soza was named to both the Manning Award (nation's top QB) and the inaugural Earl Campbell Tyler Rose Award (top offensive player in Division I with ties to the state of Texas) preseason watch lists back in August. He is the first Roadrunners football player ever to be named to a national award preseason watch list. Soza, who graduated last May with a degree in physical education and is in his first year of graduate school, recently was named to the 2013 AFCA Good Works

Team. He also is a 2013 Senior CLASS Award nominee.

SOCCER

UTSA is in its first season of playing at the new Park West Athletics Complex. The team, which includes 14 newcomers, opened the facility on Aug. 16 with an exhibition game. Freshman goalkeeper Bubba Makela helped the Roadrunners to a successful opening weekend of Conference USA play with nine saves over 200 scoreless minutes in the 0-0 tie with Florida Atlantic on Sept. 27 and the 2-0 victory against



Rice two days later. For her efforts, she was the first freshman to earn C-USA Defensive Player of the Week honors this fall.

CROSS COUNTRY

The women opened the 2013 season with a victory at the Texas Lutheran Invitational and three other runner-up performances. Senior Nina Herrera led the way for the Roadrunners. She was named Conference USA Athlete of the Week on Sept. 23 following her second-place effort at the UTSA Ricardo Romo Classic and also was victorious at the TLU Invite, which helped the Roadrunners win the team title for the third consecutive year.

The men won their third consecutive crown at the Texas Lutheran Invitational on Sept. 7 and the Roadrunners posted two other runner-up performances to open the 2013 campaign.

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

UTSA will host a pair of NCAA Championship events in 2014. The NCAA Men's Basketball Second and Third Rounds will be held March 21 and March 23 at the AT&T Center, while the NCAA Men's Golf San Antonio Regional is scheduled for May 15-17 at Briggs Ranch Golf Club.

VOLLEYBALL

Senior outside hitter McKenzie Adams was named the preseason Conference USA Player of the Year and the Roadrunners were voted second in the league's preseason poll. On Sept. 16, Adams was the first

player in conference history to sweep the Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week awards in a single week. The Roadrunners opened league play with a pair of road victories at Tulane and Louisiana Tech on the last weekend of September.



Sophomore Brett Hogan recorded the best score by a Roadrunner in 10 years and the fifth-best in program annals.

MEN'S GOLF

UTSA opened the fall campaign with a strong performance at the Sam H. Hall Intercollegiate on Sept. 9-10 in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Roadrunners recorded the fifth-best 54-hole scorecard in school history with a four-over-par 293-281-282-856 en route to an eighth-place finish. Sophomore Brett Hogan also stamped his name in the record book with a five-under 74-67-67-208, the best score by a Roadrunner in 10 years and the fifth-best in program annals.

Freshman goalkeeper Bubba Makela boasted nine saves over 200 scoreless minutes against Florida Atlantic on Sept. 27.

PHOTOS BY JEFF HUEHN, UTSA ATHLETICS



LOVES TO TRAVEL:

"It is so much fun to have experienced such a large part of America, traveling to games with the team. And I got to do it for free, which is pretty cool."



ON CONFERENCE USA:

"We are going to be finding out who we are. Our goal this year is to compete, give the other teams in the conference a run for their money and prove that we are able to play at this level."



SPOTLIGHT Jeromie Hill

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

Jeromie Hill, the UTSA basketball team's award-winner, has somewhat more than a crosstown commute. Arguably, he has what is probably the longest commute to school: 8,300 miles.

But despite playing ball halfway around the world from home, the 22-year-old native of Cairns, a beachside city of 150,000 in Queensland, Australia, plays "grouse." That is Aussie slang for very good.

Hill had never been to Texas before arriving three years ago, but he was pleasantly surprised by the similarities: warm weather, lots of wide-open spaces and engaging, friendly people. Only the koalas and the 'roos were replaced by coyotes and rattlesnakes.

It didn't take the 6'8" senior power forward long to adjust: the water in his coastal home town, where the tropical rain forest meets the Great Barrier Reef, is about as warm as the Gulf of Mexico. So he and his girlfriend frequently find themselves in Corpus Christi, Texas, enjoying the warm seawater.

While he quickly developed a taste for that king of Texas food, steak, Hill is still blown away "by how everything is bigger in Texas: the cars, roads, food portions, number of students in school," as he told an on-line sports fan site.

He was recruited by a number of colleges, but he chose UTSA because he'd get a chance to be a starter as a freshman after attending high school at the prestigious Australian Institute of Sport.

But he also chose UTSA "because of

the weather and the people of San Antonio. The people here made my transition easy. I also chose [UTSA] because this school is going places at a rapid pace and I want to be a part of that."

Hill has been a standout hoopster, having twice been named to the All-Southland Conference team. In his first year, he was named 2010-11 Southland Conference Freshman of the Year.

As a sophomore he led the team with 204 rebounds. He also earned the conference's Student Athlete of the Year award for his 3.25 GPA in the College of Business, where he is a marketing major hoping to go into sports, entertainment and tourism management.

But first, he plans to pursue professional basketball opportunities after he graduates next year.

As a junior last season, he racked up impressive stats: 13.1 points and 6.5 rebounds per game while averaging 31 minutes of playing time on his way to All Conference second-team honors.

"I think it is realistic that I will play professionally," he said. "It is more a matter of where, at what level and for how much. I could make the pros in Australia, but I hope to play in Europe," where salaries are higher, as is the level of play.



ARNOLD AND SADIE:

Has two dogs, an English "staffy," named Arnold, after the weightlifting actor and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and Sadie, whom he describes as "just a crazy dog I love."

FAVORITE FOOD:

A delicious, BIG Texas steak.



ENJOYS PLAYING:

"Lots of golf," shooting in the mid-80s.

FAVORITE MOVIE:

Happy Gilmore



PATRICK RAY DUNN

NATHERN OKILWA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND POLICY STUDIES

When young Nathern Okilwa wasn't working on a farm near his western Kenyan town, he was toiling away in school. Although his mother left school after fourth grade, she believed education was critical for her children.

Her son would go on to become the first in his family to earn a Ph.D.

"My mother believed education was a path to a better life," he said. "This was practical advice because it was evident to me that an agrarian lifestyle did not hold much promise for the future."

Okilwa, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, is interested in helping disadvantaged children, including those from economically disadvantaged groups; racial, linguistic and cultural minorities; special education students; and recent immigrants, especially refugees. He wants to further explore how refugee students navigate and learn in a foreign environment and to understand how they survive and sometimes thrive, even with so few resources.

