



Lombrilla

A publication of the University of Texas at San Antonio

Volume 7
Number 2
Summer 2001

In this issue:

**The singular achievements
of four honors students**

How to mean business

**The secret language of fire ants
Class notes and alumni profiles**

Honors graduate Sadie Emery



Sombrilla

PREVIEW

Summer 2001, Volume 7, Number 2

Editor: Lynn Gosnell

Art director: Karen Thurman

Associate editor: Rebecca Luther

Copy editor: Sarah Nawrocki

Contributing writers: Stephen J. Cross,

Randy Degner, Lynn Gosnell, Judith

Lipsett, Roxanne Llewellyn, Rebecca

Luther, William Petitt, John Poindexter,

Kris Rodriguez, Meredith Sterling,

Kendra Trachta

Photographers: Mark McClendon,

John Poindexter

Student contributor: Scott Bradshaw '01

Production manager: Frank Segura

Director of publications: Elton Smith

Office of University Advancement

Interim Vice President for University

Advancement: Gerard H. Barloco

Director of Alumni Programs:

Jane Findling

Assistant Vice President for University

Communications: David Gabler

Sombrilla is published quarterly by the Office of University Publications, 6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619. It is mailed without charge to alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Texas at San Antonio. We welcome your letters pertaining to *Sombrilla's* content.

Editorial office: MS 2.01.10

Phone: (210) 458-4525

E-mail: sombrilla@utsa.edu

Cover and feature illustrations:

Bradford Lawton

Sombrilla received a Grand Gold Award in the periodicals division at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District Conference this spring.

GREETINGS FROM SNAPSHOT, TEXAS

One of my favorite classes in college was a seminar on the history of photography. Our group spent a delicious semester reading about photography's development, paying close attention to well-known images from the late 19th and 20th centuries. To this day, I can still recognize those sentimental portraits of women and children as the work of Julia Margaret Cameron, the shapely forms of Edward Weston's nudes and the "captured moment" of Henri Cartier-Bresson's 35 mm camera. I idealized the engaged photographic work of Farm Security Administration photographers during the Depression and was moved by Robert Frank's sad, Beat-influenced photos of 1950s America.

We learned to look at photographs with a critical eye—what was the photographer trying to say? The question of whether or not a seemingly candid photo was posed generated a lot of discussion, I remember, and anticipated the now common debates on digital manipulation of news photographs.

"Although there is a sense in which the camera does indeed capture reality, not just interpret it, photographs are as much an interpretation of the world as paintings and drawings are," wrote Susan Sontag in a collection of essays we read.

One day our class took a field trip across campus to the art museum. There, a curator obligingly treated us to a private showing of the museum's photographic collection. Seeing these originals, not reproduced in a book or even on a wall behind glass, all critical pretense disappeared—we simply fell in love with photographs.

Beginning with this issue, we've asked Kendra Trachta, librarian at the Institute of Texan Cultures, to choose an image from ITC's vast and eclectic collection of photographs. (Of the 3.5 million images in their collection, about 50,000 are accessible to library patrons.) We'll print the image each issue in the news section of the magazine. We hope readers enjoy a sample of this amazing collection with a discerning eye, but with affection, too.

— Lynn Gosnell

WRITE BACK

I have just finished Rebecca Luther's fine article "Far Afield" on what was for me the best class that I ever took when I was an underclassman at UTSA. The article brought back many feelings of nostalgia from when I took Desert Ecology and Field Biology 16 years ago this summer! I still to this day get to tell my own students of the adventures we had during those 21 days in West Texas. Many of them tell me that they would love to take a course like that, even when we get into the stories about the spiders, snakes, blister beetles and other assorted nasties. I have often wondered what happened to the members of my group, Jerry Cohn, Bruce Begia and Chris Garcia. Those guys were the

greatest, and we had the best time even though we worked harder than we ever had before. I am glad to see that Dr. Van Auken and Janis Bush are still doing the course after all these years. Every time June rolls around, the thought comes to mind "I wonder where they are right now?" A big thanks to Dr. Van Auken for providing what was for me the best learning experience I had during my time at UTSA, and another thanks to Rebecca Luther for this trip down memory lane.

*James Herrod
Physics/IPC teacher
Academic Decathlon coach
Red Oak High School
Red Oak, Texas*



FEATURE

10 WITH HONORS

Of the more than 1,500 students who received diplomas from the university at the spring commencement, only 20 earned the distinction of being honors graduates from the University Honors Program. Meet four students who completed the rigorous program. Stories by Lynn Gosnell, Judith Lipsett and Meredith Sterling.



DEPARTMENTS

4 In the Loop

University residence hall evacuated; library acquires huge music collection; strength and conditioning coach talks about his first year on the job; new faculty books; plus more campus news.

8 Campus Scene

Fire ants have a simple, effective and painful way of communicating with humans. But with their own kind, they have a broader vocabulary. Biochemist Robert Renthal studies fire ant pheromones with the hope of developing new methods of control.
By Lynn Gosnell

Minority Business Development Center nurtures dream of entrepreneurship.
By Scott Bradshaw

13 Class Notes

Bill Morrow '86 leads Grande Communications to the forefront of communications technology in South Texas. Linda DeMino '79, '83 is named Texas Teacher of the Year. Also, class notes and details on the upcoming Alumni Gala.

16 Looking Back

Who are they? A mother-daughter commencement moment from 1990.



SHADES OF BLUE
Above: Students celebrated Fiesta San Antonio at the annual Fiesta UTSA on the 1604 Campus with food and performances. The Institute of Texan Cultures helped close out Fiesta with the Bowie Street Blues music festival.

This spring commencement featured Gov. Rick Perry as one of three speakers. At left, President Ricardo Romo, Harriett Romo, Perry and newly appointed UT Regent Cyndi Taylor Krier.

In the Loop

¡BRAVO!

John Bretting, assistant professor of public administration, installed as chair of the American Society of Public Administration's Section on Environmental and Natural Resource Administration; graduate students **Ruth Cheung**, environmental science, and **Dianne Hart**, ecology, awarded first place and third place, respectively, in the graduate student Geographic Information Systems research competition at the South Central Arc Users Group Conference; **Nancy Membrez**, associate professor in the Division of Foreign Languages, selected as a winner in the KOOP's Writing on the Air contest in Austin for her short story, "May I Have This Dance?"; **Assistant Professor Wan Xiang Yao**, College of Education and Human Development, awarded the Switzer Research Distinguished Fellowship by the National Institutes of Health National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research for his research on wheelchair propulsion; communication/public relations students **Kelly Soyars** and **Christopher Lanoue**, awarded third place in the 2001 Texas Public Relations Association Student Case Study Competition in Dallas; **James Frazer**, adjunct associate professor of electrical engineering, recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award, students **Rebecca Martinez** and **Vivian Troche** and their mentor, **Associate Professor Cheryl B. Schrader**, awarded second place in the student paper competition at the Gulf-Southwest Section meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education; **Harvey Graff**, professor in the Division of Behavioral and Cultural Sciences, recipient of an honorary doctorate from Linköping University in Linköping, Sweden, for his research on the history of literacy; **Sara Massey**, ITC educational specialist, recipient of the 2000 T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award from the Texas Historical Commission for editing *Black Cowboys of Texas*; **John Miller Morris**, associate professor in the Division of Social and Policy Sciences, inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters; **Richard Ortega**, associate development director, appointed to a three-year term on the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Commission on Philanthropy; **Roland Rios** and **William Ruff**, educational leadership doctoral students, among 35 students nationwide selected to participate in the David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Symposium in Educational Administration; **Rudy Sandoval**, associate vice president for administration/associate professor of business law, honored during San Antonio College's commencement exercises as the college's Outstanding Former Student for 2001; **Linda Schott**, associate professor of history, and **Barbara Pino**, associate professor of education, inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame; **Jude Valdez**, vice president for extended services, **Bertha Perez**, professor of education, and **Frank Pino**, professor of foreign languages, recipients of La Raza Faculty and Administrators Lifetime Achievement Awards, which recognize individuals whose accomplishments have brought significant credit to the Mexican American community in South Texas; **Xochitl Emilce Yañez**, 2001 College of Business graduate, winner of a fellowship to Baruch College's School of Public Affairs.

Visit www.utsa.edu/today/index.html for more campus news and information.

Beautiful chemistry

Generations of chemistry students remember him as a demanding teacher. True, says Professor Emeritus B. Thyagarajan, but "he who cares has the right to criticize."

No one denies Thyagarajan cares. The founding director of the Division of Earth and Physical Sciences is known as "Dr. T" to the many students he's taught during the last quarter century. Despite his retirement, Thyagarajan continues to mentor and to share the poetry that has enriched his life. This is not just verse, though he is a published poet; it's the poetry of his science, which he calls "beautiful chemistry."

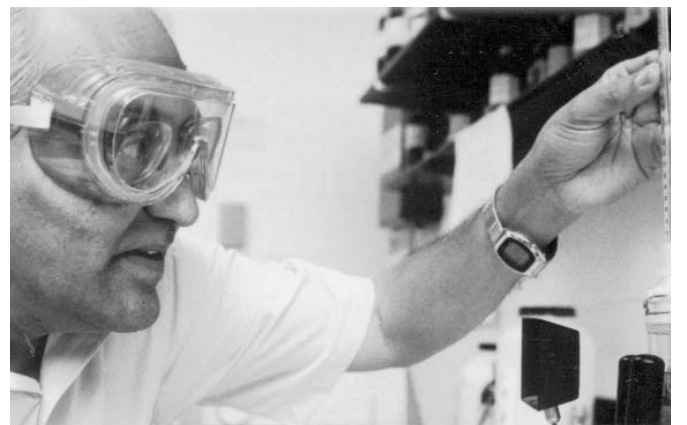
Thyagarajan's long-standing commitment to UTSA students has produced a beautiful chemistry of another sort. He has established the Dr. B. Thyagarajan Endowed Scholarship in Chemistry, Physics and Geology. As ever, he has thrown down a challenge to his students, asking them to help him double the endowment's size. With contributions still coming in, the endowment is already large enough to support the first two students this fall.

