

THE STORY OF UTSA IN 50 OBJECTS | 50 MOMENTS FROM 50 YEARS

50M BRILLA

WINTER
SPRING
2019

MAGAZINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO | SOMBRILLAMAG.COM

Happier Birthday



Welcome to
SOMBRILLA MAGAZINE

FEATURES | WINTER | SPRING 2019

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50 Years

From the founding event at the Alamo to the Downtown Campus expansion announcement, these 50 events shaped UTSA's first half century.

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in 50 Objects

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➤ *The Kampmann-Halff House in Hemisfair Park—the first UTSA campus?*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY TAYLOR EIGHMY

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

This issue of *Sombrilla Magazine* celebrates UTSA's remarkable first 50 years. Honoring our past does much more than simply inspire nostalgia. It serves as an important reminder of just how far we've come and creates the perfect launching pad for our bright future.

We will have many occasions during the 2019 calendar year to mark UTSA's extraordinary journey. Our institution was born out of real need for more public higher education in San Antonio and the opportunities it would bring to the young people of South Texas. We grew rapidly, evolving in only a half century from a commuter campus and little sibling to UT Austin into the place we are today—university on the rise situated squarely in the city of the future.

The journey for UTSA's next 50 years will be equally remarkable—characterized by faster growth, national attention for our academic programs of distinction, continued dramatic increases in our retention and graduation rates, and a research enterprise that rivals the best universities in the country. These goals are lofty, yes, but entirely attainable given the remarkable ingredients we have here. UTSA's strategic plan (utsa.edu/strategicplan) maps our path.

The stories between these covers drive home one of the main reasons I fell in love with this university. Since the very beginning UTSA has transformed lives and prepared young people to go out and change the world. As we look ahead to our next decade, we're escalating our ability to graduate students who make a difference through a firm focus on programs that drive student success through experiential learning and engagement. UTSA's role as a driver of opportunity and economic prosperity hasn't changed in 50 years. And it will continue for the next 50.

UTSA truly embodies the hopes and dreams of generations. I hope you enjoy the walk down memory lane and join me in eager anticipation of the great things to come.



Taylor

SOMBRILLA
MAGAZINE

WINTER SPRING 2019 | ISSUE 80

TAYLOR EIGHMY
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CREATIVE & WEB
PRODUCTIONSTORIES
TO WATCH

UTSA IS A HUB OF ACTIVITY

{ 1 }

A Master Plan

The campus master plan task force will continue developing the university's final plan throughout the beginning of the year, wrapping up in the summer. The plan will adopt a strategy for long-term growth on Main Campus and Downtown Campus, integrating sustainability best practices while preserving natural resources and the culture of the campus. The task force has been tasked with ensuring that the plan is linked closely to the university's strategic vision and priorities and that the process followed to shape the plan is highly collaborative, involving the UTSA and San Antonio communities.

{ 2 }

New Tech & Opportunities

The College of Engineering and Office of Information Technology's newly launched Digital Experience Lab will provide even more ways for faculty, students, and staff to use cutting-edge technology. The lab includes more than 20 virtual reality headsets that were created through a partnership with industry leaders Labster, Google, and Lenovo and released to universities in a pilot program. The space can also be used for training and comes with more than 30 laptops.

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A Standout Player

UTSA volleyball player Kirby Smith was named Conference USA Freshman of the Year in a voting of the league's coaches. A native of Plano, Smith is the first U

Welcome to SOMBRILLA MAGAZINE

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PLAZAS & PASEOS

4 UTSA is making great strides to become a national leader in student veteran support.

7 Researchers have created the Arctic CyberInfrastructure, which will combine thousands of images taken along the Arctic Ocean into one global database.

8 With the launch of the Roadrunner Athletic Center of Excellence, UTSA hopes to provide its student-athletes a state-of-the-art hub to improve their own academic success, health, wellness, and performance.

9 Abhijit Majumdar is not only an electrical engineering graduate student who teaches others about the fundamentals of robotics but also an innovator who works to develop the autonomous capabilities of self-driving vehicles.

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'RUNNERS & SHAKERS

38 Milton Babbitt, the architect behind Sombrilla Plaza, discusses the creation of Main Campus.

41 At 101, Paul Kattapong is UTSA's oldest alumnus. The Thailand native opens up about his life and education, and he shares a few tips about making it to the centennial club.

42 Between jokes about Jheri curls, Wayne Terry and Trish DeBerry fondly recall their journey to become the first Mr. and Ms. UTSA at the inaugural homecoming.

43 What came first—Rowdy or the egg? Tony Gonzalez III has the answer. He was the first UTSA student to don Rowdy's feathers, and he's still humbled by the honor.

IN EACH ISSUE

44 Lesson Learned
Experts in the Center for Archaeological Research have been digging up the past since UTSA's beginning.

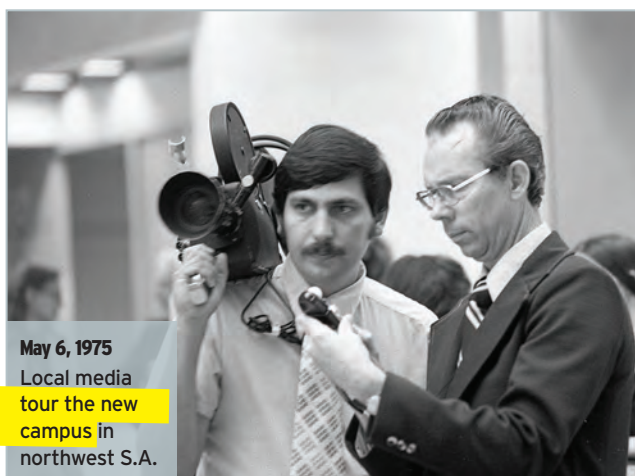
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(#)UTSA WATCH NOSTALGIA EDITION

SHOWCASING ROADRUNNER PRIDE FROM THE ARCHIVES



June 5, 1974
Students mark
the first year
of classes.



May 6, 1975
Local media
tour the new
campus in
northwest S.A.



July 13, 1975
TxDOT installs
new signs for
the campus on
Loop 1604.

About SOMBRILLA MAGAZINE



SOMBRILLA (SPANISH):
UMBRELLA
(SOHM-BREE-YAH)

SOMBRILLA MAGAZINE is the official publication of The University of Texas at San Antonio. It is published three times a year and distributed without charge to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of UTSA. The magazine strives to capture the intellectual, cultural, and social life of the university while tackling relevant global issues.

University Communications and Marketing produces SOMBRILLA MAGAZINE and other publications that highlight the achievements and impact of Roadrunners throughout the world. The division is responsible for promoting the university's mission of academic and research excellence.

CONTACT US

Are you interested in sending an update for Class Notes or sharing news with other Roadrunners? Send submissions to:

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STORIES TO WATCH

UTSA IS A HUB OF ACTIVITY

UTSA player to earn C-USA Freshman of the Year honors since the Roadrunners joined the conference in 2013. UTSA's last standout named Freshman of the Year was Megan Daniel in the Southland Conference in 2003. The UTSA volleyball team posted a 19–8 record this season and finished in second in Conference USA.

{ 4 }

Urban Support

Professor Antonio Petrov and his students in the Urban Future Lab continue to research San Antonio's grandest challenges, such as how to address a lack of development in the Southside Mission San Jose and Quintana Road communities. A part of the College of Architecture, Construction and Planning, the Urban Future Lab is a living laboratory that explores the rapidly changing dynamics of urban futures and how they relate to local currencies.

{ 5 }

UTSA History, Your Memories

As part of UTSA's 50th anniversary celebration, being observed throughout 2019, all members of the Roadrunner family are encouraged to share personal stories about your memories, special moments, or connections to the university. You can submit photos or tell your tale by emailing us (50years@utsa.edu), interacting with posts on our social media channels (@utsa on all platforms) or visiting the 50th anniversary site (utsa.edu/50) and using the special form for submissions.



MILITARY
STUDENT SUPPORT

LEADING THE Charge

UTSA BECOMES A NATIONAL FORERUNNER
IN MILITARY STUDENT SUPPORT

BY SHEA CONNER

It's a familiar refrain at universities across the country. Student veterans feel like they're getting the runaround. Student vets frequently require more interaction

with registrars, financial aid, academic advising, career centers, student health, counseling, and disability services than traditional students, and navigating that

bureaucracy can be overwhelming for those students who have served. Some are relatively older and supporting families; others are acclimating to the independence of the college experience after years of military structure.

So it seems only fitting that UTSA—which enrolls

nearly 5,000 students who identify as veterans, active duty, guard and reserve, ROTC, dependents, and family members in the heart of Military City USA—would do something to make their lives a little easier. "We've brought together the fragmented services for veterans, and we've brought them

together under one office," says Lisa Carrington Firmin, retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Bronze Star recipient, and UTSA's associate vice president for veteran and military affairs.

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs has consolidated veteran support services by bringing the

Veterans Certification Office, the Hazlewood financial aid program, and the university's VA VetSuccess on Campus counselors under its wing. With hopes of leading the charge for other public universities across the nation, UTSA has now elevated its military connections and operational veteran support to the highest levels of university administration. Those levels of support and representation will allow the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs to develop partnerships, institute policies and programming, and serve UTSA's military affiliated community in unprecedented ways.

One focal point is to provide a true "one-stop shop" to fulfill the needs of UTSA's military affiliated students at the John Peace Library. This soon-to-be-finished space will be called the Center for Military Affiliated Students. "Is their need with vet certification? Do they need to meet one of the VA VetSuccess on Campus counselors? Do they need financial assistance or emergency funds? Is their need faculty support? Tutoring? Career assistance? Do they need to meet one of our community partners or drop a class or meet privately with an adviser? The CMAS will serve as the central repository, and we help them with all of their needs," Firmin says.

The new consolidated support services model will be much more efficient and personalized to student needs, says Sandra Morissette, professor of clinical

PLAZAS & PASEOS

Big Data
Tracking Changes
in the Arctic

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Athletics
New Center
to Aid Students

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Engineering
Building a
Better World

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psychology, teacher of military health psychology, and director of the Trauma Health Research in Veterans' Experiences Laboratory at UTSA. While reaching the military-affiliated population remains a challenge, she feels the right people and pieces are in place for UTSA to lead the pack in veteran support. "[Firmin's] leadership and the model she has developed have been vital in prioritizing military-affiliated student success," she says, "and ultimately, I believe UTSA's program could become a national model for other universities."

The consolidation of services will also include the creation of a place designed for students to network, socialize, and study while receiving career training and assistance from community partners such as VA Health, Mission United, DAV, and the Texas Veterans Commission. A third-floor study room specifically for student veterans is already available and a fourth-floor hangout-and-networking space exclusive to veterans and military affiliated students will be available soon in the JPL. Firmin says these destinations will give student vets the

Power Partnerships

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs has partnered with organizations to further assist its military-affiliated students. Representatives visit UTSA monthly to offer assistance in a variety of areas.