His personal, professional and educational experiences shaped his career path and research interests. When he was a student in Kenya, many of his classmates struggled financially. They couldn't afford basic school supplies, uniforms or healthy meals.

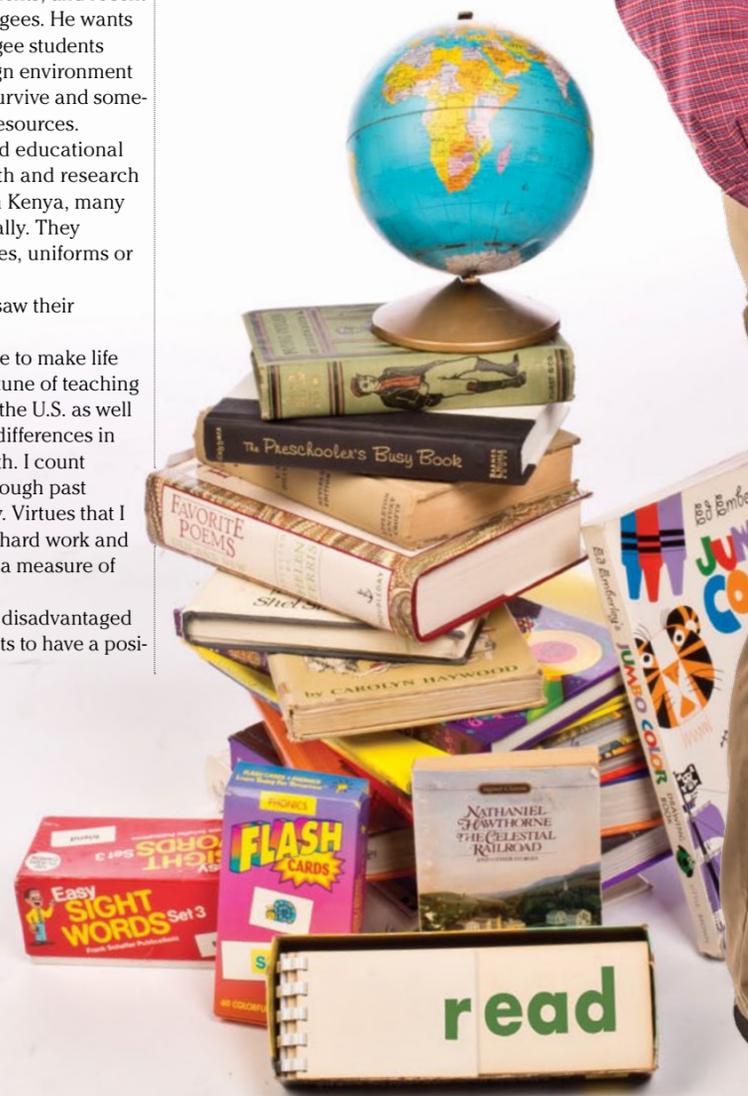
Then he became a teacher and saw their struggles from another perspective.

"I know what it means to struggle to make life work," he said. "Having had the fortune of teaching in different school contexts here in the U.S. as well as Kenya, I see the similarities and differences in the challenges of schooling for youth. I count myself fortunate to have made it through past obstacles to get to where I am today. Virtues that I acquired from my upbringing were hard work and resilience, and those, coupled with a measure of faith, always pay off."

He feels a sense of obligation to disadvantaged children. Through his work, he wants to have a positive influence on their lives.

"I feel refugee students are the epitome of real struggle, and their stories have limited representation in public discourse or literature here in the U.S.," he said, adding that the United States is the single-largest host country to refugees from around the world. Similarly, Kenya is a host country for many refugees facing political instability in neighboring countries.

"Some of the students in refugee camps in Kenya end up here in the U.S.," he said. "I look forward to interacting with them and eventually telling their stories through my scholarly work. I hope I can trace their stories back to the refugee camps and, if possible, to their homeland. I believe connecting these dots will provide unique policy intersectionality between the U.S. and international contexts."



MATTHEW MCCARTER

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

It was a jigsaw puzzle that pieced Matthew McCarter's life together. Or, at least introduced what would become his field of study, his unique teaching style and a different approach to everyday negotiations.

Ironically, that puzzle was never completed.

When McCarter was an undergraduate at Brigham Young University, his class was given a simple task: break into groups and complete a jigsaw puzzle. Each group was given a different puzzle. Whichever team finished first and ran to the winner's circle, which included an overhead projector, would win a bag of Snickers.

"Quickly we discovered we were all missing pieces and had incorrect pieces. We had to figure out how to cooperate with each other while at the same time compete against each other," he said.

The class exercise failed.

The overhead projector light was stolen. Puzzle pieces were snatched from tables and nearly completed puzzles were deliberately knocked over.

More than 20 minutes after the class was to end, the instructor stopped the game with no winners.

"I was shocked at what happened," McCarter said. "Everyone was doing what was best for themselves, and it resulted in the group doing poorly."

He couldn't stop thinking about it. After a sleepless night, with the advice of a professor, he decided to research what could have caused such aggressive behavior.

That's when he discovered a book on social dilemmas, situations in which individual and group interests are at odds.



Suddenly, McCarter saw examples everywhere. Like the students who walked across delicate landscaping, each thinking they were the only ones to do so, but ultimately killing the grass from their sheer numbers. Or the group projects where one person inevitably does most of the work to get the job done while other group members shirk.

McCarter went on to write 15 journal articles on the subject of cooperation versus competition. He received his Ph.D. in business administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and held the Wang-Fradkin Assistant Professorship in the Argros School of Business and Economics at Chapman University prior to joining UTSA.

He continues to study conflict management with a focus on interdependent decision-making and collective action.

"I'm still fascinated by it," he said. "I see it as a problem that we always have to fix."

And the problem is everywhere, prevalent in churches, businesses and communities, and within families, he said.

"When people don't have a monetary incentive to cooperate, we have to find some other way," he said. "So I'm trying to find some other ways."

This fall, McCarter is using approaches similar to the puzzle exercise to teach the same concepts in his own class.

"I believe the best way to learn management theory is to experience it or to witness someone else experiencing it," he said. "Don't just take my word for it. You just watched it happen. The students will never forget it." >>>



ALEXIS GODET

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

How does a researcher study ocean sediments and coral reefs in landlocked Switzerland? The answer is simple for Alexis Godet, assistant professor of geological sciences.