Thyagarajan has also endowed a second scholarship in memory of his

mother, the Mrs. Parvathammal Endowed Scholarship in Geology. The first award was made this spring.

Thyagarajan is one of seven current and former faculty whose giving to the university now totals more than \$10,000.

By looking to the future, endowment gifts are the strongest of philanthropic



B. Thyagarajan, at work in the lab, has endowed several scholarships.

reagents. In the case of this famously demanding but caring professor, one anticipates something more. The bonds of Dr. T's philanthropic chemistry are surely strong enough to transmit to future generations.

— Stephen J. Cross

As the tassels turn

In May, more than 1,500 students participated in spring commencement. The university awarded 1,217 bachelor's degrees, 334 master's degrees and two doctorates. Addressing the new graduates were Gov. Rick Perry, City Public Service CEO Jamie Rochelle '94 and San Antonio Express-News Editor Robert Rivard '96.

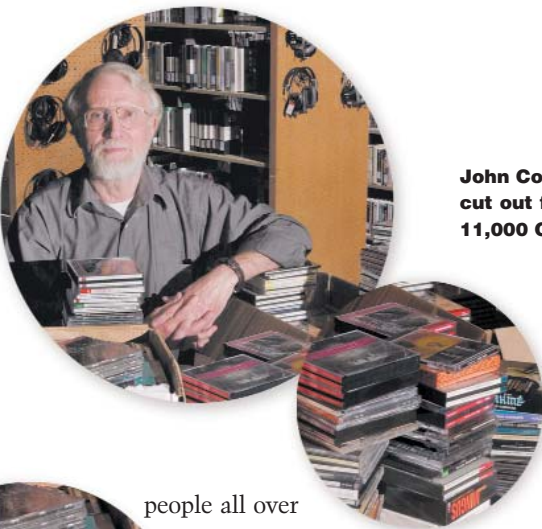


Disc, disc, disc

For the past 15 years, UTSA Music Bibliographer John Conyers has been cataloging music for the university in an attempt to build up the library's collection. With a limited supply of about 2,000 compact discs, the task was a fairly easy one—until this past February.

That's when Conyers became the person responsible for cataloging almost 11,000 compact discs the university acquired in a gift/purchase arrangement with the assistance of a UT System special collections fund.

The huge collection belonged to H.V. Doyle, who died last October at the age of 58. Doyle was a longtime USAA employee and devoted supporter of performing ensembles in San Antonio. He left his prized CD collection to his stepson, David Dunn, and upon his stepfather's death, Dunn started receiving inquiries about the collection from



John Conyers has his cataloging work cut out for him as he sorts through 11,000 CDs donated by David Dunn.



people all over the country.

Once UTSA music division officials learned of the collection, which was appraised at \$80,000, they were eager to add the compact discs to the UTSA Library. Dunn agreed to sell the entire collection to UTSA for only \$37,000.

Now that the collection is on campus, Conyers has begun the task of cataloging the music, which sits in 95 cardboard boxes in a locked room in the Multimedia Center. Every day, he spends about a half hour opening boxes

and sorting the music into categories to place on the library shelves. Each box reveals new details about the depth and breadth of the collection. At last count, Conyers had unpacked 26 versions of Handel's "Messiah."

Though faculty and staff have access to the CDs now, with Conyers working alone, it could be five years before all the music is organized and catalogued. With the addition of the Doyle collection, UTSA's music library is far larger than the collections of most universities of the same size, says Division of Music Director Joe Stuessy. Stuessy, who visits several schools a year for their music department accreditations, says the average number of compact discs is 800 and 1,200.

— Kris Rodriguez

FIRST EDITION

You may know him best as the author of *Lolita* and other novels, but Vladimir Nabokov was also a prolific writer of short fiction—in three languages. With the publication of a complete collection of the writer's short fiction in 1995, scholars finally had access to all of his known short stories. *Torpid Smoke: The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov* (Rodopi, 2000) is a new addition to the growing body of scholarly criticism of Nabokov's short fiction.

Steven G. Kellman, professor of comparative literature, and Irving Malin, retired professor of English from City College of New York, have gathered a dozen essays that mine the themes and dreams of one of the 20th century's great writers.

"Most writers develop over time. Their early writing is interesting as an apprenticeship, but Nabokov emerged full grown. His early stories are as good as his later ones," Kellman says.

Associate Professor of Spanish and Comparative Studies Barbara Simerka co-edited *Echoes and Inscriptions: Comparative Approaches to Early Modern Spanish Literatures* (Bucknell University Press, 2000).

The book is an anthology of 14 articles that explore the relationships between Golden Age Spanish literature

(from the late 16th through the 17th century) and other literatures of Europe and the Americas.

"Within the field of Renaissance and Baroque studies, Spanish is often marginalized," Simerka says. "I wanted to raise the profile of Spanish literature among comparativists."

Her contribution to the volume compares different versions of the Don Juan story and explores the atheistic qualities of this literary legend.

The political hot potato known as "school choice" is the topic of John Merrifield's book, *The School Choice Wars* (Scarecrow Press Inc., 2001). Merrifield, a professor of economics, argues that a competitive education industry is the best way to deliver educational services. But he believes that reformers have rarely articulated, much less implemented, reforms that truly provide a better education for K-12 students.

"Much of what is said to advocate and oppose parental choice is wrong, misleading, or irrelevant," he writes, taking both sides of the debate to task and critically examining the current crop of school-choice plans.

With this book, Merrifield aims to inform and galvanize parental choice advocates into starting "a wildfire" of citizen-led reform efforts.

— Lynn Gosnell



Snapshot, Texas

Carpas were small traveling tent shows, often family-run, that provided musical, theatrical and acrobatic entertainment to Mexican Americans in the southwestern United States during the first half of the 20th century. Many plays were based on traditional characters and stories, but satirical productions that mocked stereotypes and current events were popular as well.

— Kendra Trachta

Aida Garcia and Manuel “Manolo” Garcia, members of La Carpa Garcia, dressed as peasants for a comedy sketch. San Antonio, Texas. January 11, 1937. From the photograph collection at the Institute of Texan Cultures, photo 90-605, courtesy of Rodolfo Garcia Jr.



Faculty honored for excellence

Nine faculty members were recognized for excellence in research, teaching and service at the 2001 Faculty Honors Convocation in May.

Receiving President’s Distinguished Achievement Awards for Teaching Excellence were **Janis Harmon**, Division of Education; **Jerome P. Keating**, Division of Management and Marketing; and **Vincent A. Di Martino**, Division of Economics and Finance.

Harmon, an assistant professor, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in reading and requires her students to garner field experience in elementary and middle schools. She models techniques that support literacy, including reading aloud to her own students.

Lecturer Di Martino is known for both challenging and assisting his students. Even in classes with large enrollments, he gives essay exams, and he assigns term projects and papers in his upper-division and graduate-level courses.

In addition to the President’s Award, Keating, a 20-year faculty member, received the Chancellor’s Council Outstanding Teaching Award. Keating goes far beyond teaching computation methods, having his students apply techniques to real-life applications, such as using statistical methods to detect leaks in underground storage tanks and to model ozone levels, long-term temperature and rainfall cycles, aquifer levels and recharge rates.

Palani-Rajan Kadapakkam and **Jagannathan Sarangapani** were honored with the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Research Achievement. Kadapakkam, associate professor in the Division of Economics and Finance, has had 12 articles published or accepted for publication—nearly all in top-tier finance journals—in the past 12 years, an acceptance rate that is rare in his field.

In his two years as an assistant professor of electrical engineering at UTSA, Sarangapani has published seven journal articles, two book chapters and five conference papers. He has received more than \$375,000 in funding, including a National Science Foundation Career Award.

Earning the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in Creative Activities was **Charles Field**, professor in the Division of Visual Arts. Many of his paintings depict the landscapes of South Texas, and he has shared his enthusiasm for the region with his students through outdoor painting classes in the Hill Country.

Associate Professor **Amir Karimi** was honored with the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Excellence in University Service. Karimi joined UTSA in 1982 and has played a large role in the creation and growth of the mechanical engineering program. He has also served on the Faculty Senate, University Assembly and Graduate Council.

Amy Jasperson, associate professor of political science, earned the President’s Distinguished Achievement Award for Core Curriculum Teaching. Jasperson challenges her students with an innovative blend of theoretical and applied issues, thereby creating an effective introduction to the American political landscape.

Judith Gorman Gardner, a lecturer of composition in the Division of English, Classics, Philosophy and Communication, received a Piper Professor Award for her teaching achievements.

— Roxanne Llewellyn

Chisholm Hall evacuated

Officials at UTSA evacuated a residence hall on the university’s 1604 Campus one week before the end of the spring semester. Chisholm Hall’s 486 residents were moved to local hotels after an inspection of the building’s life/safety systems revealed traces of a variety of molds that may pose health concerns to residents.

“The safety of our students is paramount, and we must take immediate action to make certain that residents of Chisholm Hall move to a new location so we can eliminate any threats to their health,” President Ricardo Romo said at the time of the evacuation. “We have detected a problem and will take any action to protect the health of our students.”