Mission United

- ☐ Basic needs (food and clothing)
- ☐ Financial assistance (rent and utilities)
- ☐ Job training and placement
- ☐ Legal support
- ☐ Mental health services
- ☐ Parenting support programs

Texas Veterans Commission

- ☐ Interview skills and mock interviews
- ☐ Résumé writing
- ☐ Work in Texas profiles
- ☐ Transforming military experience into civilian experience

Disabled American Veterans

- ☐ Information about benefits available to veterans, their dependents, and survivors
- ☐ The preparation of claims
- ☐ Adjustment of benefits
- ☐ Advice, instruction, and counseling for claimants

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

- ☐ Information on VA health care and related services
- ☐ Comments or concerns about VA health care
- ☐ Enrollment eligibilities for VA health care
- ☐ Setup clinic or related service
- ☐ Referrals to non-VA community partners

opportunity to bond with each other, make lasting connections, and ease their transition to higher education. "The sense of community, camaraderie, and esprit de corps that you have in the military—it's hard to fill that void," she says. "It'll be a force multiplier for us."

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs is also developing a stand-alone student veteran orientation in addition to a credited course that walks vets through the transition to higher education. Such innovative approaches and attention to detail are driving UTSA's reputation for serving student veterans higher and higher. UTSA ranked third among the nation's research institutions in Victory Media's rating of Military Friendly Schools.

Heather Frazer, a student development specialist at the Tomás Rivera Center and a member of the Veteran Services Advisory Team, says Firmin's leadership has positively impacted student veterans as well as staff and faculty. Not only has she encouraged collaboration and teamwork across campus, but she has greatly emphasized a holistic focus on student vets. "She and the rest of the staff affiliated with Veteran and Military Affairs," Frazer says, "are dedicated to meeting the needs of the *whole* veteran—academic, financial, social, and emotional." 🐾





BIG DATA
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Arctic TRACKING

UTSA EXPERTS HELP BUILD A DATABASE
TO AID IN RESEARCH OF THE NORTH POLE

BY MILADY NAZIR

It's called the Arctic CyberInfrastructure and promises to combine the thousands of images that have been taken along the years of the Arctic Ocean into one global database that will help scientists and the world see the physical changes occurring in the region, including ice loss. The hope is that this web-based repository will allow researchers to spend more time analyzing information rather than just collecting and processing data.

"This is to help scientists spend more time doing the science," says Professor Alberto Mestas-Núñez, one of two researchers at UTSA working on the on-demand data mining module. "At present time there isn't a place on the internet that provides all these datasets but also an algorithm that allows to extract the information," adds Mestas-Núñez. "Most of the time scientists

spend time getting data and preparing it. Typically, it's about 80% preparing the data and 20% doing the actual science. We want to break that paradigm."

The original idea to build ArcCI came from Professor Hongjie Xie, the principal investigator of the project at UTSA and a professor in the university's Department of Geological Sciences. Although big-data analytics and dashboards are prevalent in many industries, the technology has yet to be applied fully to monitoring the Arctic's sea ice. "We have to harness the data revolution," says Xie. "It's about learning more in order to navigate the new Arctic."

Xie along with Xin Miao at Missouri State University started working on the project five years ago. Now the National Science Foundation has given the green light in the way of funding to develop the online system, which uses high-resolution imaging either obtained

on-site, via satellites, or via airborne monitoring.

The system will allow the scientific community the ability to readily extract detailed information of various ice properties, including submerged ice, ice concentration, melt ponds or ice edge—the boundary between an area of ice and the open sea. The on-demand database will be dynamic and allowed to include new algorithms as well as additional data sets as they become available. Currently, the cloud-based system holds about a terabyte of images, but that number will surely grow. The earliest data set is from 1998 from the Sheba expedition, which conducted 13 flights over the Beaufort Sea. Now, researchers will include close to 1,760 declassified images.

"We will use the power of the image," says Xie about the large amount of declassified information that will be integrated into ArcCI. 🐼

DISCOVERY AT UTSA

ALZHEIMER'S CHALLENGE:

When billionaire James Truchard retired from running his successful tech company, National Instruments, he could have begun a life of leisure. Instead, he is passionate about finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. "I get bored easily," he says. "What better use of my time than to look for the best ideas to solve a complex, multifaceted problem."

Truchard has donated \$5 million to UTSA's College of Sciences to establish the Oskar Fischer Project, funding high-risk, high-reward ideas that could lead to groundbreaking transformations. The project honors the doctor who was a leading researcher on the disease but died in a Nazi concentration camp.

The Oskar Fischer Project will engage the world's brightest minds to hopefully bring new answers where no new research has appeared in the past 40 years. The challenge project will award a grand prize of \$2 million, two second place prizes of \$500,000 each, and four third place prizes of \$250,000 each.

UTSA, a world leader in brain health research, will incubate the two-year challenge in the UTSA Brain Health Consortium, where 38 of the nation's brightest scientists are engaged in research on brain mechanisms and therapeutics.

DISCOVERY AT UTSA

TRAINING NEW

LEADERS: Developing the next generation of dynamic science leaders from diverse student populations is the goal of a three-year, \$500,000 National Science Foundation award to UTSA. An interdisciplinary project led by Janis Bush, a professor of environmental science and ecology, was one of 12 new studies funded by the NSF's Innovations in Graduate Education. The project, "Advancing and Strengthening Science Identity through Systematic Training," is meant to produce an innovative graduate education model that can be transferred to other minority-serving institutions with student populations similar to those at UTSA. Targeting students in the Department of Environmental Science and Ecology, the ASSIST program will cultivate student success in science, technology, engineering, and math graduate education through three interventions: holistic mentoring, scientific writing, and public science communication.

BR-A-A-AINS: The next generation of brain health research has received a boost in funding. UTSA's Brain Health Consortium and the College of Engineering are offering \$90,000 in seed grants for graduate students ➔

ATHLETICS ACADEMICS & TRAINING

Game CHANGER

BY SHEA CONNER

As UTSA strived to become more competitive in Division I athletics in recent years, it became apparent to everyone involved—fans, coaches, staff, and student-athletes—that the university's aging athletics facilities were holding the Roadrunners back. The university greatly needed facilities that would adequately serve the needs of its student-athletes and improve the kind of recruiting efforts that are paramount to successful sports programs.

This harsh reality sparked an initiative, launched in the fall, to create the new Roadrunner Athletics Center of Excellence. The multipurpose sports

UTSA LAUNCHES PLANS FOR A STATE-OF-THE-ART ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE CENTER

center will provide UTSA's 350-plus athletes a hub to improve their own academic success, health, wellness, and performance. "We want to ensure our student-athletes are having an exceptional experience—that they're getting the right training, getting the right treatments, getting the best academic services, and having the opportunity to be in a first-class weight room," says Athletics Director Lisa Campos.

The new facility will be home to much-improved strength and conditioning spaces, football locker rooms, coaches' offices, team

meeting spaces, and an academic center in addition to a sports medicine center, research labs, and classrooms that will enhance academic collaboration with the Department of Kinesiology, Health and Nutrition and public-private partnerships in health and sports medicine. Most notably, the complex will also feature an indoor practice field with an artificial turf surface adjacent to an outdoor practice field with a grass surface. Both have the potential to be used by local sports organizations and community partners.

A committee led by Campos is working

with architectural firms Populous and Marmon Mok to determine the design and ideal location. In a radio interview President Taylor Eighmy said UTSA's model for the new athletics center is the recently completed Vanier Family Football Complex at Kansas State University, which was also designed by Populous, a world-renowned creator of sporting venues and athletics facilities.

The center will be developed in partnership with the Roadrunner Athletics Foundation. The estimated cost of the facility, which ranges from \$37 million to \$44 million, will be fully covered by external fundraising and philanthropic support. ➔

1604 SECONDS WITH...

PRODUCT INNOVATOR **ABHIJIT MAJUMDAR**

King PROTOTYPE

BY MILADY NAZIR

Abhijit Majumdar is an electrical engineering graduate student. He not only mentors students and teaches the fundamentals of robotics but also works in UTSA's Autonomous Controls Engineering Lab, which develops capabilities for self-driving vehicles. Among his peers and professors, Majumdar is known for his ability to prototype inventions.

Can you describe some of the prototypes you have built? My research focus is on intelligent self-learning robotics. This led me to develop prototypes for different kinds of drones, an AI system to securely monitor an area, and alert authorities for abnormalities. I've also developed simulations for autonomous cars learning to drive and therefore avoid obstacles along a path while they navigate toward a goal. To help the elderly or blind population walk through a cluttered area, I constructed a smart walker, and in agriculture, I built a monitoring device to measure the content of nitrogen in plants during fertilization.



How do you see yourself—as entrepreneur or innovator? I like to think of myself more as an innovator, since I wouldn't want myself to be constrained with profit margins. I just like to try some cool inventions. Although, I would like to see my innovations put to good use and benefit others.

How does it feel to already have patents under your belt and how many do you have? It is exciting to see my research actually being useful to the community. The patent is just a step in formulating the work into a viable product. Currently, I have one filed and another in the process.

Is innovation something that you work at like a

muscle? Definitely. You need to keep at it all the time. But that is what brings in the drive to do it, the prospective result of the effort and the understanding on how one's innovation could be useful to others.

How do you feed your curiosity? How do you get inspired to create?

Keep exploring and never stop looking. It is usually difficult to convince me that something works in a particular way without providing enough proof, and that is what I seek. Your mentors might not always be available to answer all of your questions; however, they can point you in the right direction. That is usually enough for me to start digging deep into what, how, and why something

works. Inspiration to create is easy, once you learn how something works.

What are your plans after UTSA?

I have been hired as an artificial intelligence robotics engineer at PlusOne Robotics [where he works since graduating in December]. The company makes smart autonomous robots that will work to better handle logistic operations in harmony with humans.

Name a person who inspires you?

It's not a surprise, but my greatest inspiration is my dad. He's a research scientist at the Central Institute for Cotton Research and develops harvesting machinery. He builds and develops prototypes; however, the most inspiring undertaking from his work is when his prototypes and ideas are finally realized into products and put to practical use.

What advice do you give your friends?

Hungry raho, which in Hindi translates to *stay hungry*. This was advised by a friend, Ruta Dandekar, who intended to say, "Always stay hungry for food, exploration, curiosity, work, and life." 🍽️

DISCOVERY AT UTSA

and postdoctoral research fellows. Specifically, the consortium was eager to give trainees the opportunity to learn new cutting-edge techniques in stem-cell and regenerative-medicine research to help propel them into a career of novel scientific and human therapeutic discovery.