"One hundred and twenty five million years ago, what is now the Alps was at the bottom of the ocean. I can now study ocean sediments on a mountain...from a blue world to a green world," he said.

Back then, the Alps mountain range was nothing but the sandy floor of a watery world. Then the Eurasian and African tectonic plates at the ocean bottom started shifting and pushing against each other. The plates rose and after millions of years became the mountains that exist today.

As a geologist specializing in sedimentology and carbonates from the Early Cretaceous period, Godet is interested in ecosystems that have made this blue-to-green shift. He studies diagenesis, physical and chemical changes that occur while sediment converts to sedimentary rock.

Godet's interest in the ocean began with coral reefs, which he observed on a scuba diving trip when he was 20. Then a professor taught him about sedimentology and inspired

him to pursue graduate studies. That's when he learned about the fragile nature of ecosystems.

Coral reefs are underwater structures formed from calcium carbonate secreted by corals, which are tiny animals that thrive in clear, shallow, sunny water. Although most of them are less than 10,000 years old, coral reefs are considered crucial to maintaining ecobalance, since they are hosts to the most diverse ecosystems on Earth. They are also fragile.

"Corals live on carbon dioxide in the air and water," Godet said. "If you create crisis in the atmosphere with too much carbon dioxide, the coral won't be able to keep up. They also are vulnerable to temperature change, which can destroy them if it's too drastic."

Godet will teach about the importance of maintaining ecobalance in the world.

"I want my students to understand that we don't want coral reefs and associated ecosystems to go away," he said, adding that throughout Earth's history, there has been a lack of balance between ocean and atmosphere, yet ecosystems continue to adapt.

"We need to figure out how fast changes are occurring and determine how long it will take to recover."



LUCINDA NEVAREZ

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Lucinda Nevarez still thinks about a young man she once helped at a Houston hospital. The man was diabetic, dependent on medicines he couldn't afford. So he'd purposely go without until his body could no longer function. Blood transfusions were necessary. He'd go to the emergency room, get treated and released, then neglect his health until he became so sick that once again he'd return to the same emergency room for crisis care.

Then one day that hospital turned him away. It was a new policy, they said, and people who repeatedly used the emergency room for crisis care of treatable conditions would now be denied care.

That's how he ended up at the hospital where Nevarez worked as a medical social worker. She arranged for him to be temporarily supported with medication, and he went on his way. Later, news came from her hospital administrators: the same policy would be enacted at her facility, and repeat patients would no longer be treated.

"After my interaction with him, I felt like if it was an issue that was so large that they had to start making a policy around it, there must be multiple people that are experiencing the same thing," she said. "I just happened to come across one of them. It made me wonder what was happening to all the others."

So she set about finding out. She began researching health disparities and the impact of discrimination in health care.

"Some people think of discrimination in terms of culture or race, but there is also discrimination based on economic status and gender, among others," she said.

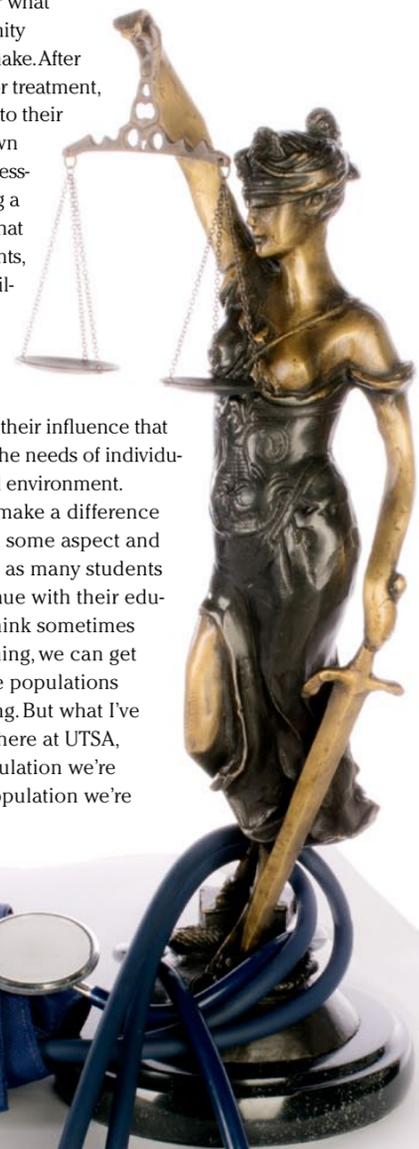
That's a phenomenon that's all too familiar to Nevarez. As a child, her sister was turned away from emergency care from the only hospital in the region because her family had an outstanding balance. The family had to drive more than an hour to another city to get treatment.

"I think that instilled a great interest in me in making sure all individuals can receive health care," she said.

It also showed her what a difference community involvement could make. After being turned away for treatment, her parents returned to their South Texas small town and launched a successful campaign to bring a clinic to the county that would serve all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Neither of her parents were social workers, but Nevarez believes it is through their influence that she now focuses on the needs of individuals within their social environment.

"I really hope to make a difference in the community in some aspect and I hope to encourage as many students as possible to continue with their education," she said. "I think sometimes when we're researching, we can get so removed from the populations that we're researching. But what I've already seen is that here at UTSA, this is not just a population we're studying. This is a population we're serving." >>>



Web Extra:
To view more profiles of UTSA's
new fall faculty, go to
utsa.edu/sombrilla/newfaculty.



RAHMAN AZARI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE

Rahman Azari believes the best footprints left behind are small—environmentally speaking, that is. Azari is interested in ways to minimize the environmental burden of buildings and reducing the impact of construction on the world.

Azari, assistant professor of architecture, believes architecture today should aim at being self-sustained and carbon-neutral.

He hopes to instill in his students the importance of net-zero energy buildings, the buildings that produce as much energy as they consume. These buildings have lower environmental impacts than regular buildings.

"Sustainability shouldn't be viewed as optional or a luxury," Azari said. "A responsibility for architecture students is seeing environmental design as an essential goal of their design process."

Throughout history, cultures from around the world adapted architectural techniques to fit to their surrounding climate and place. Thick adobe walls were used in some climates to keep buildings warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. Higher ceilings in hotter climates kept heat above people's heads, and transoms over the doors opened to aid air circulation. During warmer weather, occupants could also migrate to the cooler basement.