A sample test by Argus King Environmental Inc. of the residence hall’s rooms uncovered several potentially harmful molds in the building. The university hired the company to conduct tests in response to student concerns about maintenance issues at Chisholm Hall, which is managed by Century Campus Housing Management of Houston.

Following the evacuation, Gillit’s Cleaning Service was contracted to clean the residents’ clothing, electronic equipment and other personal belongings.

Chisholm Hall is closed for further cleaning and testing and is expected to reopen for the fall semester, said Rosalie Ambrosino, vice president for student affairs. “Faculty and staff have been extremely helpful during this trying time,” she said. “I cannot thank everyone enough who helped the students during the evacuation and the subsequent cleaning process.”

The university community assisted residents by sorting belongings for cleaning, washing clothing and delivering clothing to hotels. Staff also stayed with students in area hotels, helped with transportation and helped students retrieve their belongings after cleaning.

Century Housing manages all of UTSA’s housing, where 2,000 students live in Chisholm Hall and University Oaks, an apartment complex on the south edge of the 1604 Campus. — *compiled from Office of Communications reports*

Growing stronger

New coach puts muscle into athletics programs

Michael Cox, UTSA's new strength and conditioning coach, gets his point across by being a good example.

The former marine's muscular physique suggests he could still play college athletics. It also shows the type of commitment he wants from his student-athletes.

"I try and work out at least every other day," Cox said. "I don't train as hard as I did, but I still do the movements I did when I was an athlete—the core stuff."

A graduate of San Jose State University with both bachelor's and master's degrees, Cox served three years with the U.S. Marines before a hip injury earned him a medical discharge. Before turning to coaching, Cox was a competitive cyclist.

As UTSA's first strength-training coach, Cox has the opportunity to develop a program from the ground up.

"Mike is doing a great job," Athletic Director Lynn Hickey said. "He's very organized. He keeps track of all the athletes and their workout performance on a computer."

With an infusion of more than \$5,000 in new equipment that eliminated old, nonfunctional pieces, and a redesign of the north and south weight rooms, the area is a popular spot for student-athletes.

Cox's arrival at UTSA coincides with the university's most successful year in athletics. A record three conference championships were brought back—in volleyball, men's tennis and men's track and field. Men's basketball and women's tennis claimed second place in the Southland Conference. Women's basketball and baseball, both picked to finish last in the 11-team league, finished fourth and fifth, respectively. As a result, UTSA shared the SLC's Men's All-Sports Trophy as the top men's sports program in the league.

"There's no doubt that Mike's supervision in the weight room had an impact on our team," track and field coach Que McMaster said. The men's team captured its first SLC outdoor team title just one year after placing eighth in the league.

For his part, Cox notes that the program is still in its infancy. More individualized workouts and the development of each team's training routine will increase over time.

"Right now, the players are just learning the lifts. We'll get more and more specialized as we go along. We have programs designed for each sport depending on the time of the year. Each sport has an off-season, preseason and in-season workout program," he said.

"I think the impact of what Mike is doing will show up in a couple of years. This is his first summer here and you normally see the biggest improvement during summer workouts," Hickey said.

More than 60 athletes are attending UTSA this summer to participate in a weight program.

"I see the athletes year-round," Cox said. "I see them more than their coaches, so the relationship is a little bit closer. Each team has a different personality, and you adjust your programs to fit them. It's always an evolving process."

— William Pettitt



UTSA wins first men's track title

The UTSA men's track and field team captured its first outdoor team title at the 2001 Southland Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Arlington, Texas. The Roadrunners rallied from a 31-point deficit over the final 10 events to finish the meet with 131 points, edging out UT-Arlington by 16 points.

"Every little point counts big when you win by as few points as we did," said track and field coach Que McMaster. "We told our guys we wanted 25 points from field events, 25 from the sprints, 25 from the hurdles and 25 from the relays and then grab a few points here and there."

UTSA took the lead for good on a third-place finish by Francis Ngapout in the 200-meter dash. Ngapout also took first place in the 100-meter dash. In the 110-meter hurdles, junior Alex Flores won the event with a time of 14.20 seconds, followed by James Cantu's 14.45 time; Carl Johnson finished fourth in 14.49. Freshman distance runner Henry Maruping won the 1,500-meter event in 3:53.50 and took second place in the 5,000 meters in 14:37.07.

The win is UTSA's third team conference championship this season, joining volleyball and men's tennis. For more on UTSA athletics, visit www.goutsa.com.

— William Pettitt

Taking the sting out of summer

Boil them, bait them, poison them—there must be dozens of ways to get rid of fire ants.

And while each method has its own charm, *Solenopsis invicta*, the red imported fire ant, always seems to survive to sting another day.

Though eliminating this aggressive and highly adaptable pest may be a fantasy, a group of scientists from around the state is working to devise new methods to control the infestation. UTSA's Robert Renthal, a biochemist, is part of the state-funded project called the Texas Fire Ant Research and Management Plan. He joins researchers from Texas A&M University, UT Austin, Texas Tech University and UT El Paso in a highly collaborative effort to learn more about the fire ant's biology in order to develop better methods of control.

Today, *S. invicta* has infested more than 260 million acres in the Southeast, some western states and Puerto Rico. In Texas, the fire ant infests two-thirds of the eastern half of the state and is moving westward. A 1998 study of the economic impact of fire ants in five Texas cities found that citizens spent more than \$300 million each year trying to control the species.

The answer to the problem may not lie in better chemicals, says Renthal and some of his colleagues, but in better communication—that is, a better understanding of the ways ants communicate with each other.

Renthal, a professor in the College of Sciences, was already working on fire ant research when he heard about a unique legislative-funded initiative in 1997. Rep. Tom Ramsay, D-Mount Vernon, had sponsored a

bill to provide \$2.5 million each year for fire ant research, education and community outreach. Conceived as a collaborative project involving several state agencies and universities, the bill passed the legislature. The project, headquartered at Texas A&M, has been renewed for two more biennial funding cycles.

Renthal is part of a subgroup of the research team focused on fire ant communication—particularly on pheromones, chemical substances that serve as behavioral signals to other ants.

But to study the signals, Renthal first needed a better understanding of one of the ant's primary sensory organs—their antennae.

Focus on antennae

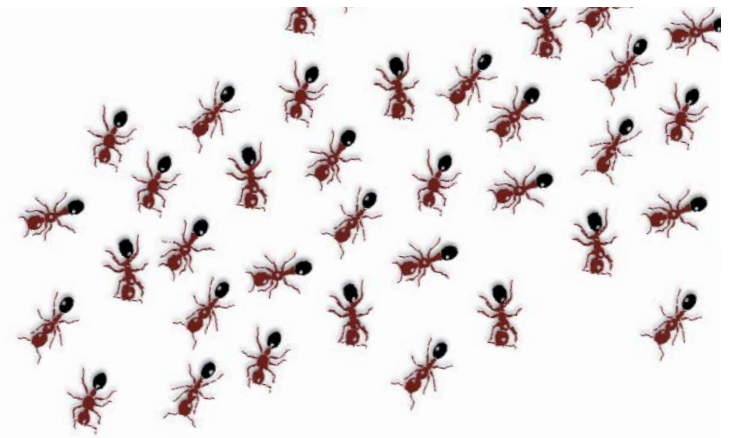
Early on in his fire ant research, Renthal and research assistant Danny Velasquez, along with scanning microscopist Dave Olmos, used a scanning electron microscope to take highly magnified images of ant antennae. The resulting images are measured in micrometers, which are thousandths of a millimeter. These images give scientists like Renthal a powerful tool for understanding the infinitesimal world of ants.

"The structure of the antennae depends on the caste of the ant," Renthal explains, referring to the well-defined social structure of ant colonies. "Most of the ants you see are workers. All workers are females and the queens are females, but the workers and queens are very different in some respects; one is in the antennae."

Renthal was paying particular attention to the tiny hairs on the antennae which, he points out, have receptors for touch, taste and smell. But in order for the hairs to be able to sense taste or smell, they would have to be porous so that molecules could get inside and stimulate the nerve to impulse.

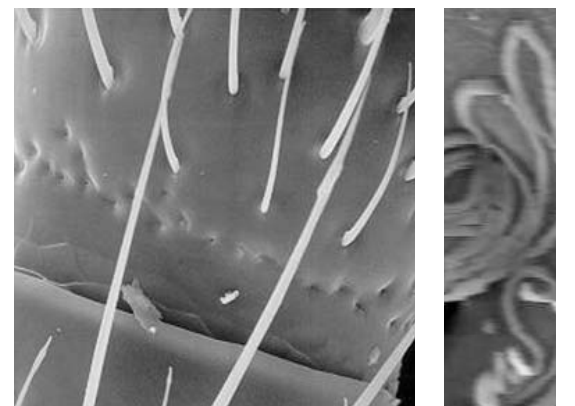
"So we were looking for pores [in the hairs] and we didn't see any and we started scanning down to the tip of the antenna and saw these little holes and were just kind of intrigued by this."

Renthal thought the pores might be for sensory reception. But they were located in a ring around the surface of the antenna, not on the hairs.



"It turned out that one of the other fire ant researchers had also seen it and so he and I got together and we began this collaboration to find out what these were for. He was sure they were for secretions."

And he was right. Bradleigh Vinson, an entomologist at Texas A&M, has been working on fire ant research "most of my life," he says. One of the organizers of the fire ant management plan, Vinson stays involved with all of the project's research subgroups (biological control, reproduction, genetics and communication). His own research on the antennae of parasitic wasps led him to believe that fire ant antennae



were producing information, not just receiving it, and his collaboration with Renthal proved it.