HIT IT, SI: Si Millican, a professor in the Department of Music, has been named a recipient of the Modern Band Higher Education Fellowship by the nonprofit organization Little Kids Rock. As a part of this fellowship Millican traveled to Florida International University, where he received training in modern band programs. With a faculty member serving as a fellow in the program, UTSA will receive instruments, including guitars, drum sets, keyboards, and vocal microphones and amplifiers for students to use in the music teacher education program. Students will also receive teaching plans, resources, and additional training from the Little Kids Rock teaching faculty. "These instruments," says Millican, "help us ensure that music education graduates from UTSA are equipped to teach not only those band, choir, and orchestra programs but also the music that students and their families find important."

UTSA@50

50 MOMENTS — from — 50 YEARS

SINCE UTSA'S FOUNDING IN 1969, ROADRUNNERS HAVE HAD SOME MOMENTOUS EXPERIENCES. HERE, WE EXPLORE SOME OF THE MOST REMARKABLE ONES. AND TO DIVE INTO A MORE EXTENSIVE TIME LINE OF UNIVERSITY HISTORY VISIT OUR ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE ON UTSA.EDU/50.

BY MICHAEL ELKINS EDWARDS

"There goes our school colors [of red, white, and blue], the Eagles as the name of the athletic teams, and the designation 'USA' for the university."

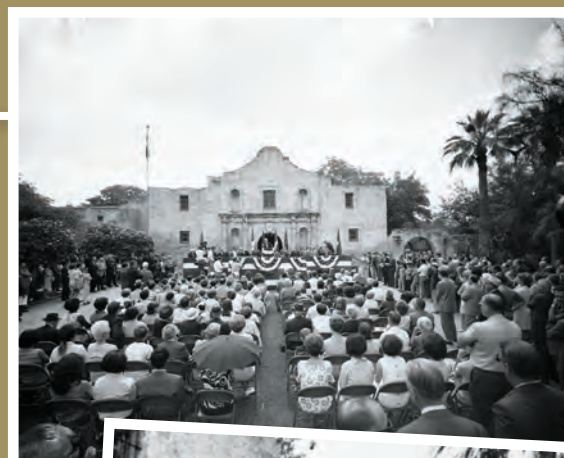


The Texas representative considered the "father of UTSA," **FRANK LOMBARDINO**, **EXPRESSES HIS DISAPPOINTMENT** to the *San Antonio Light* newspaper that the name he'd proposed—the University of San Antonio—for a new institution in his hometown district is not available. Lombardino's discovery that a charter for the University of San Antonio had been filed in 1966 by three St. Mary's University professors leads him to amend his legislation to instead propose establishing The University of Texas at San Antonio.

JANUARY 29, 1969

JUNE 5, 1969

During a ceremony held in front of the Alamo, **GOV. PRESTON SMITH CREATES THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO** by signing into law House Bill 42 of the 61st Texas Legislature on the back of Rep. Frank Lombardino. Emceeding the historic event—it was reported to be the first time in the history of the state that a governor had signed a bill outside Austin—Chamber of Commerce president John Steen tells the crowd that the signing marks "if not the greatest day in the history of this 251-year-old city, then at least the greatest in the history of its higher education."



MAY 10, 1970

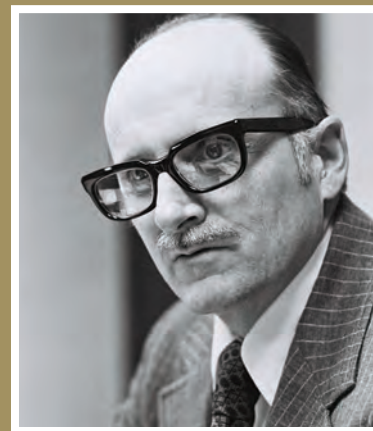
The former president of Sam Houston State University, **ARLEIGH B. TEMPLETON**, BECOMES THE FIRST **PRESIDENT OF UTSA**. He serves until December 21, 1972, when he becomes the president of UT El Paso.


FEBRUARY 1, 1972

After regents approve plans for development of the northwest San Antonio campus, work gets under way. The *San Antonio Light* runs a front page photo of a drain pipe that's been installed near the location: "It's only a lone piece of pipe in a storm drain right now, but it's a **VITAL LINK IN THE BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO**. Bulldozers are at work clearing land for a paved roadway to skirt the southern boundary of the site [what will become UTSA Boulevard]."

DECEMBER 26, 1972

A former vice president at UT Austin, **PETER T. FLAWN IS APPOINTED ACTING PRESIDENT**. He becomes the second president of UTSA on January 6, 1973, and serves until December 31, 1977, when he returns to UT Austin to be president.



Meeting in Austin, the UT System regents approve a conceptual design plan for the new university and accept the firms Ford, Powell & Carson Architects and Cocke, Bartlett & Associates as a combined team to draw up specifications and produce final architectural drawings. Lead **ARCHITECT O'NEIL FORD WILL DESIGN A CAMPUS** that he describes as being reminiscent of a Spanish town with a central plaza and courtyard and paseos that lead to them.


DECEMBER 4, 1970

FIFTY FACULTY ARE HIRED, with Dewey D. Davis, who will be a professor in the Division of Education, becoming first appointed. On July 30 the *San Antonio Light* talks with Louis Rodriguez, UTSA's academic dean about the new hires: "We can bring the people here, show them around the city, and they like what they see. San Antonio is a help to us! And I have confidence that we'll be a help to the city."


JUNE 9, 1972

UT System regents **TURN ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF THE INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES OVER TO UTSA**. Opened as the Texas State Exhibits Pavilion for the HemisFair '68 world's fair, the facility became part of the UT System at, coincidentally, the same 1969 ceremony in front of the Alamo at which UTSA was signed into law by Governor Preston. The UT System further designated the ITC as a UTSA campus, the Hemisfair Campus, in February 1986.


FEBRUARY 1, 1973

MARCH 30, 1973

President Peter Flawn presents a letter of acceptance to **PEGGY JO THOLEN, THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST STUDENT**. Tholen, an elementary school teacher in the North East Independent School District in San Antonio, was the first prospective student to submit an application for admission.



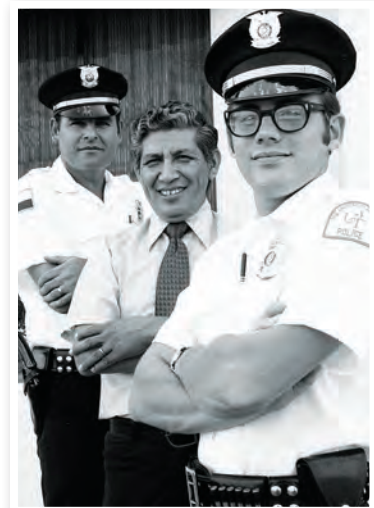
AUGUST 3, 1973

UTSA announces its **FIRST RESEARCH CENTERS**. The Center for Studies in Business, Economics, and Human Resources is followed by the Center for Archaeological Research on September 25, 1974. CAR is the university's oldest still-operating research center.



OCTOBER 15, 1973

UTSA's **FIRST POLICE OFFICERS** have graduated from the UT System Police Academy in Austin: Kenneth English and Douglas Mursch.



Four years to the day after it was founded **UTSA ADMITS ITS FIRST 671 GRADUATE STUDENTS** and begins summer-session classes taught by 52 faculty members in leased facilities at the Koger Center, near IH 410 and Babcock Road. Master's degrees are offered in business administration, education, bicultural-bilingual studies, English as a second language, environmental management, Spanish, management of physical resources, mathematics and systems design, and bilingual medical interpreting.



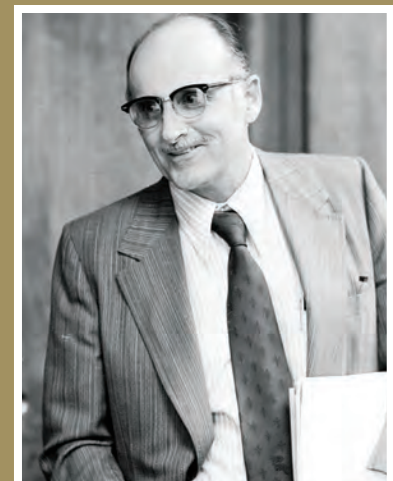
JUNE 5, 1973

UTSA's very **FIRST FALL SEMESTER GETS UNDER WAY** with 1,042 students enrolled. The student body is 56% men and 44% women. The administration reports that the Koger Center facilities are filled to capacity.



SEPTEMBER 6, 1973

UTSA gets its **FIRST NATIONAL ACADEMIES FACULTY MEMBER**, when Peter Flawn is elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He is cited for leadership in environmental geology and engineering.



APRIL 5, 1974

JUNE 5, 1974

The university marks the **ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES** by sending first student Peggy Jo Tholen to Austin with a birthday cake to share with Gov. and Ms. Dolph Briscoe. University enrollment is heavy in business, education, environmental management, and bicultural-bilingual studies.



Administrators **LAUNCH THE "HELP PLAN YOUR UNIVERSITY" SURVEY**, a large-scale effort to determine enrollment projections and desired areas of study, with questionnaires available publicly at neighborhood stores.



JULY 15, 1974

JULY 16, 1974

With campus **CONSTRUCTION ONLY 63.5 % COMPLETE**, President Flawn announces that the university will offer undergraduate admission to only upper-division students for the Fall 1974 semester.



UTSA **ACQUIRES ITS FIRST COMPUTER**, a Digital Equipment Corp. PDP-11/45, and it's the size of a large refrigerator.



AUGUST 1, 1974

AUGUST 20, 1974

UTSA holds its **FIRST COMMENCEMENT**, with 82 students receiving master's degrees at ceremonies held at a UT Health Science Center auditorium. Bevington Reed, commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, gives the address. In a move that creates a lasting tradition, mariachis perform.



UTSA accepts **COMPLETION OF ITS FIRST CAMPUS BUILDING**, the Physical Plant (now the Bosque Street Building, which houses UTSA's Office of Information Technology and the Police Department). It's the first of seven that will be completed in Phase I of campus construction.



DECEMBER 2, 1974

Beta
Upsilon,
Phi Sigma
Society
The University of
Texas at San Antonio

DECEMBER 9, 1974

The **FIRST STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS LAUNCH** at UTSA: Beta Upsilon of Phi Sigma, a biological sciences honor society; the Financial Management Association; and the Environmental Students Association.

MAY 6, 1975

President Flawn holds a press conference prior the **OPENING OF UTSA'S NEW CAMPUS** and gives the first public tour of the new Humanities-Business Building.