"In contemporary architecture, we can achieve self-reliance by incorporating more principles of traditional, old architecture in interaction with the environment, and at

the same time, use modern technology," he said. "Today, better insulation helps, but it's not enough. Too often today, building equals energy consumption."

Buildings are responsible for 75 percent of electricity consumption, and 40 percent of fossil-fuel energy consumption. It doesn't have to be that way, he said.

People are sometimes aware of sustainability issues, but many are discouraged by the higher construction costs, he said. But green buildings will save their owners money in the long run with reduced utility rates, he stressed, adding that it's a small price to help the planet.

"You must include energy-saving features like you would include windows," he said. "Designers and architects should see it as their professional and ethical responsibility to leave a smaller footprint on the world."



MARCIO GIACOMONI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

When aquifer levels are broadcast daily on the radio, you know that water is an integral part of people's lives in that broadcast area, said Marcio Giacomoni, assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"There is a huge demand for water in South Texas, and with San Antonio experiencing so much growth, that demand is only going to increase in the future," he said.

This is why understanding the region's hydrology and the need to promote conservation efforts are so critical. Giacomoni's research will focus on analyzing water resources systems, water resource management and planning, and the application of Geographic Information Systems and remote sensing to water resources and environmental engineering.

As an undergrad, Giacomoni thought about the practicality of becoming an engineer when considering what the job situation might be like a decade after graduation. He was also motivated by his sense of environmental consciousness.

He wanted to develop the skills to address the needs and problems associated with good water management techniques to help stretch the precious resource, he said.

"I appreciate nature a lot, and managing water resources has huge implications that have a direct impact on all aspects of life," he added.

Giacomoni earned his undergraduate degree in Brasilia, Brazil, and his M.S. in Porto Alegre, Brazil, at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

After receiving his Ph.D. at Texas A&M University, he secured his post at UTSA anxious to continue his water-related research at the height of the ongoing, years-long drought.

"I believe there are a great number of real success stories here in how San Antonio Water System has so efficiently promoted methods for conserving water," he said. The city's water utility uses a storage and recovery system that includes pumping water out of the Edwards Aquifer into the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer during non-drought years. That aquifer is used as an underground reservoir to significantly cut down on the amount of water lost to evaporation. When there is need, the reserved water is used to meet the demands

from San Antonio.

Despite San Antonio's heavy growth over the past decade, the total amount of water being pumped from the Edwards Aquifer, the metropolitan area's main water source, remains about the same, he said.

The city's water utility has also heavily promoted water conservation methods, such as the installation of high-efficiency, low-flow toilets.

But the drought, now in its third year, "is having a huge economic impact, and not just with the downstream rice farmers in Southeast Texas, who require huge amounts of water to grow their product," he said. "It is critical that more and better conservation methods are developed if growth is to continue." 





Boomtown, Texas

Carrizo Springs busting at the seams

BY GUILLERMO GARCIA

The once-sleepy Carrizo Springs is now awakening with extraordinary and sudden economic growth. UTSA is lending its hand to aid this community unprepared for economic surge.

The result of microscopic plants and animals that lived in a huge, shallow ocean that covered Texas some 92 million years ago is now clearly visible from the dark reaches of outer space.

From miles above the earth, the picture of a crescent-shaped 400-mile-long, 50-mile-wide scab of light extending across a swath of South Texas just south of San Antonio rivals the lights emanating from the state's major metropolitan centers.

The source of that light, more than 220 derricks drilling for oil across 20 counties 24 hours a day, is more than just startlingly eye-catching.

That picture may be the ultimate snapshot of the state's energy future and represents what is being referred to as the single biggest economic development in Texas history—and UTSA is involved in helping the area, known as the Eagle Ford Shale, assess the changes and capitalize on the boom. >>>



New construction projects are sprouting up in and around Carrizo Springs, where the population has jumped from 5,400 to more than 40,000 in one year.



Local restaurants, such as Red Dog's, are benefitting from the influx of traffic in the area.

It took a long time for this overnight bonanza. Over millions of years, the microscopic life that absorbed energy from the sun and stored it as carbon molecules accumulated in layers of sediment at the bottom of the shallow sea that once covered the region. The biomass was created when the plants and animals died and sank to the sea bottom.

There the residue remained, trapped for eons under incredible pressure and heat surrounded by what until very recently had been impenetrable rock formations. But this year alone, about \$30 billion will be spent pulling black gold from this formerly resistant land.

It is not only the drilling, pipeline and trucking firms that stand to gain from what was once a lightly populated, mostly economically depressed part of rural Texas.

Business owners anywhere near the huge play have seen their companies change almost overnight, with the level of activity redefining what an oil industry hotbed is. Last year, oil exploration and extraction accounted for a regional economic impact that surpassed \$61 billion, according to a UTSA economic analysis.

The lunch-rush often brings Juan Carmona, Dimmitt county commissioner, and many other locals to Balia's Restaurant.



“Our community, and many others like it, stand to benefit from the huge increase in drilling activity. But at the same time, many of our communities don't have a planning department or even a city engineer, so coordinating the growth and trying to plan for smart growth is a real challenge for us.”

—Adrian DeLeon, mayor, Carrizo Springs

The Eagle Ford Shale formation is estimated to hold billions of barrels of crude oil, untold trillions of cubic feet of natural gas and other petroleum products trapped under huge layers of rock.

Experts believe the volume is so huge and the find so significant that they predict that by 2020 the United States will have surpassed Saudi Arabia as the world's premier energy exporter, due partly to the drilling now ongoing in South Texas.

The more than 800 oil derricks operating all over Texas this summer represented nearly half of all U.S. rigs and nearly 25 percent of rigs drilling around the world.

In the Eagle Ford, the twinkling lights seen from satellites represent the contemporary equivalent of the boom of the 1800s Gold Rush.

Except bigger, much bigger.

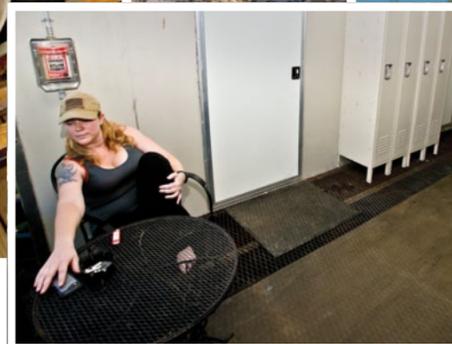
Based on capital expenditures alone, the activity at Eagle Ford Shale ranks as the largest single oil and gas development in the world.