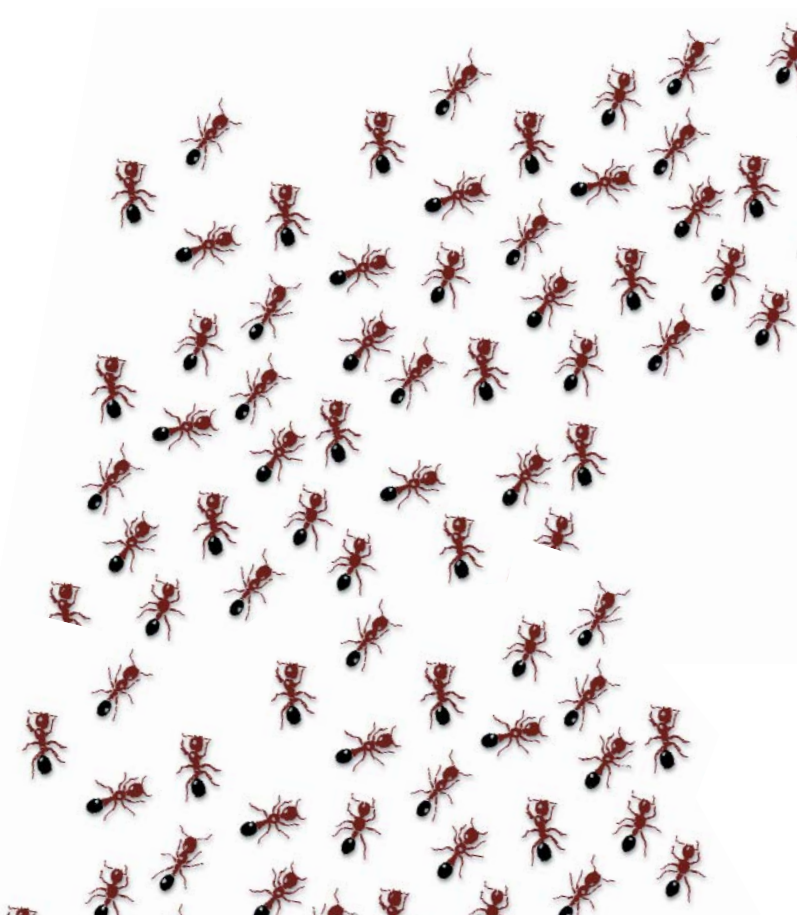
This key finding in the group's research—that fire ants possess a unique method of communication—has implications for insect control. The only question is, what exactly is the information that's being produced?

"There's some suggestion that the workers recognize the secretion from the queen, and without it, they can't recognize the queen," Renthal says. Since ant colonies are built around the queen, finding a way to make ants confused about the queen's identity, or unable to communicate with the queen, would add a safe and powerful method to the menu of fire ant control.

Searching for fire ant pheromones

Building on his understanding of the antenna's structure, Renthal is also working on understanding other aspects of the biochemical makeup of *S. invicta*.

Renthal and his colleagues in the communication group want to identify the exact pheromones the ants use to communicate with each other. What Renthal is looking





for are odorant-binding proteins, the molecules that carry the odor to the nerve and signal the ants to carry out a specific behavior.

To date, Renthal has identified one pheromone-binding protein. “We have a shot at grabbing one of the pheromones workers use to attract queens. We’re on the way to finding more,” he predicts.

“The hope was that we could use molecules that [fire ants] have a very specific ability to detect to find an attractant, which could be useful in conjunction with other pest control measures,” he explains. “The thing that’s nice about using pheromones



These images of fire ant antennae were made with a scanning electron microscope. The one on the right shows secretions from antennae pores. These secretions may hold the key for a new method of fire ant control. Scans by Dave Olmos.

[for control] is they’re highly specific. Only a fire ant would be attracted to a bait that was a pheromone.”

The use of pheromones for species-specific insect monitoring and control has already been applied successfully to moths.

“Ants have been studied as social insects but not at the biochemical level,” Renthal notes. “It’s something that needed to be done by scientists, and now is the right time to do it. We have the molecular biology tools to really study them.”

Bart Drees, an entomologist who coordinates the Fire Ant Research and Management Plan, is optimistic about the cross-disciplinary approach his project is bringing to the problem. “The neat part of this project is the expanding team of researchers. . . . The collaboration of teams across Texas is one of the highlights of the project.”

— Lynn Gosnell

The bucks start here

Downtown class develops entrepreneurs

If Irene Coad had her way, she would be in her garden cultivating herbs for Coad Nursery, the business she and her husband dream of running. The couple already sell herbs at local flea markets and have even been asked to grow herbs for the San Antonio Herb Society.

“My husband and I joke that the herbs are the other woman. He spends so much time with them,” she says with a laugh.

On this night, however, Coad is sitting in a classroom at Cypress Tower diligently working on an income statement for a fictional business. She, along with seven other students, is a member of a unique 14-week entrepreneur development class taught through the UTSA Minority Business Development Center. The center is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency.

The class covers a wide range of topics, including record-keeping, time management, marketing, legal issues and negotiation. During the course, students follow a curriculum that leads each to develop a working business plan.

And though each participant shares a goal of success, their plans are varied—opening a beauty salon, publishing a women’s sports magazine, running a jazz club and operating a real estate firm.

Seeing Rebecca Alvarez clad in business attire, her classmates might never guess that she paints houses for a living. She owns Best Quality Painting, and her father, who has been in the business for 25 years, is her right-hand man.

Business is good, and Alvarez will need to hire another crew soon to keep up with demand. She focuses on exterior painting for now but plans an expansion to offer the “whole nine yards,” as she puts it—interior painting, decorating and wallpapering.

“This class has given me confidence in what I’m doing. I’m making good business

choices, like having a working business plan in place,” Alvarez adds. “It’s just what I needed.”

The program also draws owners of established businesses. Rick Leggett, who has operated Dunwright Cleaning Services for about three years, decided to enroll for help getting everything in order before he expands his business. “I want to make sure I have a sturdy foundation,” he explains.

Classes meet one evening a week for three hours, but the services extend beyond

the classroom. Each entrepreneur has a team of specialists to turn to for advice, beginning with class instructor Luke Ortega Luper, a business development specialist with the center. Luper brings years of marketing and management experience and an M.B.A. to the task.

“Most of these people already have other full-time jobs, but

they also have a dream,” Luper says.

Center director Fletcher Parks frequently sits in on the class and assures students that the program will be there for them. “Starting a minority business is like building a team, and part of that team is the Minority Business Development Center,” Parks says.

The cost for the course is \$750, but many participants receive support in the form of scholarships from benefactors such as HEB’s Supplier Diversity Program and the Texas Workforce Commission.

The center, along with nine other components of the UTSA Institute for Economic Development, will move to new quarters at the Downtown Campus in 2003. To learn more about the entrepreneur development class or to enroll in the fall 2001 session, which begins Sept. 4, visit the Minority Business Development Center’s Web site at mbdc.utsa.edu/edp.htm.

— Scott Bradshaw '01



With

It's tempting to let the numbers do the talking when describing the University Honors Program. During the last 10 years, participation in the honors program grew from 22 to 360 students, an increase of more than 400 percent. These 360 students represent just 5 percent of UTSA's student body, and their average GPA this spring semester was 3.51.

Ten years ago, the UTSA catalog listed just three honors courses; now students are required to have 24 credit hours of honors coursework before graduating. In 1990, there were no scholarships for these high achievers. Today, says Ann Eisenberg, director of the University Honors Program, about 100 scholarships are available in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,500.

Besides demonstrating enormous growth, these statistics point to another fact: A growing number of UTSA's undergraduates are signing up for an academically rigorous course of study. We chose four students from this year's crop of honors

HONORS

graduates to profile. If they share a common denominator, it's that they're all smart and motivated. What's uncommon about these students is something immeasurable—a desire and determined curiosity to know more.

Sandra De Leon has known where she would go to college since the seventh grade. That was the year her science teacher told her about UTSA's Expanding Your Horizons math and science conference for girls.

"I had never been to a campus," she says, "and I remember telling myself, 'I am going to go to UTSA.' " She may not have known at the time that she would graduate summa cum laude from the honors program. Then again, she may have had an inkling.

"All through my early years I was an average student," De Leon explains, "but fifth grade was the turning point. My teacher, Susan Priesand, inspired and motivated me. To her, I was always an honors student."

De Leon's may seem like the typical story of the bright student. But she is not only the first person in her family to graduate from college, she's the first to graduate from high school, middle school or elementary school. Her father, Roberto, was in his early 20s when he left Guatemala for the United States. On the way, he met Maria in Mexico, and after many struggles, the two married and came to San Antonio. The young couple didn't know a soul and spoke no English, but they were prepared to do anything for their three daughters.

The De Leons had heard, for example, that the nearest middle school had a gang problem, so they went to the district office to have their daughter transferred. As a student at the Business Careers High School magnet school, De Leon took part in another program at UTSA and reconnected with Ann Eisenberg, whom she had first met in the seventh grade.

"Dr. Eisenberg saw the potential in me and found the money to help me pay for an SAT preparation course. That boosted my scores enough to get me into the honors program," De Leon says.

Eisenberg remained a source of encouragement throughout college, pointing her toward new opportunities. One opportunity was pivotal—a summer research program at Michigan State University.

"I learned so much about myself and about the things I can do," De Leon says. In Michigan she began her study, "Mexican Americans Out of the Poverty Cycle—Five Stories from San Antonio, Texas."

"My parents' story inspired me," De Leon says of her research interests. "Everything they have learned, they've learned on their own."