JANUARY 27, 1976

Originally the Library-Administration Building, the **LAST OF THE SEVEN BUILDINGS IN PHASE I OF CONSTRUCTION IS OPENED**. On December 13, 1974, the UT System named the building in honor of John Peace, the former regent and advocate for the creation of UTSA, who died in August of that year.



President Flawn and Dean Dora Grossenbacher welcome UTSA's **FIRST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT, MARGARET AGUILAR**, a substitute teacher.



JANUARY 28, 1975

UTSA's **NEW CAMPUS OPENS** and the Fall 1975 semester begins for more than 2,186 graduate and 2,247 junior and senior students. Courses are offered in the colleges of Business, Fine and Applied Arts, Sciences and Mathematics, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Multidisciplinary Studies.



SEPTEMBER 2, 1975

Freshman and sophomore students attend classes for the first time at UTSA. Gino Chincarini, who graduated from Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, is the **FIRST FRESHMAN STUDENT ADMITTED**.



JUNE 2, 1976

JULY 16, 1977

Ten charter members meet to **PLAN THE FUTURE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**, which is formed on July 1, 1978, with 3,065 alumni.


JANUARY 1, 1978

A former dean at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, **JAMES W. WAGENER, IS NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT**. He becomes the third president of UTSA on February 8, 1979, and serves until August 31, 1989.


JULY 31, 1978

In a precursor of things to come, **UTSA BEGINS HOLDING CLASSES IN DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO** in ITC facilities; the 11 courses on offer include Planning and Management of Manpower Programs, Urban Research, and Criminal Procedure.



In 1977 students hold an **ELECTION TO DETERMINE THE SCHOOL'S MASCOT**, with the armadillo and a star taking the top spots. The vote is declared void, though, by the student government and a new election is held with nine candidates. Groups behind the top two choices from this second election, the roadrunner and the armadillo, campaign in a competitive runoff. On December 9, 1977, the roadrunner is announced as UTSA's first and only mascot and given the moniker Rowdy.


DECEMBER 9, 1977

UTSA begins a **WEEK OF FESTIVITIES TO COINCIDE WITH FIESTA SAN ANTONIO**, dubbed Fiesta UTSA (pronounced *ootsa*), which includes food booths, music, jalapeño-eating and watermelon-seed-spitting contests, and a dunk tank. In 1980 UTSA's now-annual celebration becomes the official kickoff event for Fiesta San Antonio. In 1999 the Downtown Campus begins holding Night in UTSA—modeled after Night in Old San Antonio.


APRIL 14, 1978

STUDENTS HOST BESTFEST '78, a special salute to five of the state's annual festivals, with food and game booths. Now held annually in October, the modern Best Fest incorporates a Halloween theme with costume and booth-decorating contests.


SEPTEMBER 30, 1978

DECEMBER 4, 1978

Nearly four decades before a UTSA course on Beyoncé drew global attention, **THE COURSE POP CULTURE IN AMERICA ENROLLS STUDENTS** for the following spring semester to include the study of McDonald's burgers, Linda Ronstadt's records, and John Travolta's movies.



JUNE 30, 1980

To help reduce overcrowding issues with a growing student body, the university **HOLDS ADVANCE REGISTRATION** for the first time.



FEBRUARY 1, 1985

The university **HOLDS ITS INAUGURAL HOMECOMING** during basketball season, since there is no football program, the sport traditionally linked to homecoming events. The first Mr. and Ms. UTSA are named during halftime ceremonies at a men's basketball game.



Administrators **ANNOUNCE PLANS TO JOIN THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION** and launch a fund-raising campaign, receiving the first donated dollar from a future student named Danny. On January 22, 1981, the NCAA names UTSA as a Division I member. "Few universities have been able to go right into this division," an NCAA official says at the time.



FEBRUARY 13, 1980

The UT System regents approve acceptance of **UTSA'S FIRST ENDOWMENT**. The Jane and Roland Blumberg Professorship in Biology will endow \$100,000.

FEBRUARY 13, 1981

UTSA opens Chisholm Hall, its **FIRST ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE**. Originally, when the university is founded in 1969, it is designated that it will be a "commuter campus" (there would be no campus residence halls to house students) with an eye to keeping initial costs down.



AUGUST 27, 1986

FEBRUARY 8, 1990

SAMUEL A. KIRKPATRICK IS NAMED FOURTH PRESIDENT of UTSA. He serves until May 16, 1999.



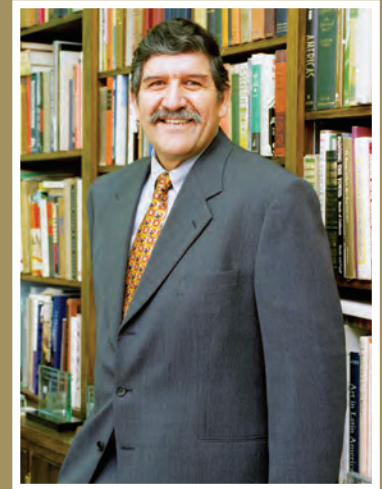
AUGUST 10, 1995

UTSA BREAKS GROUND FOR ITS NEW 18-ACRE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS on the site of the former Fiesta Plaza, adjacent to IH 35 in the Cattleman Square Historic District. The Downtown Campus officially opens in 1997 with four academic buildings and becomes home to the Colleges of Architecture, Construction and Planning; Education and Human Development; and Public Policy.



MAY 17, 1999

RICARDO ROMO IS NAMED FIFTH PRESIDENT of UTSA. He is the first Latino president of the Hispanic-majority university in its 30-year history. He serves until March 2, 2017.



The fall semester begins with UTSA's **FIRST DOCTORAL PROGRAM**, a Ph.D. in biology with a specialty in neurobiology. The university's first two Ph.D.s—in this program—are eventually awarded on May 11, 1996, to Karla Kopec and James Colston. Previously, UTSA students could begin work in a cooperative Ph.D. program with UT Austin in educational leadership.



AUGUST 30, 1993

Students compete to **CREATE THE LYRICS FOR A NEW FIGHT SONG**. In a November election "Go Roadrunners Go!" is chosen the winner: Go, Roadrunners, go! / On to vict'ry with all your might. / Fight, Roadrunners, fight! / For the blue and the orange and the white. / We fight for U-T-S-A / Alma mater proud and strong. / Win, Roadrunners, win! / And unite in our battle song.



NOVEMBER 8, 1998

A fall enrollment of more than 26,000 students **MAKES UTSA THE SECOND-LARGEST INSTITUTION** among the then-15 components in The University of Texas System. And on September 1, 2010, the university hits a population benchmark of 30,000 students, signifying a growth rate of more than 39% over the previous decade and making it one of the fastest growing in Texas during the decade.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004



APRIL 25, 2008

College of Business students, faculty, and staff's **BRIEFCASE BRIGADE WINS A FIRST PLACE TROPHY** and UTSA's float nabs a third place with the university's very first entries to the Battle of Flowers parade, part of Fiesta San Antonio.

**DECEMBER 19, 2013**

The university **CELEBRATES THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY** since its founding and marks the benchmark graduation of its 100,000th student at the end of fall semester commencement.

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**

The former vice chancellor for research and engagement at University of Tennessee at Knoxville, **T. TAYLOR EIGHMY IS NAMED SIXTH PRESIDENT** of UTSA.



The university **RECEIVES ITS LARGEST GIFT FROM AN INDIVIDUAL**, from the estate of Mary E. McKinney. McKinney, a San Antonio native and schoolteacher who had attended some postgraduate courses at UTSA, bequeathed more than 5,200 acres in ranch land as well as a portfolio of stocks and bonds. Valued at \$22 million upon her death, the value has now increased to more than \$30 million.

**OCTOBER 6, 2010**

Six years after launching the football program, the Roadrunners cap their first season under new head coach Frank Wilson with an appearance in their **FIRST FOOTBALL BOWL GAME**, facing the University of New Mexico in the Gildan New Mexico Bowl. UTSA's invitation to the bowl matches NCAA records for the fastest program to reach a bowl game.

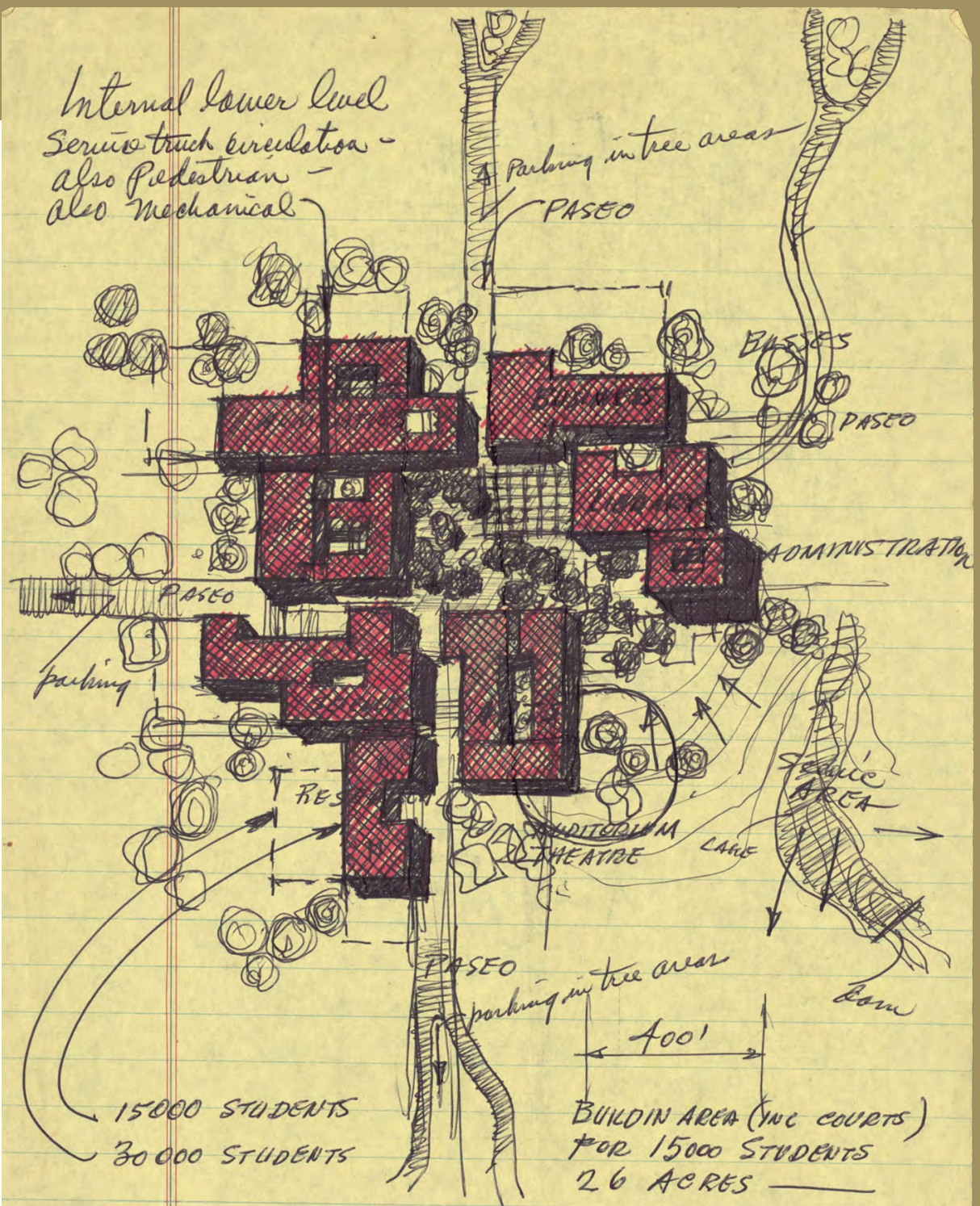
**DECEMBER 17, 2016**

UTSA announces \$70 million in funding from the UT System's Permanent University Fund and \$15 million from San Antonio businessman and philanthropist Graham Weston to help **LAUNCH A MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS**.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

1

After the firm, Ford, Powell Carson & Associates, was contracted by UT System regents in late 1970 to design the physical form of the new UTSA, architect O'Neil Ford took to a legal pad and began this **SKETCH OF HIS VISION OF WHAT THE CAMPUS COULD BE**. This drawing, part of the Ford Collection housed at The University of Texas at Austin, is remarkably close to what came to life. (Special thanks to the Ford family for granting permission for publication.)