Last year, oil exploration and extraction was responsible for more than 116,000 jobs, said Thomas Tunstall, who heads the UTSA Institute for Economic Development's Center for Community and Business Research.

But the institute's findings, along with an earlier study tracking the activity's impact in specific counties where drilling is active, also point to potential problems for exploration firms and the host of related businesses that support them, as well as for landowners, local governments and residents.

The huge amounts of water needed for exploration and extraction of the oil and gas, the traffic generated as a result of that activity by fleets of 18-wheel tractor-trailers, and the skyrocketing housing prices fueled by a huge influx of workers scrambling for places to live all create formidable issues for many of the small towns in the region. And many of them appear to be poorly positioned to manage the massive infrastructure needs the boom is causing.

Over the next decade as drilling ramps



The modern-day black gold rush has resulted in numerous so-called "man camps" that temporarily house oil field workers. This one, called Mesquite Lodge, also has a cafeteria, entertainment room, theater and clinic. Oil companies provide transportation between the camps to the fields.

up, some of those issues will increase in complexity for local governments unequipped to address them, despite the huge amounts of "new" revenue coming to cities and counties in the region, Tunstall said.

The university's effort focuses on measuring the economic and social impact the massive exploration effort is having on 14 rural South Texas counties most significantly affected by the drilling but which have little existing infrastructure support, he noted.

"Now our community, and many others like it, stand to benefit from the huge increase in drilling activity," and the accompanying increase in the tax base, said Adrian DeLeon, mayor of Carrizo Springs, a community that now is called home by more than 40,000 people. Just last year, the population was around 5,400.

"We have a great opportunity to get some capital improvement projects that we would not otherwise even dream of being able to fund," said the first-time mayor, who along with his mother runs two restaurants that rely heavily on the daily traffic generated by the oil firms.

"But at the same time, many of our communities don't have a planning department or even a city engineer, so coordinating the growth and trying to plan for smart growth is a real challenge for us," he said.

That is where much of the university's community outreach effort is focused, said Francine Romero, associate dean in the College of Public Policy.

A component of UTSA's involvement is a partnership with Shell Oil that provides direct university expertise to elected officials and the region's policy makers, she noted.

A series of public meetings—including one in DeLeon's hometown and ending with a session in San Antonio with local elected officials and industry representatives—was designed to help governments respond to the massive influx of people, equipment and economic activity to an area that has traditionally been lacking in growth opportunities.

For local and county governments, the increased tax revenues are swelling local coffers, Romero noted.

In the three years ending in 2012, sales tax collections in the targeted area rose a whopping 68 >>>

Web Extra:
To view a satellite image of the Eagle Ford Shale formation and view more photos from Carrizo Springs, go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/eagleford.

Business owners near the Eagle Ford Shale formation have seen their companies change almost overnight. Last year, oil exploration and extraction accounted for an economic impact of more than \$61 billion for the region.



The boom has been felt at Red Dog's, a local restaurant where Gilberto Cantu III (left) and Ethan Eric Garcia eat with their families.

percent, from \$751 million to \$1.2 billion.

In 2012, the last year for which full data is available, construction activity accounted for nearly \$40 million in direct and indirect economic impact, generating 279 new jobs with a payroll of \$11.4 million.

But while the economic impact on rural, impoverished counties is important, "to me it is about government structure being in place to be able to formulate good policy and good decisions. It is about helping people build up the capacity of their local government to a level that they need to take maximum advantage of the boom they are experiencing," said Romero.

In addition to meeting "livability issues," communities also face critical housing concerns. DeLeon said many residents in Carrizo Springs are being forced out as the demand created by the oil field crews causes local rental rates to rise sharply.

"Some [fast-food restaurant] workers are pulling down \$15 an hour and getting a \$500 signing bonus for staying on the job six months," Tunstall said, illustrating how desperate some business owners are to hold onto their workers.

"But at the same time, a house that was renting for \$500 to \$600 is now going for \$2,500, if you can even find one vacant. That kind of rent in South Texas was

just unthinkable three years ago, so there are two quite contrasting sides to the boom," he said.

Increased tax bases will give local governments the opportunity to build more parks and green spaces to improve quality of life. The money may also lead to improved medical facilities, improved roadways and more adequate power and water supplies. The increased population also has the potential to help local school districts boost the quality of K-12 education as well as vocational education programs, Tunstall pointed out.

But he noted that these communities must also look to the future. "There is another side to the boom, not what the communities are going through right now, but what they will look like 20 years from now, what sort of growth there will be and how best we can assist the cities and the region to best manage now what their community will look like then," he noted.

The opportunity looms. "There is a huge opportunity for all concerned," Tunstall said. "Right now we have the chance to leverage the academic side and provide the expertise available here to be able to provide real advice to policy makers, elected officials and business leaders for the future benefit for all." 



The huge amounts of water needed for exploration and extraction of the oil and gas, the traffic generated as a result of that activity by fleets of 18-wheel tractor-trailers, and the skyrocketing housing prices fueled by a huge influx of workers scrambling for places to live all create formidable issues for many of the small towns in the region.

COMMUNITY

UNITING OUR ALUMNI



Taxing Work for a Rowdy Racker

BY LETY LAUREL

Chris Rosas knows his strengths. They're listed on the back of his work ID badge for Rackspace Hosting, Inc.

There's Arranger, the trait that means organization, despite his currently cluttered cubicle desk. Then there's Restorative, which marks him as someone who likes to fix things. Responsible predictably pegs him as someone who takes personal responsibility for his work. Relator means he identifies with people.

Finally, there's Developer. That's the one he really connects with.

"I like to teach people," he said. "I like to mentor them. I like to see them grow."

As the global tax director for Rackspace, he oversees a team of 13 people who all make sure tax authorities are happy and that the cloud-computing and Web-hosting company is compliant and protected.

"So if you want to manufacture something or you want to provide a service that you sell from the U.S., and you have a data center in the U.K., and you're selling to a customer in India, how do you tax that? Does it get taxed once or three times? That's what we figure out," he said.

When Rosas signed on with Rackspace three years ago, he went through a required assessment that ranked his top five skills. Like all employees, they are listed on his employee badge.

Shortly after he was hired, Rosas started an internship program in his department. Soon, other groups within Rackspace were following his lead and implementing their own internship programs. Incidentally, everyone who has been hired as an intern under Rosas has been a Roadrunner. And there are now so many alumni working for Rackspace, Rosas and the rest are referred to as Roadrunner Rackers.