De Leon's story, too, is inspiring. In addition to maintaining her outstanding grades, she volunteers as a mentor, helps with the Elf Louise Christmas toy program and serves as president of UTSA's Alpha Chi National Honor Society. She also received an award for contributing over 100 hours to the university's Ambassadors Program.

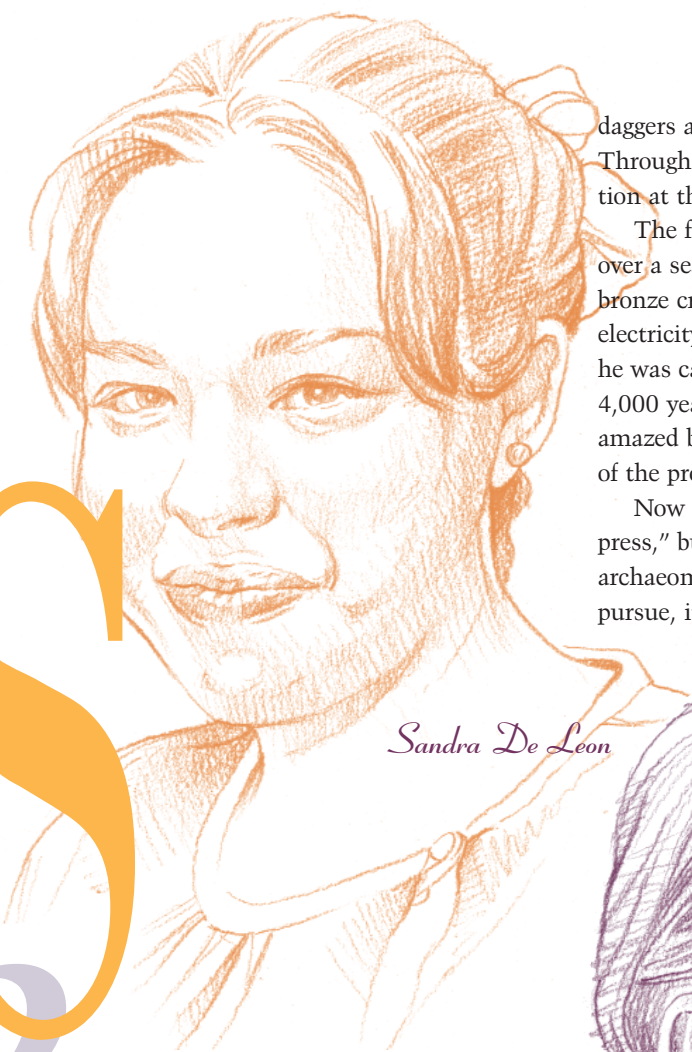
Eventually, De Leon wants to go to graduate school in education, with the ultimate goal of teaching at the college level.

Have her achievements distanced her from her parents? On the contrary.

"My education has brought us closer together," she says, "because of all the adventures we've had as a family along the way to bring me to this point in life."

— Judith Lipsett

RS



Sandra De Leon

It's a good thing Bryan Kelly limits himself to one cup of coffee a day. What would this magna cum laude honors graduate would do with any more energy? At any given moment, you might find him bicycling on San Antonio's Mission Trail, researching Bronze Age archaeometallurgy, building a giant bellows from scraps and duct tape or creating a crucible at his potter's wheel.

Kelly's journey to his bachelor's degree in art was not a direct one. After high school, Kelly put in a year of college but then spent the next 20 years working as an auto mechanic and a professional potter in Austin.

When his older sister died of cancer in her early 40s, Kelly decided it was time to make changes in his life. At that point, it wasn't hard to decide where to go to finish his education. His half-brother and sister-in-law had graduated from UTSA, and his mother worked at the school.

"My mom always told me to go back to school because it would open doors for me and let me meet people," Kelly says. One of the people Kelly met was Sabine Thomas, a geology professor who encouraged him to enter the school's honors program.

It was in Thomas' geology class that Kelly had the inspiration for his honors thesis, "Bronze: An Investigation into the Sophisticated Metallurgy of Ancient Cultures."

"We were talking about the Industrial Revolution. I had a mechanical background and was familiar with most metals," Kelly explains, "but I was not familiar with bronze. I realized this would tie my background in mechanics and pottery together with my interest in art."

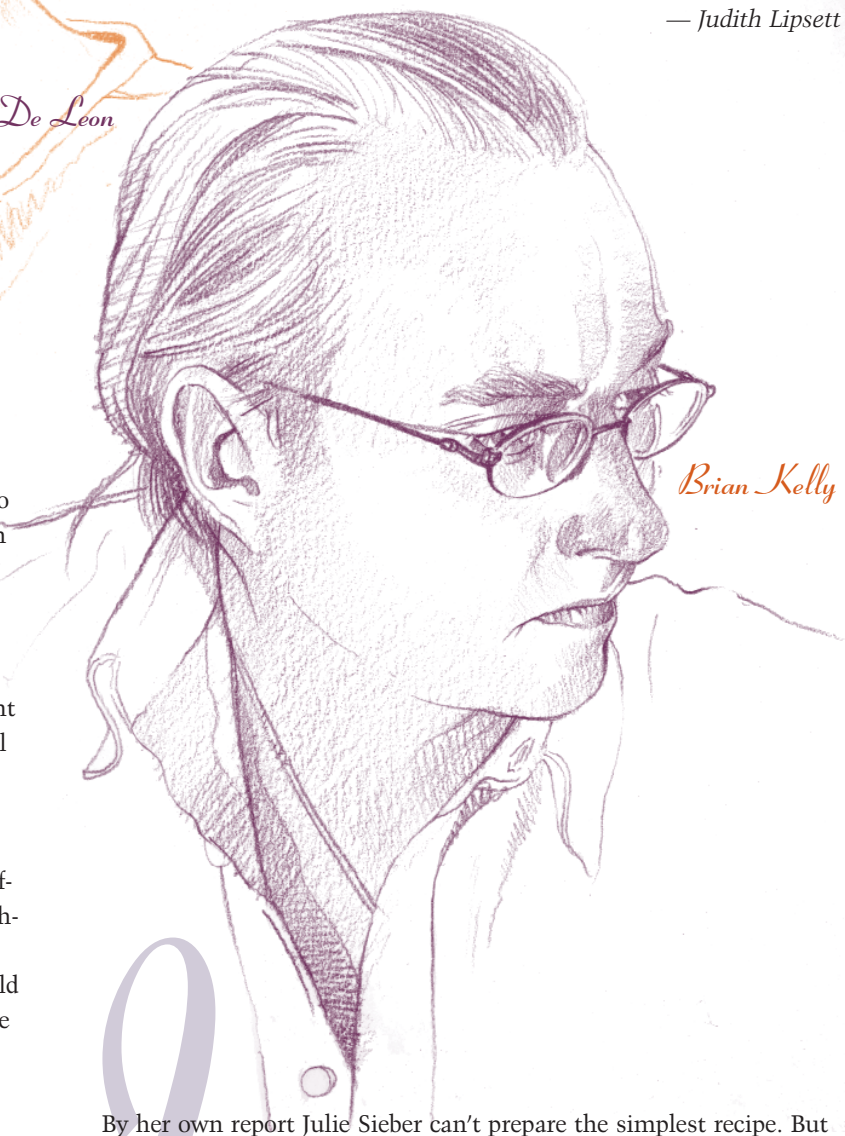
The ambitious, expensive project that evolved—forging bronze objects using the same techniques employed by Bronze Age artisans—led Kelly in many directions. A self-motivated learner, he researched the materials and skills he would need to forge heavy

daggers and ingots, and he studied the archeology of the Bronze Age. Through his professors, he gained rare access to the bronze collection at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

The first semester of his senior year, Kelly logged countless hours over a searingly hot pit, and after many broken crucibles forged bronze creations without benefit of modern technology—not even electricity. While he didn't go as far as cutting down trees for wood, he was careful to use only materials that would have been available 4,000 years ago. Kelly's adviser, Steven Reynolds, "was totally amazed by the sophistication of the results from the crudeness of the process," Kelly says proudly.

Now that he's graduated, Kelly says he is taking time to "decompress," but after that, who knows? He is exploring programs in archaeometallurgy in England—but no matter what he chooses to pursue, it's clear that he'll do so with energy and enthusiasm.