Open Areas

- (a) Big Plaza - 440x340 - native live oaks
- (b) Court garden big blocks - Oak trees there too -
- (c) Paseos - (streets) - main entrances (Shops - eating - study) trees - steps - ramps
- (d) Galleries - full 3 stories - glass roofs - various plants - study alcoves - eating
- (e) Big Outdoor areas - 237 acres (after 30000 students) Leave wild - wild life - flowers etc -

UTSA@50

The Story of UTSA — in — 50 OBJECTS

FIND THEM IN PUBLIC SPACES FROM DOWNTOWN TO MAIN
CAMPUS, SECURED FOR POSTERITY IN THE PERMANENT
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES AT THE INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES,
OR TUCKED AWAY IN OFFICES OR LIBRARY COLLECTIONS.
THERE'S A PLETHORA OF OBJECTS AND EACH HAS A STORY TO
TELL ABOUT UTSA. HERE ARE OUR FAVORITES.

BY MICHAEL ELKINS EDWARDS

2 What's now known as the Kampmann-Halff House, located in downtown San Antonio in Hemisfair Park, was in essence UTSA's first campus. Originally built as a home for dry-goods wholesaler Solomon Halff and his family in the 1800s, the limestone building was later moved to HemisFair Plaza and became the site of French restaurant La Maison Blanche during HemisFair '68. After the fair ended, the building was leased as **OFFICES FOR ARLEIGH TEMPLETON, THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST PRESIDENT**, who began his work of hiring deans and searching for a site for the future campus. The building is now offices for Hemisfair Park staff.



3 These four **GLAZED, CERAMIC LETTERS CREATED THE FIRST UTSA BUILDING SIGN**, indicating that the above building was part of San Antonio's new university. One can even still see the marks, above, where the letters were bolted into the limestone. These letters are now part of the University Archives, housed at the Hemisfair Campus.



UTSA

4

Dewey Davis was the first faculty member hired at UTSA, and he remained a fixture at the university even after his retirement in 1986.

Like many Roadrunners, he gathered quite a collection of UTSA items over the years—or had them specially



made, like this leather belt embossed with his initials

and a roadrunner head.

Davis donated his belt

and other **PERSONAL**

MEMORABILIA to UTSA,

and it's now part of the

University Archives.

8



Rick Riordan's

NOVEL THE LAST

KING OF TEXAS,

the third in the

author's series

about Ph.D.-

wielding private

investigator Tres

Navarre, features

a storyline

based at UTSA.

It starts when

a controversial

English professor

is... Ha! We're

not giving any

spoilers away. But

you can check it

out from John

Peace Library

or get your own

copy, since it's

still in print.

9

It takes a lot of planning to build

a university from

scratch, with all the details

that must be settled. This

memo from the University

Archives, dated August

18, 1975, was written to

President Flawn and laid

out a **PROPOSAL FOR**

UNIVERSITY COLORS TO BE

FIESTA RED AND CACTUS

GREEN for UTSA: "Red and

green from the flags of

the Alamo and of Mexico.

Fiesta red for joy of living

and learning. Cactus green

for thorny situations to be

faced with courage and

realism." Of course, the

matter was moot, since UT

System rules commit all of

its institutions to have the

colors orange and white.

And each is allowed to

add a third; thus, UTSA's

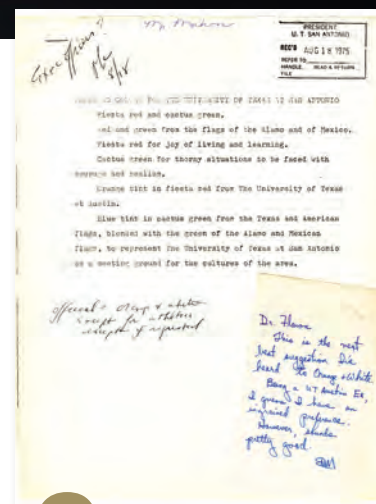
navy blue to accompany

the standards. Enlarge

and view the memo in

our online version of this

article.



5

Remember when people wanted their

memories analog? Then you might

also remember when schools created

print yearbooks. UTSA first published

its version, **HORIZONS YEARBOOK**, in 1990,

produced by the Student Representative

Assembly, the forerunner to the Student

Government Association. Only six editions

were created, and

a name change to

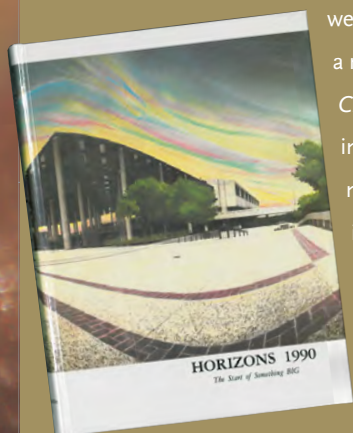
Chaparral happened

in 1993. But these

memories are safe

in the University

Archives.



Joseph Brown

was a music

alumnus and

Mr. UTSA in 1996 who

made such a lasting

impact via his campus

involvement and

community service that

the Alumni Association

and music department

established a memorial

scholarship in his name

for voice majors. This

BRONZE BUST OF BROWN

is in the Arts Building.

7

6

When you become a champion, you

get a **CHAMPIONSHIP RING**, like when

the volleyball team won the Southland

Conference title for the first time, in 1999.



10 The **MILAGROS ART INSTALLATION** by alumna Diana Rodriguez Gil is made up of 31 bronze hearts, each embedded into buildings on Downtown Campus. The artist said she offered the pieces “as a continuous prayer.” Students have started rubbing them in passing for good luck or a miracle, the translation of *milagro*.



11
12 Everyone likes to go all out for a birthday. And so in 1983, the Student Representative Assembly buried a **TIME CAPSULE** in Sombrilla Plaza upon the 10th anniversary of the start of classes. Instructions say it's to be opened on June 5, 2023—50 years after it was buried. But don't get any ideas about digging it up to check out the contents. The capsule is cemented under a bronze plaque and is a specialty vessel with a lock. A **MEMO TO “FUTURE UTSA PRESIDENT”** gives the combination to the lock. But we've obscured it to keep wily sorts from getting any bright ideas.



13 This **REPLICA DIPLOMA** from 1974 in the University Archives honors Susan Bolado as the first student to walk the stage and accept her diploma in the university's first commencement ceremony.



14 A gift from the Alumni Association, the **UNIVERSITY'S CEREMONIAL MACE** was designed by Tim Bailey M.F.A. '86, a Houston sculptor. It represents the solemnity of university occasions.



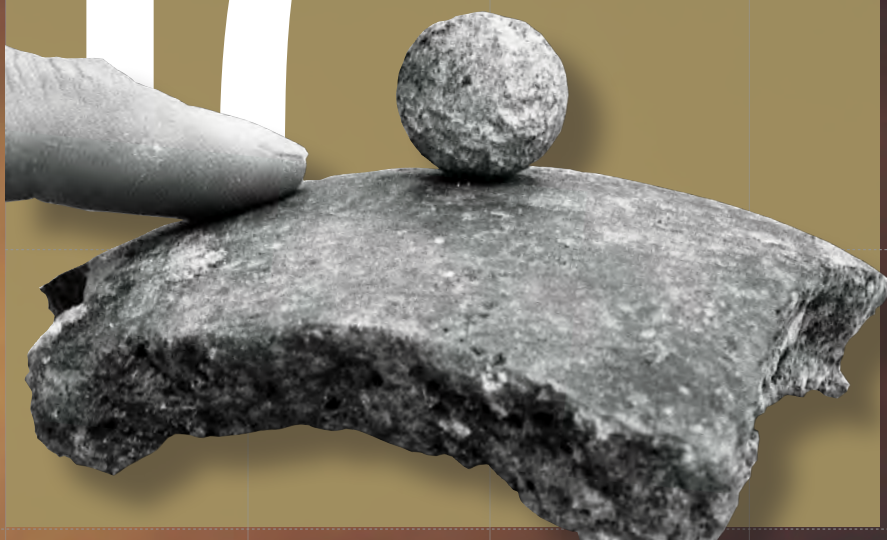
President Ricardo Romo introduced Larry Coker as UTSA's first football coach in 2009 before Coker led the team into its inaugural season in 2011. Coker, who arrived with an impressive résumé (as head coach at the University of Miami he led a team with 13 future NFL Pro Bowlers to the 2001 national championship) signed a **SPECIAL FOOTBALL** to mark the occasion. It's now in the University Archives.



The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles made a **UTSA SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE** available in 2010. Although you can no longer get one new, you can still see these around Texas. The first license plate to honor the university, though, dates back to 1972 when “father of UTSA” Rep. Frank Lombardino ordered his one-of-a-kind license plate emblazoned with “UTSA.”

17

UTSA archaeologists discovered this **MUSKET BALL AND CANNONBALL FRAGMENT**—dating to the Battle of the Alamo—during a 1977 dig on the grounds of the famed mission. These and other artifacts are housed in the Center for Archaeological Research.



18

SOMBRILLA FOUNTAIN is a university fixture, only it hasn't always flowed. For UTSA's first year, its pool was used as a planter until funds could be allotted to complete it. In 2013 the Fill the Fountain campaign raised funds to renovate it and make it sustainable by using reclaimed air-conditioning system water from surrounding buildings. But most important, placing two hands on the fountain before final exams is said to bring good luck.