"I love bringing in new people and teaching them and giving them a real-life perspective of what they are going to be working on so they can make an informed decision about what they want for their career," he said. "People can show up here and really hate tax. They could love Rackspace, but at the end of the day they're still doing taxes. So I want to at least give students some real-life exposure."

And it takes a special breed of people, he admitted, to love working on the intricacies of international tax.

"Your day starts when Europe wakes up and your day is done when Asia finishes," he said. "When you wake up, your email box is already full from Europe. They come online at 2 or 3 a.m. our time. If you wake up at 7 a.m., they've already had a full productive morning. Then Asia comes on at 6 p.m., when you're at the end of the day

and you're trying to wind down. And the emails start coming again from the other side of the world."

His goal after graduating from UTSA was to find a job, any job, and pay off his student loans. But along the way, he met employers who encouraged him to continue in the field, urged him to work hard, and lined up jobs that would give him the experience he needed to be competitive.

Today, it's his turn to pay it forward, he said.

"If you're a parent and one of these interns was your kid, wouldn't you want somebody out there looking out for them? If no one had done that for me, I wouldn't be where I am," he said. "Who knows? Some of these interns may be my boss someday. They'll be nice to me."

"I just think I have a perspective that can help them, and if I don't take the opportunity to do it, what good am I?"

After all, he is a Developer. It's right there on his badge. 



Chris Rosas '00, M.B.A. '02, is the global tax director for Rackspace Hosting, Inc. The cloud-computing and Web-hosting company is known for its unconventional workspace, which features a spiral slide, video games and pool tables.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$12,900

raised by Mr. and Mrs. UTSA candidates for the UTSA Alumni Association scholarship program



//IN BRIEF//

Rowdy's Home

Roadrunners raised more than \$31,000 to bring a 1,000-pound roadrunner statue, already dubbed Iron Rowdy, to UTSA's Main Campus. It took three years for Iron Rowdy—a creation of Lubbock sculptor and blacksmith R.G. Box—to be born and set free on UTSA's campus.

BY THE NUMBERS

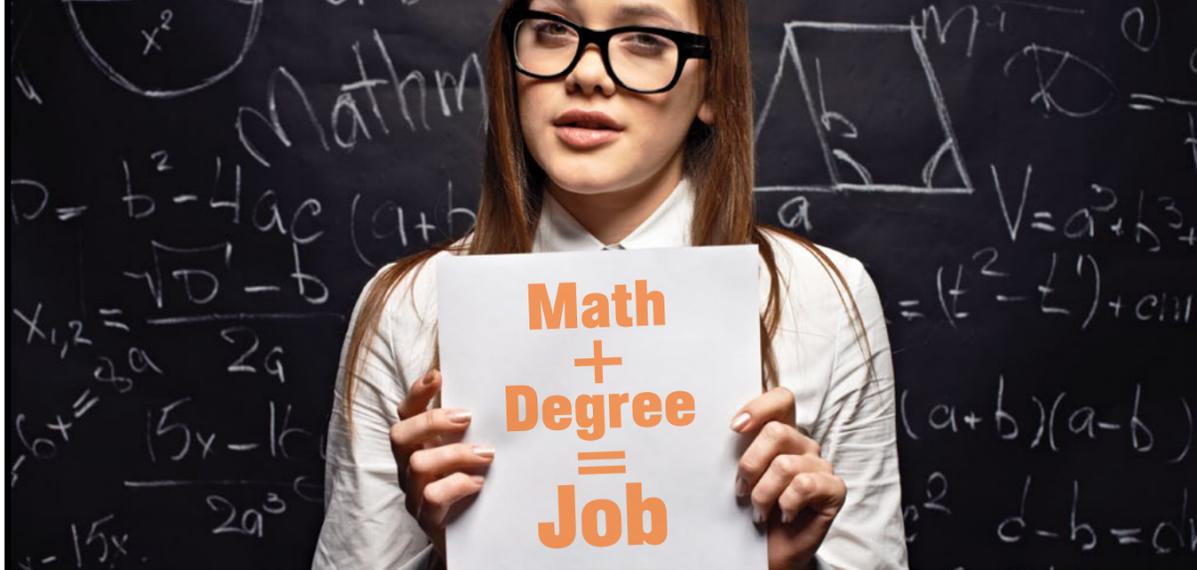
1,000+

student participants in the UTSA Center for Innovation and Technology Entrepreneurship boot camp

BY THE NUMBERS

65

percent of new freshmen in the top quarter of their high school graduating class



A Formula for Success

THE ADVANTAGES OF A MATH DEGREE REALLY ADD UP

BY ASHLEY DUMULONG

Quick... What do the 15 highest-paying jobs have in common? Time's up.

The answer: Math.

Here's another: What do the top three jobs with the highest satisfaction ratings have in common?

Figured that one out, didn't you?

Every one of these careers has a common denominator—they are all math-based professions.

Once thought of as a degree that produced mostly teachers and professors, mathematics majors are cropping up everywhere, and they are using those degrees in nearly every industry in today's competitive environment.

Research, engineering, computer programming, communications, biomathematics, cryptography, statistics, finance and operations are just a few of the fields where mathematics majors are finding success.

"There is hardly a place out there that wouldn't want to hire a mathematician," said Sandy Norman, mathematics department chair. "People with quantitative skills are valued in virtually every aspect of the working environment, whether they be carpenters or mechanics, scientists or investment advisers. A mathematician can take a complex collection of data and recognize relationships that other people may not see, or in many cases find connections that are invalid."

One San Antonio-based company is capitalizing on those attributes and using them in a broad range of practical applications.

Analytic Focus relocated its corporate headquarters to the Alamo City in 2006, just four years after establishing itself as a leader in statistical consulting. Since that time, it has hired eight UTSA alumni in a variety of positions, including several research analysts.

"Math is the science of problem solving, and individuals with these degrees have very similar character traits," said Charles D. Cowan, president and CEO of Analytic Focus. "They have an innate ability to see large problems, break them down into small problems and then solve them."

And that, said Cowan, is tremendously important to companies like his that provide consulting and expertise in statistics, economics, finance and litigation support.

"Oftentimes clients come in with a broad question. But

they don't know how to express the question, break it down or answer it," he said. "So that's a lot of the work that we do, and that's where the skills of mathematicians really begin to rise to the top—finding out what the client wants to know and transforming that into a formal statement, and then figuring out how to test that statement."

In their roles at the company, UTSA alumni provide services not only to federal and state agencies, but also to corporations and financial institutions.