— Judith Lipsett

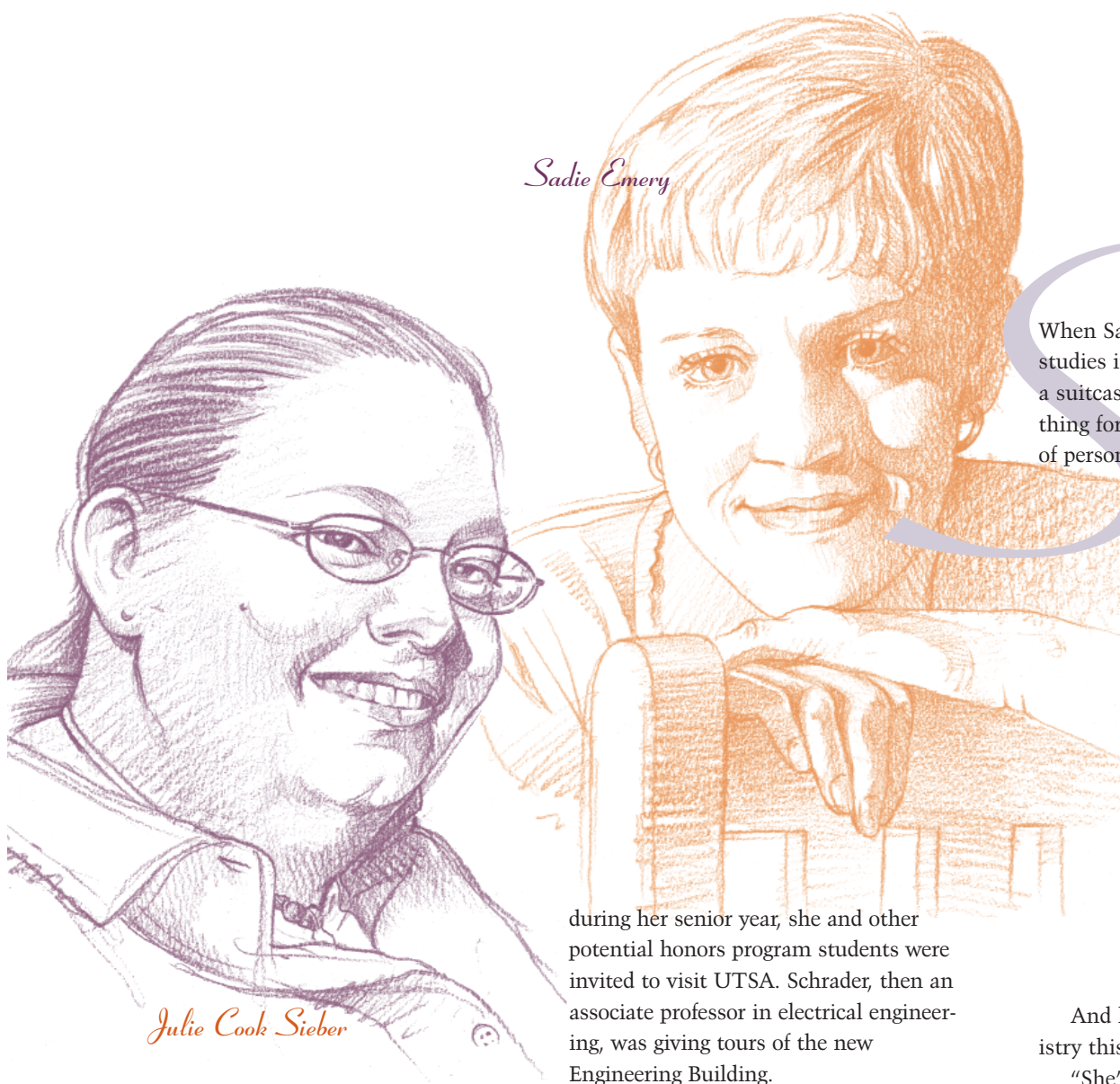


Brian Kelly

By her own report Julie Sieber can't prepare the simplest recipe. But give her a problem in electrical engineering to solve and she brings not only skill but a flourish of creativity to the task.

"A lot of engineers are good at following directions, but they're not as creative as Julie is. She's particularly innovative when designing components or systems that solve real-world problems. And she's demonstrated this ability since she was a freshman," says Cheryl Schrader, associate dean of the College of Sciences and the College of Engineering, and Sieber's adviser.

A natural at math and science at D'Hanis High School, Sieber knew she wanted to study engineering in college. She first had a notion to study petroleum engineering at Texas A&M University. But



Sadie Emery

Julie Cook Sieber

during her senior year, she and other potential honors program students were invited to visit UTSA. Schrader, then an associate professor in electrical engineering, was giving tours of the new Engineering Building.

"That's when I first met her," Sieber says. "I talked to her and my parents talked to her and I just got a better feel for the place." The personal touch plus the offer of a Presidential Honors Scholarship sealed the deal.

Engineering students have little room in their schedules for non-engineering electives. Participating in the honor's program meant adding extra classes to an already packed schedule. But Sieber finished her degree in five years, a typical length of study for engineering majors.

Sieber has been an intern and part-time employee at the Southwest Research Institute. And, according to her adviser, she was instrumental in organizing a student chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society.

But the student whom Schrader describes as amazing almost dropped out of the engineering program during her sophomore year.

"Your first circuits course, your first physics—that's when people start to drop out. But after the introductory classes, it's all building [on previous courses]. You start forming study groups and it really helps a lot," Sieber says. "I dropped a physics course and just took a semester to sit back and think about what I wanted to do."

Sieber soon decided both her head and her heart were into engineering. Both her honors thesis and her senior design project draw from her work in Schrader's lab—the Coding, Communication and Control (C-cubed) Lab. Sieber developed a way to model electromyographic signals—signals that you can measure on the skin when the brain sends a message to the spinal cord. The work has applications for use by people with spinal cord injuries.

"It was a cool project," Sieber says.

Sieber and her husband, Dillon, are moving to Ft. Worth, where she has a job lined up with Lockheed Martin working on the F-16 fighter plane. Her new job title, electronic engineer associate, doesn't begin to describe the work she'll be doing.

"It's top-of-the-line stuff," Sieber says.

— Lynn Gosnell

When Sadie Emery moves to West Texas to begin her graduate studies in clinical psychology at Texas Tech University, she'll take a suitcase of academic honors with her. But she'll also take something for which she received no diploma—a fierce belief, born out of personal tragedy, that the future is hers to create.

In 1995, while Emery was at junior college, she was stabbed by someone trying to steal her car. The attack left her with a spinal cord injury that required years of physical therapy. Meeting the challenge of physical therapy, as Emery explains it, gave her the confidence to try new intellectual challenges.

She switched majors from English to premed and transferred to UTSA.

"Before my accident, I was always slightly intimidated by math and science," she says. "But when I was in therapy, there were many times I'd be told to move a muscle or muscle group in certain ways and I'd have to figure out how to do that. . . . That helped me learn to think outside the box and also made me realize, 'Hey, in class you're provided with examples, teachers; everything's there for you. How hard can that be? All you have to do is learn it.' "

And learn it she did. Emery graduated with honors in chemistry this spring.

"She's very positive, very upbeat, very determined," says her adviser, John McClusky, associate professor of chemistry. "Sadie was told after the attack that she'd never walk again. Now she walks with only a leg brace. She's inquisitive, hard-working, decides what she wants and then goes after it."

Despite her achievement in the chemistry program, Emery decided to pursue a career in clinical psychology where she can combine her interests in science, research and behavior.

This summer, she's working with James Pennebaker, a psychology professor at UT-Austin. Pennebaker's use of journal writing to treat survivors of traumatic events will form the theoretical basis of Emery's first projects at Texas Tech.

Around the time she was deciding to pursue graduate study in clinical psychology, Emery attended a lecture by clinical psychologist and Holocaust survivor Edith Eva Eger. Eger's message profoundly touched Emery and strengthened her decision.

"What really clicked with me was Dr. Eger's message that how you live your life is a matter of how you choose to look at everything in your life," Emery says. "She shared with us how her mother had told her on the train to Auschwitz that everything had been taken away from them except what they put in their own minds.

"Science," Emery says, "is anything that's driven by the scientific method. A scientist isn't always someone in a lab with a microscope. I want to use science to help people; I want to be able to apply my findings in practical ways."

— Meredith Sterling

Alumni

Come aboard and join the UTSA Alumni Association in "Charting Our Future" at the 2001 Alumni Gala. The gala, scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Institute of Texan Cultures, serves as the association's major fund-raiser for the fall and honors UTSA's outstanding alumni. The inaugural gala in 2000 raised more than \$19,000 for scholarships and recognized alumni of the year Olga Aguirre '82, Pat Clynes '89, Bob Rivard '96, David Simon '89 and distinguished service award recipient Jorge Vega '79.

The highlights of the second annual gala include a beef tenderloin and shrimp dinner, a silent auction and a dance with music from the Mo-Dels. Alumni will also have a chance to win a cruise for two on the Alumni Cruise in May 2002 aboard the Carnival Celebration, compliments of Lynn and Ben Catalina Cruises Inc. This year's honorary chairs are Bob Rivard and his wife, Monika Maeckle.

In August, all members will receive a gala invitation and a chance to enter the raffle. Alumni interested in purchasing a sponsor table or donating to the silent auction can contact Jane Findling at (210) 458-4133 or jfindling@utsa.edu.



Rivard and Maeckle dance at last year's gala.

78 Joseph A. Buckholdt, B.A. in sociology, has retired after 25 years of service from Kelly Air Force Base where he was a war plans administrator.

Kenneth E. Goggio, B.A. in early childhood and elementary education, was listed in the 2000 edition of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." He has been teaching at Morrill Elementary in the Harlandale Independent School District for 23 years.

Daniel N. Vara Jr., B.A. in criminal justice, is chief legal officer for the INS in Miami where he was lead negotiator and local legal adviser for the Elian Gonzalez case. He has two daughters, Katarina, 11, and Kristin, 8.

79 Patrick Charles LeBlanc, B.B.A. in accounting, is controller with Pinnacle Natural Gas in Houston.

James V. Sartain, B.B.A. in accounting and business computer systems, is in the U.S. Navy in Panama City Beach, Fla., where he is the cultural and natural resources manager for the Coastal Systems Station. Jim was named Cultural Resources Manager of the Year for 2000 and accepted his award in Washington, D.C., in May.

Arthur P. Zuniga, B.S. in health and physical education, is senior probation officer with the Specialized Intensive Supervision Probation Unit at Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department. E-mail Arthur at artzuniga@co.bexar.tx.us.

80 Frank Charles, B.A. in history, M.A. in history '95, has been a teacher with the San Antonio Independent School District for 17 years. Frank is recuperating from an injury but hopes to return to teaching this fall. E-mail Frank at frosscharles@msn.com.