19

The Alumni Association uses funds raised through its **PAVE THE PASEO PROGRAM'S BRICKS** for scholarships and Student Union activities. Engraved bricks are installed in Paseo Principal between the two Student Union buildings.



20

During Ashley Starkweather's first semester and Tim Mazzanti's last, they met in a class that Mazzanti had delayed taking until the end of his program. They attended basketball games together and were both actively involved on campus. Starkweather was a member of the dance team and Mazzanti was a founding member of the Blue Crew, a group that paints themselves and shows their spirit at games. In 2009 the new H-E-B University Center addition was open, and Starkweather was able to sneak a peek of the ballroom during a study session. In the H-E-B Student Union this **PLAQUE MARKS HOW THE COUPLE USED THE BALLROOM AS THE LOCATION OF THEIR WEDDING RECEPTION** that same year and became the first Roadrunners to celebrate their marriage on campus.

21

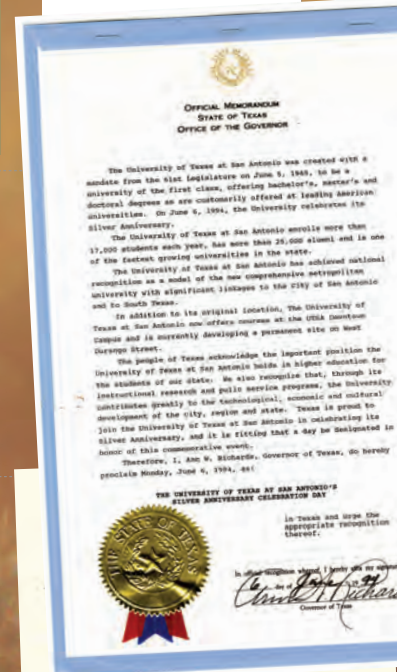


At least two years before “father of UTSA” Frank Lombardino’s bill made its way through the state legislature, local and state leaders began to scout potential locations for a campus. One contingent, for example, wanted UTSA located on the grounds of HemisFair ’68 once it wrapped up. But naysayers said the acreage was too small for the potential of the university. Once the legislation passed in 1969, UT System staff visited roughly a dozen sites whose owners were willing to donate land. By May 1970 the team was ready to present three options to the

Board of Regents for final selection, and they created a **SET OF 5-BY-4-FOOT PRESENTATION BOARDS WITH A POTENTIAL CAMPUS LAID OUT**. One was inside Loop 1604 on the city’s South Side, bounded on the south by the loop, to the east by W.W. White Road, and to the west by IH 37. Another was on the West Side, bounded on the northeast and southwest by Potranco Road and Loop 410 and on the southwest and northeast by Military Drive and Culebra Road. Ultimately, of course, the regents selected the third option—the current site on the city’s northwest side.

27

A 1994 **PROCLAMATION AND LETTER FROM GOV. ANN RICHARDS**, located in the University Archives, declared June 6, 1994, as “The University of Texas at San Antonio’s Silver Anniversary Celebration Day.” Hmm... Was June 5 (the actual anniversary date) already allotted to another celebration that year?



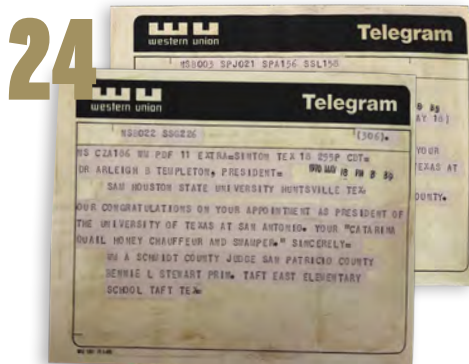
22



Including drawings and instructions, like concrete formulas, a **SET OF SPECIFICATION BOOKS**, in the University Archives, was created by UTSA’s architects after the designs were complete for the contractor to use to build the original seven Main Campus buildings.



23 Fiesta and **FIESTA MEDALS** go together like U-T and S-A. The university proudly produces a unique one each year.

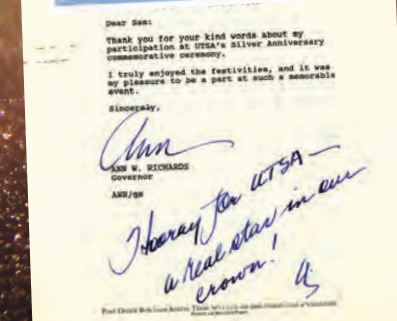


When Arleigh Templeton was named UTSA’s first president, these **TWO TELEGRAMS** were sent to congratulate him. He donated them with his other papers to the University Archives.

25 The University Archives has quite a bit of **PERSONAL ROADRUNNER ITEMS**. Each one bears a story of the person who left it behind.



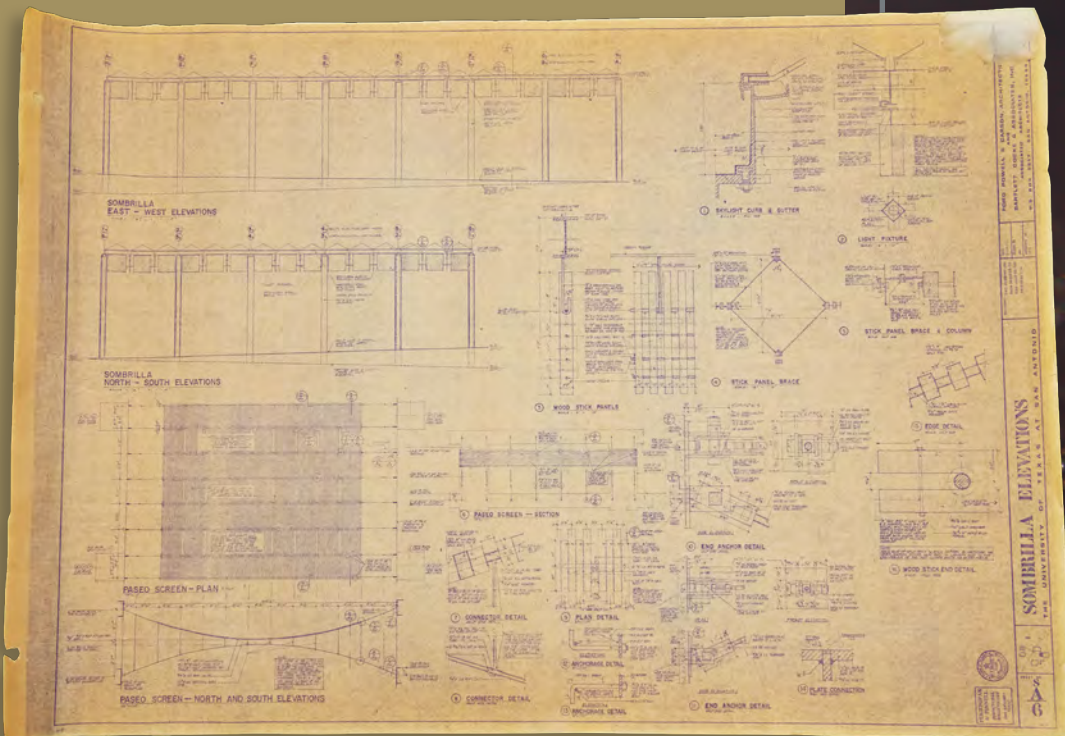
26 You’ll see a lot of images abroad with a **STUFFED ROWDY**. In earlier days, people took along a flat version.



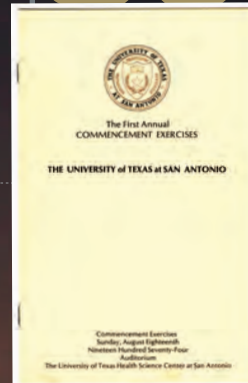
28 When the men's basketball team won its first conference championship in 1988, like a lot of proud champs, they snipped the **NET FROM THE WINNING RIM** for posterity. It's on display in the Convocation Center.



29 As one of the original architects who worked on UTSA, Milton Babbitt was in charge of designing all outdoor spaces. His **ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS FOR THE SHADING SOMBRILLA**, which gave name to the plaza, are in the University Archives.



30



Students who graduated in 1974 on May 3, July 12, and August 6, all shared the university's first commencement ceremony, held on August 18. A **PROGRAM FOR THE EVENTS, NAMING 82 STUDENTS**, is in the University Archives.



31 In order to produce printed materials—at one point—manufacturers needed a **PRINTING DIE**, usually cast from metal, that was inked and pressed against the medium. Nowadays, they make decent office paperweights or drink coasters in a pinch.



32 A project between the City of San Antonio and the university brought **UTSA-THEMED STREET SIGNS** with a Rowdy head to Downtown, Main, and Park West campuses in 2014.

33

UTSA's Air Force ROTC members in November 1990 planted a **LIVE OAK TREE** at sappling stage in Paseo Principal to honor POWs and MIAs of the Vietnam War. Eventually the H-E-B Student Union was built next to it, requiring its protection during construction. Today, the tree reaches above the second floor.



34

A PAMPHLET TITLED **THE BIRTH OF A NEW INSTITUTION**, created in 1971 and now in the University Archives lays out broad strokes of vision behind

the university, including sections on the history to date; basic decisions in the vision, like preserving the campus site's natural beauty; building the campus to feel airy and spacious; and what the impact on the local economy could be.



When architect O'Neil Ford was planning UTSA, he wanted to be able to show off how the Texas limestone material would look amid its surroundings. And so this **PROTOTYPE FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S ORIGINAL SEVEN BUILDINGS** was cast. Once the initial construction phase was complete, the monument was left in place.

35

36

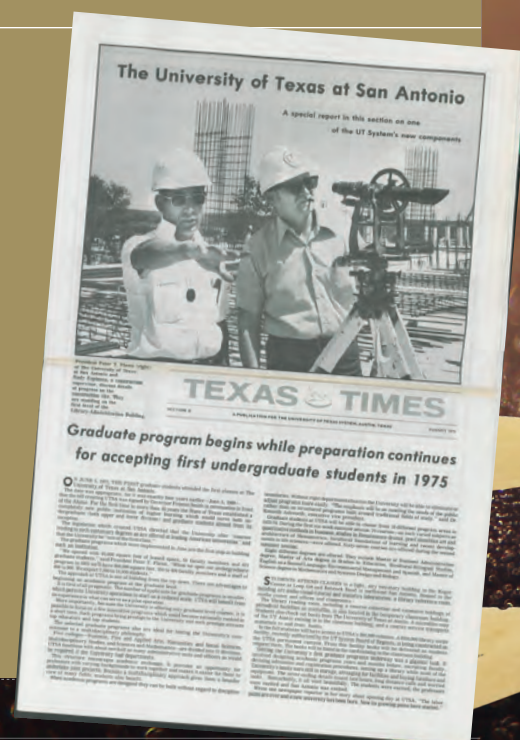
For its 25th anniversary the university commissioned an

ORIGINAL PIECE OF MUSIC CALLED "THE IMAGE OF DREAMS." It was performed by UTSA's wind ensemble and concert choir at the Silver Anniversary Convocation on September 27, 1994. A piece of the sheet music is in the University Archives.