"Our researchers study everything from the economic impact of toxic groundwater contamination to research to determine if there is discrimination in municipal housing policies," Cowan added. "I like to tell our applicants that we don't offer jobs, we offer exciting careers that will never be boring."

Job growth within the field is only expected to accelerate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for mathematicians, especially those with advanced degrees, is expected to increase 22 percent by 2018. And those careers pay well, too. A 2009 study by CareerBuilder.com revealed that the national salary average for an individual with a bachelor's degree in math is slightly more than \$94,000 per year.

And projected growth in the businesses that employ mathematicians means opportunities to climb the career ladder, said Robert Jopling '12, a research analyst at Analytic Focus.

"To be honest, I was surprised at how well my degree from UTSA prepared me for my career. For example, there was a programming class that I really didn't want to take but was a requirement in my degree plan. It turns out that class has helped me more than almost any other," he said. "I have a terrific future ahead of me and there are plenty of jobs out there. It's a relatively low-stress field and yet at the same time, it's incredibly challenging."

However, Cowan cautions math majors not to ignore the other disciplines as well.

"I always encourage students to take some writing and communication classes as well," he said. "You can be the smartest person in the room, but if you can't effectively communicate your theories, ideas and suggestions, you don't stand a chance." 



//IN BRIEF//

Big Tex Resurrection

Joel Guerra '90, B.S. in electrical engineering, and Nathan Dye, B.S. in electrical engineering '13, designed, built and programmed the hardware in Big Tex, the iconic oversized cowboy that stands at 55 feet and looms over the State Fair of Texas.

Web Extra:

To view a video about the advantages of a math degree, go to utsa.edu/sombrilla/math.

CLASS NOTES

1980

\\ **FRANK CHARLES**, B.A. in history, M.A. in history '95, a retired high school science and social studies teacher, is an adjunct professor of U.S. history at Alamo Colleges.

1983

\\ **DANNY PADRON**, M.A. in education, is head football coach for Texas Lutheran University. In September, he received the Pillar of Fairness award from San Antonio's Northside Independent School District.

1984

\\ **JANE GALBRAITH**, B.S. in applied sciences, is a retired teacher and now works as a private math tutor in Las Vegas.

1990

\\ **SUSAN K. MEDINA**, B.B.A. in management with a concentration in marketing, was named the 2013 Business Woman of the Year by the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. She is principal of SKM Communication Strategies LLC.

1991

\\ **MIKE FLORES**, B.A. in political science, is the president of Palo Alto College in San Antonio. In September, he was given the Pillar of Responsibility award from San Antonio's Northside Independent School District.

1992

\\ **LARRY MENDEZ**, B.F.A. in art, was named an executive managing director of the San Antonio office of Transwestern. He will oversee a team of more than 75 employees and a portfolio of more than 6.5 million square feet of commercial real estate.

1996

\\ **SHERRY L. MOSIER**, B.A. in criminal justice, was named executive director of

the Bulverde/Spring Branch Economic Development Foundation in Bulverde, Texas.

1996

\\ **LUIS CUELLAR**, B.S. in civil engineering, is regional manager in San Antonio for Klotz Associates.

1997

\\ **ROBERTO G. ROSAS JR.**, B.F.A. in art, retired from the San Antonio Police Department as a sergeant after 22 years of service. He now owns Miracle Weaver Creations LLC, a multimedia company in San Antonio. He recently published a second edition of the novel, *The Temptation of the Miracle Weaver*, and a sequel to that first novel, *The Liberation of the Miracle Weaver*.

1998

\\ **KEYHLA CALDERON-LUGO**, B.A. in communications, is an anchor and reporter for KWEX-TV, a San Antonio Univision station. She received the Pillar of Respect award from San Antonio's Northside Independent School District in September.

2002

\\ **KELLEY BLACK**, M.S. in biology, is acting director of studies at St. Andrew's-Sewanee School in Sewanee, Tenn. She also teaches biology and coaches tennis.

2003

\\ **VERONICA CAMPBELL STICH**, B.B.A. in information systems, recently published the novel, *The Assassination Race: Secrets of The Afterlife Society*.

2004

\\ **JESUS ARMANDO GONZALEZ**, B.B.A. in management, is an associate with Greenberg Traurig LLP in Houston. He was featured in *Latino Leaders Magazine* in an article on Houston's young Latino leaders (February/March 2013 issue). >>>



STILL SERVING

William O. Dawson III '10, M.P.A. '13

Fresh from a career in the military and a short stint as a civil servant for the Department of the Army, William O. Dawson III arrived on the UTSA campus for the fall 2008 semester ready to secure a degree.

Five years and two degrees later, including an M.P.A., the veteran of the Army Intelligence Corps is still involved in spearheading efforts to assist other veterans transitioning to life in academia.

He earned his B.A. in political science in 2010 to fulfill a promise to his single mother who sometimes worked three jobs to support Dawson and his younger sister.

"I had to sell her on the military educational benefits, because it was the only way to convince her to sign me into the Army when I was 17," he said.

As an undergrad, he relied heavily on tutors and advisers "who helped me make the transition [out of the military environment to] academics," he said.

But he noticed other ex-military students struggling with their transition. So in spring 2009, he helped found the Student Veterans Association, and served as its president for three years and its secretary during the initial year. The association serves 2,700 veterans and their family members who have enrolled for courses at UTSA under the GI Bill and the Hazlewood Act.

The group is also part of UTSA's Veterans Service Advisory Committee, which brings together all entities involved in facilitating on-campus services for student veterans and their families. He said the purpose is to make veterans' on-campus experiences as seamless and efficient as possible.

Often, younger veterans who have been in combat struggle with physical as well as psychological issues. Having somewhere to turn for help is critical, Dawson said.

"Coming out of the military, you are used to a supportive, regimented world, but then these younger veterans encounter the world

of academia, where you are basically on your own, and then you realize that the sergeant or chief is not there motivating you, directing you or getting you up in the morning," Dawson said.

The SVA and the advisory committee help veterans cope with everything from delays in GI Bill payments, which cover schooling costs, to providing support services both on and off-campus, assisting in career development and coordinating veteran recruitment drives to encourage all veterans to enhance their education and skills portfolio.

He said that his group increasingly works with veterans suffering from mild cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"The military provides veterans with numerous skills to fight wars, engage enemies abroad and support and defend the Constitution, but it somehow fails to teach many of us how to take the array of skills and abilities and transition them into real-world, civilian skills that veterans need to thrive and prosper with the other 99 percent of Americans," Dawson said.