81 Sharon Alexander Layman, B.B.A. in finance, M.B.A. in business '85, is vice president and treasurer for Tesoro Petroleum Corporation in San Antonio.

Paul Micheli Jr., B.B.A. in accounting, is involved in a local prison ministry in the San Antonio area.

82 Anne Harris, B.B.A. in management, is senior litigation manager at USAA.

Daniel Villarreal, B.B.A. in accounting, is director of risk management with the North East Independent School District. Daniel and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of their son, Christopher Adam Villarreal, on Aug. 7, 2000.

83 Laurie Hoyt Ackels, B.B.A. in management, is an independent jewelry designer and beadwork artisan. Laurie and her husband, Gary, live in Helotes and have two children, Sean, 4, and Dylan, 2. E-mail Laurie at mslhatx@aol.com.

84 Robert F. Emerick, B.B.A. in finance, is vice president at Advantage Marketing Communications in Birmingham, Ala. He and his wife, Roberta, live in Homewood, Ala.

Thomas A. Trimble, M.P.A. in accounting, was recently elected president of the Downtown Optimist Club of San Antonio.

85 Catherine Ann Brinkmann Skurow, B.S. in civil engineering, is the owner of CAS Engineering Services in Portland, Texas. Catherine and her husband, David, were married in August 1996.

Kenneth R. Lecocq II, B.B.A. in accounting, is the director of government projects and title operations with Landata Technologies Inc. Kenneth and his wife, Sandra, have one daughter, Vanessa, 3.

Amador G. Rodriguez, B.B.A. in management, is owner of A.I.M. for Real Estate Inspections in San Antonio. He has been certified as an indoor air quality technician as well as a professional real estate inspector.

86 Juanita Carabajal, B.B.A. in accounting, M.B.A. in management '97, is the accounting manager for San Antonio Water System.

Jeffrey W. Clarke, B.S. in electrical engineering, was named to run Dell Computer's corporate personal computer product-development organization. He previously served as vice president and general manager of Dell's engineering workstation business where he led the company to the largest share of the engineering workstation market.

Bettie E. Karter, B.A. in humanities, is the development officer for the College of Engineering at UTSA.

Elaine McGuffin, B.S. in biology, is a manager with Deluxe Telecommunications in Colorado Springs, Colo. She received her M.B.A. from Regis University in Denver. Elaine and her husband, Robert, have two children, Jay and Isaac. E-mail Elaine at elainmcg@aol.com.

Mary Vance, M.A. in education, received the Radio Shack National Teacher Award in Science for 2001 and was honored with a reception and awards dinner at the National Science Teacher Association conference in St. Louis. She was also the recipient of the Texas Medical Association Science Teaching Award and the Ford Salute to Education Community Fund Grant for \$5,000.

87 John Clamp, B.B.A. in accounting, M.B.A. in finance '97, and his wife, Cindy, announce the birth of their daughter, Sarah Ann, on Aug. 24, 2000.

George Gonzalez Gonzalez, B.S. in biology, is an attorney-at-law in private practice in Denver where he is the owner of a downtown office building. George and his wife, Angela Martinez-Gonzalez, are expecting their first child this summer.

88 Robin Guerra, B.A. in Spanish, is senior production planner for Oberthur Gaming Technologies in San Antonio.

Ernestina Pacheco Mesa, B.B.A. in management, is the associate director of library technical services at the Ozuna Learning Resources Center, Palo Alto College. She received her master's degree in library science from UT Austin in 1991. Tina and her husband, Ronald, have two children, Michael Anthony, 6, and Brianna Nicole, 4.

Annetta Guillory Villarreal, B.B.A. in accounting, is president and CFO of Mommy's Helper Inc., a service providing help for working parents, the elderly and new parents. Her Web site is www.mommyshelperinc.net; her e-mail address is mommyshelper@stic.net. Annetta and her husband, Gary, have a 1-year-old son, Grant.

89 Shawn J. Franke, B.S. in civil engineering '89, is state president-elect for the Structural Engineers Association of Texas and is president of the association's local chapter. Shawn is vice president of Lundy and Franke Engineering in San Antonio and a member of the UTSA Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Frank H. Jakobs, B.B.A. in management, is the southwest region sales manager for Beiersdorf Inc., a German medical and skin care company. Frank is a fourth degree blackbelt in Tang Soo Do karate and is searching for a publisher for his first novel.

Andrew Fernandez Vicencio, B.B.A. in management, was a candidate for the 2001 San Antonio mayoral race. Andrew is employed at USAA and is an Army Reserve officer.

90 Kenneth C. Burow, B.B.A. in finance, is a loan officer with Security State Bank & Trust in Comfort, Texas.

R. Edward Corral, B.B.A. in accounting, is self-employed as a certified public accountant. Edward and his wife, Suzan, have a daughter, Alexis, born Oct. 16, 2000.

Michelle Long Held, B.S. in physical education, is a private residence club manager for Aspen Ski Company, Snowmass Club in Aspen, Colo.

91 George Antuna Jr., B.B.A. in management, is the South Texas regional director for U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Cheryl L. Spencer-Beck, B.S. in math, is the assistant principal for Emma B. Trask Middle School in Wilmington, N.C. Cheryl is listed in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers 2000."

Class Notes

Profile Visions of Grande

William Morrow's future as vice chairman and CEO of Grande Communications was foreshadowed while he was still a student at UTSA. For his senior thesis, Morrow, B.B.A. in management '86, was teamed with other students to develop a concept for a new business. Their idea, which was selected as the top project that year, was for a company that would build "smart homes"—houses wired for every service and convenience a homeowner could imagine.

This year—15 years later—Grande's broadband network began offering telephone, cable and Internet access services in select neighborhoods from Austin to San Antonio.



To paraphrase Barbara Mandrell, Morrow says with a laugh, "I was broadband when broadband wasn't cool."

Based in San Marcos, Grande Communications gradually is introducing its "cool" services along the I-35 corridor. The network is available to about 5,000 homes in San Antonio now; that number should be 70,000 by year's end, Morrow says. It will take five years, he says, "to build the entire corridor." Morrow founded the company in 1999 and was the sole employee. Today, Grande's workforce numbers 450.

Grande's repertoire, too, is growing. It recently added interactive TV to its menu of bundled services and announced plans to offer video-on-demand and television-based e-mail later this year.

Morrow prepared for his future and honed his business skills at several companies, starting with utility company Central and Southwest Corp. His 10 years with the company took him to various positions around the state, culminating in his position as founder and managing director of CSW Communications in Laredo. In 1996, he was recruited to help found UtiliCom Networks in Massachusetts; less than a year later, he moved to West Point, Ga., to work for Knology Inc. as the company's president, CEO, director and vice chairman.

But Morrow, a native of the Rio Grande Valley, always knew he'd come back to the Lone Star State. And Texas, he says, is a big part of Grande Communications. Ten of the company's top 15 executives are graduates of the UT System. Morrow's own office has a decidedly southwestern bent to its decor; there's even an iron dinner bell standing in the lobby.

"Businesses often get so busy, they don't effectively communicate with their own employees," he explains. "When we do something big, we ring the bell, and everybody comes out and celebrates together."

Though it can't compare with Grande's rapid growth, the Morrow family did double in size last December when he and his wife, Traci, adopted twin toddler boys, Westin and Wyatt, from Russia. Morrow became interested in adoption after a trip to Honduras to build houses for victims of Hurricane Mitch.

"That really opened my heart," he says. "There were several little kids down there that, if I could have put in a suitcase, I would have."

Outreach is also a part of Grande's mission. More than half the employees donate at least 1 percent of their salaries to the company's Passion and Commitment Club, a name borrowed from Grande's pledge to "serve our customers and communities with passion and commitment." The club has participated in various community projects, from aiding a family who lost their home in a fire to mentoring schoolchildren.

— Rebecca Luther

Veronica Felicia Forde, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies and education, and her husband, Jason, announce the birth of their son, Dylan Alejandro, on March 8.

Jeffery J. Makusky, B.S. in computer science, is a lead systems analyst with USAA. Jeffery and his wife, Andrea G. Whitlock, B.S. in computer science '93, have a 2-year-old daughter, Jamie Ann Makusky.

Joe Solis, B.B.A. in management, and his wife, Blanca, announce the birth of daughter, Melanie Citlalli, on April 15.

Nancy Tuttle Meza, B.B.A. in accounting, is a tax specialist-expatriate tax with Ernst & Young, LLP. Nancy and her husband, Joe, adopted three children—Ashley, 7, Jack, 4, and Keith, 3 on Jan. 25, 2000.

Carlos Barbosa, B.B.A. in finance, is a relationship manager with Wells Fargo Commercial Banking in San Antonio.

Judith Ann Boyer, B.A. in English, is a high school teacher at Burbank High School in the San Antonio Independent School District.

Terry T. Thill, B.B.A. in accounting, was promoted to manager on the client audit services team with Carneiro, Chumney & Co., L.C., Certified Public Accountants.

Marcia Marye Denton, M.A. in education, is an online mentor for teachers at Activelink Inc. in Austin. Marcia and her husband, Steve, celebrated their 25th anniversary on Feb. 21.

Humberto J. Varela Jr., B.A. in criminal justice, is a systems software specialist with Research Imaging Center. Humberto credits his degree and subsequent UTSA-sponsored internship in helping him to better design and implement computer security measures at a South Texas medical research facility. He is an active member of SurgicalEyes.org and an advocate for surgical patients' rights. His Web site is <http://home.satx.rr.com/rksa>.