37

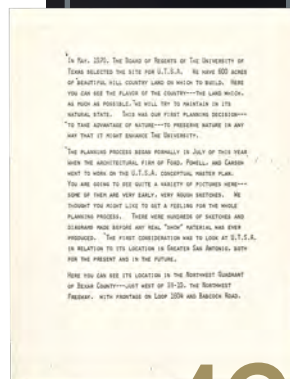
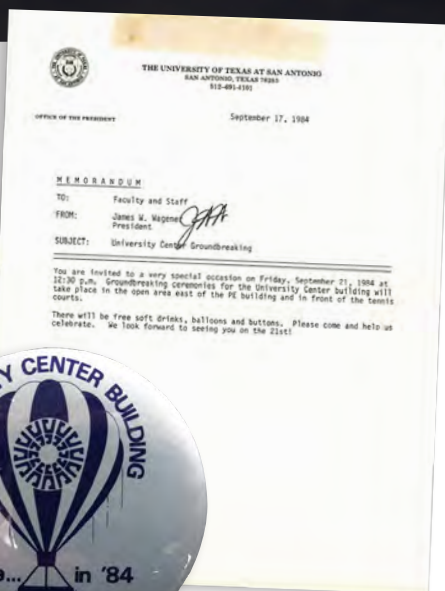
The UT System's one-time newspaper, The Texas Times, in August 1973 produced a **SPECIAL ISSUE WITH DETAILS OF THE FLEDGLING UTSA**. Now in the University Archives, it included administration profiles, news of a library donation, and a report on how UTSA and the Health Science Center would work together.



38
39

In 1984 President James Wagener sent out a **MEMO INVITING FACULTY AND STAFF** to a groundbreaking

event for the University Center. Soft drinks and balloons were on hand as well as a **SPECIAL BUTTON** to mark the event.



42

In May 1970 President Templeton gave a **PROGRESS-REPORT SPEECH** to the UT System regents. Kept in the University Archives, it includes his details, for example, about how Loop 1604 would be developed from a farm-market road to a freeway (done) and how Babcock Road would become a six-lane thoroughfare (maybe that's still to happen?).

43

The Convocation Center is home to **THREE RETIRED JERSEYS** of former basketball players—Devin Brown, Monica Gibbs, and Derrick Gervin—who went on to pro career heights.

Eventually, special T-shirts became one of the primary ways to mark a celebration, including another groundbreaking. On August 10, 1995, attendees received a **COMMEMORATIVE SHIRT** when the Downtown Campus broke ground.

40



41 Before T-shirts became so popular to give away, a **BANNER**, a **BUMPER STICKER**, or a **SEW-ON PATCH** with UTSA's first logo would have been a gift.



44

Before news was shared online, print got the word out. UTSA staff produced **"THE ROADRUNNER" NEWSLETTER**, starting in 1973—before it was even the mascot. One highlight was a column called Question to the President, in which staff asked Dr. Flawn about the business of the university. He

was direct in his responses. To a query about the potential of an engineering program, he said, "There are no immediate plans to implement an engineering program at UTSA."



45

Photographer Gil Barrera went to work capturing moments of the university from 1973 until 1978. Many of his images accompany our 50th anniversary stories. His **FULL SET OF NEGATIVES ON THE UNIVERSITY** are saved in the UTSA Libraries Special Collections.



46

Was there a time before social media? UTSA posted its **FIRST TWEET** on October 26, 2009. Dr. Arulanandam had just been named an associate dean. Now he's interim VP for research.

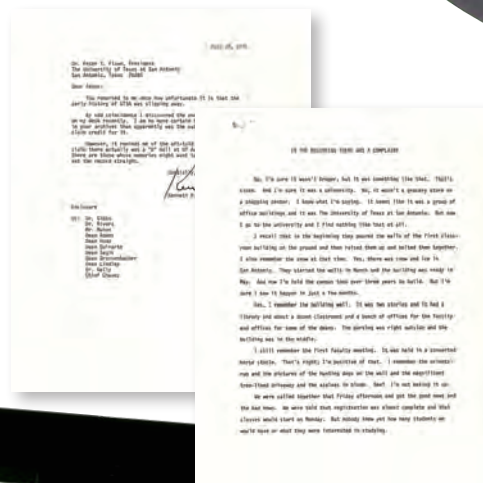


47

In 1976 UTSA Executive Vice President Kenneth Ashworth found on his desk an **ESSAY TRYING TO RECOUNT**

MEMORIES OF UTSA'S VERY FIRST DAYS.

But he couldn't remember who wrote it. He sent it to President Flawn, though, in case Flawn wanted to preserve it. And it made its way into the University Archives.



48

Funded via a student campaign called Bring Rowdy Home, the 1,000-pound **IRON ROADRUNNER STATUE** has stood proudly on Main Campus since it was installed in 2014.



49

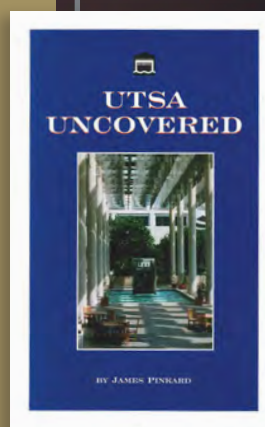
You don't become a powerhouse institution like UTSA in such short time without creating some lore. Alumnus James Pinkard in 1997 decided to memorialize some of the legends in his

BOOKLET

"UTSA

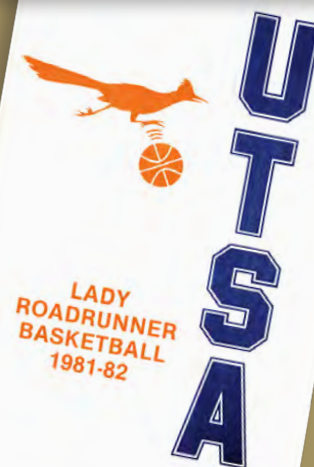
UNCOVERED,"

in which he talks about the genesis of the birds-up hand sign and the "bridge of love," among others.



50

Once upon a time basketball was the first NCAA sport at UTSA. These **PROGRAMS FOR THE INAUGURAL 1981-1982 SEASON** tell all about the players and who the opponents were.

**ROADRUNNER BASKETBALL
INAUGURAL SEASON****THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT SAN ANTONIO**



UTSA@50

SINCE

2019

BUILDING ON
MOMENTUM
FROM THE PAST
50 YEARS
AS WELL AS
THE BIG, NEW
IDEAS OF A
BOLD LEADERSHIP,
UTSA IS POISED
FOR AN EVEN
BRIGHTER FUTURE

BY MICHELLE MONDO

When the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, the largest source of integrated research and analysis in the Army, wanted to establish a program for cyber research, representatives visited about 30 universities nationwide. They knew after coming to UTSA they found the right fit. “UTSA is the best location for the cyber program because of the university’s incredible breadth and depth for cybersecurity research,” says Raymond Bateman, the Army’s on-site lead. “The proximity to the National Security Agency in Texas, the U.S. Secret

Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the 24th and 25th Air Force—all contribute to the partnership of the nationally critical cyber mission.”

In January 2017 ARL leaders told UTSA they would like to move on to campus and 60 days later an in-house facilities team had renovated and repurposed a suite of offices

in the North Paseo Building. That kind of detail might seem trivial, but in what’s often viewed as a slow-moving government and academia atmosphere it exemplifies a get-it-done attitude that has helped UTSA push boundaries and establish partnerships, such as the university’s new National Security Collaboration Center.

Born from working with the ARL and other federal partners, the NSCC is bringing together academia, government, and industry in a way unlike any other in the country. “When it comes to cyber,” Bateman says, “it’s not just an Army issue or a Department of Defense issue. It has become a global issue. We have to collaborate to speed up research and development of effective cyber tools, and this center is going to bring to the table the best that government, academia, and industry have to offer, making the NSCC vitally relevant at a critical time in our history.”

The creation of the NSCC is just one example of how UTSA is aggressively establishing itself as a great public research university, a model of student success, and an exemplar for strategic growth and innovation—three destinations set by President Taylor Eighmy.

In building on the past 50 years and with

the goal of meeting the objectives laid out in those three areas, Eighmy has launched a flurry of presidential initiatives. As of late last year the initiatives announced include creating a campus master plan, increasing experiential learning for students, focusing on strategic enrollment, and expanding the Downtown Campus, where the College of Business and College of Education and Human Development [see accompanying article “Big Data Gets Schooled”] will eventually move. Additional residence halls, a public-private tech venture called Tricentennial Innovation Park, and a Roadrunner Athletics Center of Excellence [see “Game Changer” on page 8] are planned for Main Campus.

The university is not moving forward in a bubble, though, with input sought from business and community leaders, local and state politicians, and other stakeholders. The excitement built by these partnerships could be felt this past September, when the university announced its downtown expansion plans, which included a promise of \$70 million from the UT System, a pledge of \$15 million from Graham Weston to help build a new School of Data Science [see accompanying article “Expanding Together”], and land agreements with both the City of San Antonio and Bexar County.

“We want to attract the best and brightest faculty, but everyone else wants to attract them too,” says Bernard Arulanandam, UTSA’s interim vice president for research, economic development, and knowledge enterprise and the Jane and Roland Blumberg Professor in Bioscience, who is leading the university’s newly launched Presidential Initiative on Research Excellence. “You have to give them a value proposition of why they should come to UTSA. Well, come to UTSA because we are on a trajectory to become more research intensive and we have these tremendous facilities and resources to make you successful in whatever discipline you are in. And that translates to the signature experience that we want to give both our undergraduate and graduate students.”

GROWING STRATEGICALLY

Max Kilger, associate professor in practice, is no stranger to starting new programs. Just a few years ago he helped create a new master’s degree in data analytics. Now,

We are on a trajectory to become more research intensive and we have these tremendous facilities and resources to make [students] successful in whatever discipline.



with a \$2 million boost from a Defense Intelligence Agency grant, plus the benefit of the NSCC effort, the master’s program will expand even further. It will include a track in analytics cyber intelligence, launch an intelligence certificate program, award scholarships and stipends, and collaborate with academic and industry partners on cyber analytics training and research as well as work with the intelligence community to promote internship and job opportunities. “This program produces sort of a 360-degree picture of the threat environment,” Kilger says. “It’s using traditional data analytics, applying the special cyber domain of knowledge to analytics, and applying what we know about the human element—all in the threat environment.”