Dawson now works for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a community planning and development representative. He continues to serve as an adviser to the Student Veterans' Association executive council and is the organization's external liaison.

"The type of support and services that organizations like the SVA provide are invaluable to fill in the gaps while our fighting men and women transition to the real world, academic life and then on to their chosen career," Dawson said.

"I have and will continue to try to make an impact on the lives of our heroes, one veteran at a time, and I challenge those who have been as fortunate as me to do the same."
—GUILLERMO GARCIA

COMMUNITY



"As Texas goes, we're likely to see the rest of the country going in the coming decades."

—Lloyd Potter, Texas state demographer, in a July 3 interview with NPR about demographic changes that could reshape the political landscape in Texas

BY THE NUMBERS

179

UTSA students to graduate from The LeaderShape Institute, a national organization that equips young adults to become leaders



"A strong community and a strong city happen when people are engaged. UTSA students want to contribute to making our campus, our community and our city stronger."

—Zack Dunn, president of the Student Government Association, about its efforts to register voters for the National Voter Registration Day project. There were 481 people who registered at the event on Sept. 27.

2006

\\ **ALEX SAMMONS**, B.S. in chemistry, is an engineer with Soloshot, a startup tech company founded in San Antonio.

2007

\\ **CATHERINE AUSTIN**, B.B.A. in finance, is founder of the retail and fitness facility Run Wild Sports in San Antonio.

2008

\\ **LANETTE HEFFNER GARZA**, M.A. in political science, recently became an e-content analysis and assessment librarian at Trinity University.

\\ **DAN IZA**, B.B.A. in marketing, is the recreation director at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa. He and his wife, Annie Iza, became parents to Austin Daniel in February 2013.

2012

\\ **ALMOUTAZ EL HASSAN**, Ph.D. in environmental science and engineering, is a postdoctoral research associate at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at El Paso.

2010

\\ **HUMAYUN ZAFAR**, Ph.D. in information systems, is a tenure-track professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. He is ranked as the top marathon runner for the state of Georgia and is also undefeated in singles tennis for the state. He qualified for the Boston marathon and was also invited to play in the qualifiers for the U.S. Open Tennis Championship.

2013

\\ **XAVIER JOHNSON**, B.A. in sociology, was an intern in U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett's Washington, D.C. office. He is a law school student at the University of California, Berkeley, and was recently named president of his law school class.



PHOTO: ROB SEARCY

UNREAL WORLD

Anwei Chen '08

Anwei Chen has traveled around the actual world and creates virtual worlds—on film. Instead of being in front of the cameras, though, Chen works behind the lens in animation and visual effects.

Her film credits include *Fruitvale Station*, which won the Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, and *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, for which Chen headed a team that produced sophisticated visual effects. The movie was nominated for best picture and three other Academy Awards.

On both *Fruitvale* and *Beasts*, Chen was responsible for post-production, which means coordinating and managing artists and their shots and schedules. Chen oversaw a team of 33 people responsible for 81 of the 120 visual effects shots on *Beasts*. She also communicated directly with the directors on both films.

"When you're a kid you want to be an actress or a ballerina," Chen said. "Even in college I really wanted to be an actress."

After working as an extra on a couple of films, she realized that wasn't what she wanted to do. Instead, with the help of mentors and some key opportunities, she found that her talents lay in managing the complex shots that make films visually interesting.

"My job involves a lot of planning," Chen said. "After editing, we are in synch

with sound and music. We're at the very end of the food chain."

Chen also has worked in animation. She has been involved in the animated shorts *Sidekick* and *Take Me Home*, and the intro to *Karma*. Chen also is an artist who paints in acrylic on canvas and works in chiaroscuro—the relationship between dark and light. Even as an undergrad, Chen possessed some of the most important qualities for success, said Ryan McPherson, a lecturer in the Department of Communication.

"She demonstrated a genuine and deep curiosity in her ability to ask the right questions, a great will to work and the best attitude," he explained.

Receiving advice from Seok Kang, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, was a turning point for Chen.

"Visual effects production was one of my suggestions during our conversations," Kang said. "She had the clear goal and pursued it without hesitation. It made today's Anwei, I think."

After graduating from UTSA, Chen went on to the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. That's where she learned how to become an animator, and her path was set.

Chen got her big break working as the visual effects production manager for *Beasts of the Southern Wild* as part of a school assignment. She worked with

professional artists as well as students on the picture and remembers putting in long hours.

"I didn't have a life," she recalled. But the hard work paid off when the film received a slew of accolades, including the Oscar nominations.

On *Fruitvale Station*, Chen worked on the pre-, production, and post-production phases of the film and again managed a team working on the visual effects shots.

Two days after the film premiered in January at Sundance, The Weinstein Company acquired it for \$2.5 million. It was released in July 2013.

When Chen went to *Fruitvale's* screening, she watched closely for flaws.

"The whole time I was looking for the mistakes," she said. The average viewer likely wouldn't notice them, but "I know every shot," Chen explained.

So what's next for Chen? "In the foreseeable future, I do want to stay in visual effects," she said. As a freelancer, she can work on a variety of projects.

It may look glamorous to outsiders, but film can be a difficult industry, she added.

"People don't tell you that. Producers are brutal in this industry," she said. "You have to work really hard at it. But if you really like it and you're very good at it, people will be out hunting you down."

—KATHRYN JONES

Post Scripts

Where is This?

It Could Be Anywhere

It's made of iron and weighs 1,000 pounds. And if you rub it, luck may come your way. Can you guess what this is?

Go to utsa.edu/sombrilla to find out what and where it is.

PHOTO BY MARK MCCLENDON

ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

Mauricio Sanchez, a first-generation college student from San Antonio, was recruited by other universities in Texas, but he knew that being part of the first UTSA Football team, in his hometown could, in his words, “be something special.”

“This community has given me big-time support,” he says. “I get to play a sport I love and focus on getting a good education. Being at UTSA has changed my life and I am blessed to have this support.”

Through the We Are UTSA—A Top-Tier Campaign, the university was able to build facilities that athletes like Mauricio need to ensure their success on the field. UTSA’s new athletic complex provides competition and practice venues for track and field, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis and football.

Make an investment in UTSA today.
Visit WeAreUTSA.com today to learn more.

Mauricio Sanchez
San Antonio
Business Major
Future Coach