Dina Ahrens, B.A. in criminal justice, recently completed the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission New Agent Training Academy in Austin and is stationed at the TABC district office in Corpus Christi.

Renee Crittenden-Garcia, B.A. in communication, has been appointed vice president of Connolly & Company in San Antonio after serving as vice president of communications for the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. Her community activities include being 2001–02 president of the Association for Women in

Communications San Antonio Professional Chapter, 2001 co-chair of the Enterprising Women's Conference sponsorship committee, and member of the March of Dimes Birth Defect Foundation. E-mail her at renee@connollycompany.com.

James Herbert Bodenstedt, B.B.A. in accounting, is chief operating officer/chief financial officer with R&L Foods Inc., D.B.A. Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut.

Trista L. DuBose Fugate, B.A. in criminal justice, is senior analyst for economic development with City Public Service. Trista and her husband, Charles, were married in August 1997.

Robert M. Levy, M.S. in environmental sciences, is the laboratory manager with Food Safety Net Services Ltd. in San Antonio.

Mariana Scuros Ornelas, M.A. in Spanish, was promoted to assistant professor of humanities and interdisciplinary studies at Palo Alto College. Mariana is working on a Web project about Chicana activists and professional women in San Antonio for a course she teaches on Mexican American women.

Justine Skopal, B.S. in kinesiology, is an eighth-grade physical education teacher and athletic director at Sam Brannan Middle School. Justine also coaches the seventh- and eighth-grade girls soccer team.

Antonio Garcia, B.S. in math, announces his engagement to Martha L. Lopez.

Autumn Rae Leal, B.A. in psychology, obtained a master's/specialist degree in 2001. She treats children ages 3 to 13. At a meeting in Washington, D.C., this April she presented research on children's learning disabilities. E-mail her at aleal@del-valle.K12.tx.us.

Johné D. Menn, B.A. in psychology, and his wife, Tracy, announce the birth of their daughter, Jacy, on Nov. 7, 2000.

Andrea Palen, B.A. in interdisciplinary studies, is a fourth-grade teacher at Hardy Oak Elementary School in San Antonio. Andrea recently presented a paper at the National Core Knowledge Conference in Boston, Mass.

Cindy H. Daugherty, B.B.A. in finance, is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in San Antonio.

Russell Edwin Ferguson, B.B.A. in accounting, is a certified public accountant and internal auditor with Valero Energy.

Roberto Juan Garza Garcia, B.S. in kinesiology, is director and general partner with Ensenada Adult Day Care. Roberto lives in Laredo, Texas.

Kimberly Kerr-Knott, B.S. in biology, and her husband, Charles, have a 1-year-old son, Charles Knott III.

Robert A. McGurk, B.B.A. in general business, is engaged to marry Allison Jacobs on July 28.

Jennifer Anne Naples, B.S. in kinesiology, earned her master's degree in nutrition and is a dietetic intern.

Edna Casarez Cruz, B.S. in biology, is a research assistant I with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Bianca P. De Hoyos, B.B.A. in information systems, is a business analyst/consultant with CSC Credit Services in San Antonio.

Elizabeth Delgado, B.A. in communication, was promoted to volunteer and event coordinator at USAA in Phoenix, Ariz.

Curtis Dewitt, B.B.A. in information systems, is employed in diabetes sales with Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals Inc. Curtis and his wife, Deborah, live in Hurst, Texas. They have a daughter, Kimberly Rae, born March 22.

Henry Esparza, B.A. in political science, earned his master's degree in political science and international political economy this year and is an executive analyst/consultant with George May International Co.

Elisa G. Estrada, B.A. in Spanish, announces her engagement to Jesus Fernando Estrada on July 14.

Donovan Clark Fikes, B.B.A. in general business, is a financial strategist with Mass Mutual Financial Group in San Antonio.

Patricia A. Gonzalez, B.B.A. in information systems, is a programmer analyst for purchasing and small business development with City Public Service.

Nicole Greer, B.B.A. in information systems, is an IT systems analyst with USAA.

Sandy Jimenez-Huizar, B.F.A. in art, is a studio associate with Target Portrait Studio. Sandy and her husband, Ronald, were married April 8, 2000.

James W. Martin II, B.S. in biology, is a transportation officer with the U.S. Air Force. James was commissioned through officer training school on Jan. 12.

E. Yvette Palacios-Herder, B.B.A. in management, is the construction project manager with Incore Construction Inc. in San Antonio.

Eric Anthony Petersen, B.B.A. in general business, is executive director with Project Destiny, a nonprofit youth sports agency.

Juliet Antoinette Reyes, B.A. in American studies, is engaged to marry Eddie Ray Rodriguez on Oct. 20.

Kirk Woods, B.B.A. in information systems, is a programmer analyst II with Dell Computer.

Janine Naomi Brasseaux-Sanders, B.A. in criminal justice, is engaged to marry Paul Wilson Sanders III on Nov. 20.

Todd Grant Dorris, B.B.A. in general business, is the administrative assistant with Roadrunner Energy Inc. in Uvalde, Texas. Todd and his wife, Blair Finley Brieden, were married Sept. 23, 2000.

Noralba Salinas Martinez, B.A. in criminal justice and psychology, is a family support worker with Healthy Families. Noralba and her husband, Jorge, have one son, Jorge Jr., born Jan. 22, 2000. E-mail Noralba at noralba@prodigy.com.

Christie L. Rosanno, B.B.A. in finance, is a credit analyst officer with National Bank of Commerce in San Antonio. She is a member of the Financial Management Association and Women in Communications.

Allison Stoddard Singleton, M.B.A. in business, is an IT systems analyst with USAA. Allison and her husband, Scott, were married Jan. 20. E-mail Allison at allisonksingleton@hotmail.com.

Andrea J. Wise, M.A. in bicultural-bilingual studies, is a Spanish teacher at Lake Forest High School in Lake Forest, Ill.

IN MEMORIAM

Benjamin Dowling Caraway died in Atlanta on Dec. 30, 2000, at age 46. Dr. Caraway was a graduate of Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston. While serving in the U.S. Army, Dr. Caraway obtained his B.S. in biology from UTSA, graduating in 1982. He received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1985. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Lubbock and his residency in neurology at the University of Cincinnati Health Science Center, Ohio. He was in private practice specializing in epilepsy medicine and child neurology in Atlanta. He was the first recipient of the Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia Professional Advisory Board's Distinguished Service Award, which was posthumously named the Ben D. Caraway Distinguished Service Award.

Virginia Garza died March 3 at the age of 64. Virginia was a graduate of Mercedes High School and Pan American College with a B.S. in elementary education. She received her M.S. in early childhood education from UTSA in 1975. Prior to working as an education specialist at Region I E.S.C. in Edinburg, she worked with Southwest Education Development Laboratory in Austin and taught for 11 years in Venezuela.

Profile

It's all about the kids

Not every elementary school teacher gets a hug and peck on the cheek from the president of the United States. But Linda DeMino is a very special teacher.

DeMino (B.A. in early childhood and elementary education '79, M.S. in education '83) was named 2000–2001 Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year for her work as a special education teacher at the Howard Early Childhood Center in San Antonio's Alamo Heights School District. DeMino has spent almost all of her 23-year career at Howard and all of it teaching special needs children.

"My goal has been to help others understand that it does not take a special person to teach special needs children, but rather a person who believes that all children have the capacity to learn," she wrote in the Teacher of the Year application.

DeMino won the state award in October. In April, she traveled to Washington, D.C., with other state winners to meet President Bush, who gave her the hug and kiss when he learned she was from Texas. For her, being Teacher of the Year means she has "the honor to represent the profession."

"I think what makes me a successful teacher is I don't think I'm the authority [on children]—I'm just part of the team," she says.

DeMino decided to become a teacher during her senior year in high school when she volunteered, along with other members of her Alamo Heights High School's pep squad, to help out with Special Olympics. "I just had such a good time that day with those kids," she says. "Even if they didn't win, they were still so excited about being there."

The athletes' enthusiasm was so infectious that DeMino, who had planned to study art in college, instead decided that teaching special needs children would

be her life's work. She enrolled at UTSA as a member of the university's first freshman class and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

But when she first started her career, special education teachers often were seen more as babysitters than true teachers, she says. That's because special needs children were not considered to be capable of learning.

That perception has changed greatly over the span of DeMino's career, she says, and her recognition as Teacher of the Year is only one indicator of just how far special education has come. But she measures success not in awards or trips to the Oval Office but in the small triumphs of her 3- and 4-year-old students: when an autistic child speaks her first word, or when a toddler who exhibits symptoms of cerebral palsy sits up on his own.

"When you hear a child who hasn't talked say 'I love you' or 'Good-bye' to their parent and see that parent's face," she says, "there's no better gift than that."

— Rebecca Luther



Looking Back

Worth a thousand words



Since the mid-1970s, I've taken more than 10,000 photos of our commencement ceremonies. When I'm asked about my favorite photos and especially my favorites from commencement, the first image to come to mind is of a graduate hugging her young daughter after crossing the stage. I took this series of photos on May 12, 1990. I saw a little girl in the arms of her father standing along the west aisle where parents and friends wait to get a photo of their graduate as they cross the stage. The scene caught my eye because the child was getting so excited as she saw her mother crossing the stage. I shot a photo of the girl waiting for her mother, one of her being hugged and one as her mother released her to go sit with the other graduates. The girl began to cry, and kept crying, because she wanted to go with her mother to sit down. But I never got the name of this graduate. Do you know who this is?

— John Poindexter



The University of Texas at San Antonio
Office of University Communications
6900 North Loop 1604 West
San Antonio, Texas 78249-0619

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1808
Dallas, TX

Come here. Go far.