Learning to understand the relationship between people and technology creates a powerful, multidimensional program that will help graduates land jobs, Kilger says, and the program needs bright, sharp students with strong analytical skills and curiosity. “It’s a challenging and rigorous program. It’s a tough program,” he says. “But in the end graduates will be incredibly well-prepared to begin a career in this area.”

Paul Rad, an associate professor in the information systems and cybersecurity department, is co-principal investigator on the grant, which designates the program and the university as an Intelligence Community Center of Academic Excellence.

The program will eventually be housed within the new School of Data Science. Site planning and design for the new school and the NSCC have already begun, with construction expected to start in the fall. Construction of the new College of Business should begin in 2020. The three downtown projects total \$229 million in value, once all funding and property transfers are completed.

With the downtown initiatives under way UTSA will have more room on Main Campus to expand other academic and research programs, including brain health, infectious disease, regenerative medicine and medicinal chemistry, engineering, and liberal and fine arts. And the new \$95 million Science and Engineering Building, currently under construction, is slated to open in 2020. The 153,000-square-foot facility will house the recently added chemical engineering program plus classrooms, laboratories, and collaboration space. This spring semester also marks the opening

of UTSA’s Large-Scale Structural Testing Facility, which will be used by civil engineering faculty and students for simulating structural challenges in bridges and buildings.

Expanding facilities in a strategic way and building on faculty cluster hires [see “Cluster Analysis” in Sombrilla Magazine, Fall/Winter 2018] will grow UTSA’s knowledge enterprise, which Arulanandam says comprises three elements: “It’s the talent of people we have at UTSA—the faculty, staff, and students; second, it’s the ability to harness their creativity or their ingenuity; and the third ingredient is how do we then create an environment where you take the talented people with the great ideas and create those miracle outcomes.”

Research expenditures already are increasing, so adding to the knowledge enterprise will further enable UTSA to meet Eighmy’s goal of qualifying for the state National Research University Fund by 2020 and achieving Carnegie Classification R1, a university with “highest research activity.” Arulanandam stresses that UTSA’s focus is not just on STEM fields, studies related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. “No comprehensive research university can flourish without the fine arts or humanities,” he explains. “Transdisciplinary research actually is going to engage the fine arts and the humanities and STEM fields together in the future.”

STUDENT SUCCESS

UTSA computer science professor Shouhuai Xu has made it his life’s work to research ways to make the internet safer and pass on that knowledge to his students. “We don’t have enough research,” he says, “but we’re getting there. It means a lot of effort. I’m very optimistic. Think about medical science; it’s been around thousands of years if you think about from the time of elementary medical science. We’ve invested tons of money, and there are still diseases we can’t cure. Cybersecurity is just decades old. This is just the beginning, and we have a long way to go. This is why I teach.”

Graduate students are working on two of Xu’s high-profile research projects that aim to help defend against cyberattacks. One project, funded by a \$1.6 million grant from the ARL, looks at whether cyberattacks can be forecast, much like the weather. The other, funded with a \$500,000 National Science Foundation grant, is working to develop a malware recognition algorithm



UTSA's commitment to building a sustainable workforce pipeline for information security and management companies in San Antonio is exactly what our community needs.

Expanding Together

GRAHAM WESTON AND OTHER LEADERS SIGN ON TO HELP UTSA BUILD A GREAT CITY

BY MICHELLE MONDO

Standing on a podium on the Downtown Campus in September, Graham Weston told a roomful of people that, thinking back years ago, he never wanted to actually get involved in the revitalization of San Antonio's urban core. Yet there he was, announcing to a crowd of press, city and county leaders, and businesspeople, his donation of \$15 million to help build UTSA's new School of Data Science.

"I realized that being able to help bring a tech district to downtown San Antonio is a calling," he told the group, which also heard from Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, and UTSA President Taylor Eighmy.

The announcement of the Downtown Campus expansion brought a wave of excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead as the university and city work

together to build the urban core and attract industry. "Collaboration between San Antonio's education, industry, and public sector is spurring high-impact community projects and progress," San Antonio Economic Development Fund President Jenna Saucedo-Herrera says. "UTSA's commitment to contribute to building a sustainable workforce pipeline for information security and management companies in San Antonio is exactly what our community needs."

Port San Antonio CEO Jim Perschbach is optimistic about San Antonio's future, saying UTSA's new National Security Collaboration Center and Downtown Campus expansion are definitely going to be a "spark" for the urban core but adds that a true test is making sure all communities are leveraged. He points out as examples the South Texas Medical

Center's work in bioscience and Port San Antonio's transportation center and aviation work. He says the NSCC is one way of making that connection because it brings together the research from government and academia plus the industry that will transform the research into products and services. "Using the NSCC as something of a hub to get a big wheel spinning will be tremendously powerful," he says, "but it needs to be more than just a UTSA effort. The goal really is to create those intentional collisions, and that is tremendously exciting."

Connected devices like pacemakers are a prime example, Perschbach says. They're obviously very important to people who use them, but companies that sell them and doctors who install them have to be sure they are secure. To do that, cyber businesses and researchers would need to work with those in the medical community to create a hub of expertise. "We need to be leveraging our best strengths in San Antonio," Perschbach says, "and we become one of the few places in the world that can say we have that kind of expertise. When you see how many connected devices there will be in the next 10 years—and we have the knowledge on keeping those secure—the world is going to beat a path to our door."

Weston sees companies looking for strong collaborations but also established clusters of knowledge and business as well as strong public transportation and walkable streets and neighborhoods. "That's an urban community we don't have yet," he says, "the idea of being able to live and work in the same place and not always having to drive a car."

In the end, Weston says he believes the School of Data Science will be instrumental in creating the jobs of the future. "Bringing great jobs is the most important thing. But companies won't move here without a talent pool," he says. "We're going to see many, many UTSA kids wearing backpacks, crossing our downtown streets, going back and forth to class. If we're producing talent, we have the best shot at getting those companies with those jobs. I think this is just the beginning of big change for San Antonio." ☂

that will unmask malicious software.

Cutting-edge research like the projects in Xu's Laboratory for Cybersecurity Dynamics helps attract students to UTSA and make them successful in the workforce, says Arulanandam. "We have to consider, Why do students need to come to UTSA? I would put the value proposition on the research, faculty, and infrastructure. Because students say they want to come here to work with Professor X, Y, or Z because he or she is working on something really cool."

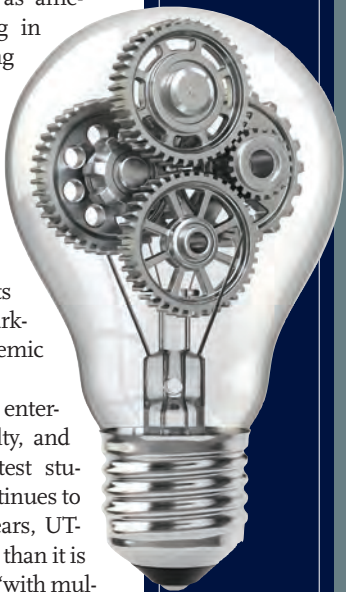
Another part of student success is increasing their quality of life. First-generation students now have a dedicated wing in Alvarez Hall. Campus expansion plans also call for an Honors College residence hall and mixed-use developments on both campuses. "The new honors residential hall is a defining moment in the history of the college," Dean Sean Kelly says. "This space will house a transformative live-learn community, allowing students to have the small liberal arts college experience here at UTSA, while enjoying all the benefits of a comprehensive state university. We will use this opportunity to put the college in the national honors spotlight and anticipate significant increases in enrollment as its completion nears."

The new residence and commercial development, dubbed Roadrunner Village, will bring a much-needed sense of urban walkability, while providing affordable housing for students as well as amenities to serve students living in off-campus complexes along UTSA Boulevard.

Downtown, a Cattleman Square residential tower will expand the campus's current footprint. Planned to be developed as a public-private partnership, it will feature street-level retail, restaurants and services, underground parking, student housing, and academic spaces.

By building the knowledge enterprise, attracting first-rate faculty, and retaining the best and brightest students, UTSA's momentum continues to grow. "If you look ahead 10 years, UTSA's impact will be even deeper than it is today," President Eighmy says, "with multiple campuses, more faculty, a larger graduate student population, and a research enterprise among the best in Texas." 🦋

We have to consider, Why do students need to come to UTSA? I would put the value proposition on the research, faculty, and infrastructure.



Big Data Gets Schooled

MIKE VILLARREAL, THE MAN BEHIND UTSA'S NEWEST INSTITUTE, IS ALREADY MAKING AN IMPACT ON SAN ANTONIO

BY PAMELA LUTRELL

His eyes light up like a child who has just seen fireworks fill the night sky for the first time. Yet it is not brilliance and sparkle that have captured the attention of Mike Villarreal, founding director of UTSA's Institute of Urban Education. It's facts, figures, charts, and graphs. Villarreal sees UTSA as a prosperity engine in one of the fastest growing cities in the United States and the institute's education research as a way of amplifying UTSA's community impact.

The new institute is a cornerstone in UTSA's urban-serving mission. When President Taylor Eighmy arrived at UTSA he envisioned an institute on the Downtown Campus structured much like the University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute, which has been a driver behind improved public education outcomes in Chicago.

"The important work that Mike is doing to lay the foundation for our new Urban Education Institute is vital to creating an enterprise focused on innovative partnerships and new approaches to education," Eighmy says. "UTSA will be at the forefront of preparing teachers for the classrooms of today and tomorrow."



Specifically, it is an education-research-practice partnership created by the College of Education and Human Development. "This was a collaborative process among key faculty and leadership in COEHD and with President Eighmy's vision and support. And with a generous grant from the Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation, we were able to make the concept a reality,"

says Margo DelliCarpini, COEHD's dean. "Dr. Villarreal will lead the institute as we engage in a number of projects that address the 'big questions' in education and provide answers that turn grand challenges into grand opportunities."

DelliCarpini describes the Urban Education Institute as a space where transdisciplinary research teams, school districts, and community organizations can come together and collaboratively work to enhance educational outcomes. "The institute will serve as a demonstration site for best practices," she says, "with longer term goals of attracting research fellows from around the world to create knowledge that impacts policies and practice in urban and other educational settings. The work that emerges

will address issues of equity and access across the P-20 educational spectrum.”

Since joining UTSA, Villarreal has laid the foundation with initial partnerships and collaborative projects. The Raise Your Hand Texas Foundation provided the seed funding for the new institute, and Villarreal’s goal is to match its contribution from other sources. The institute is also partnering with the Greater Texas Foundation, the San Antonio Area Foundation, the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio, the City of San Antonio, and Goodwill Industries of San Antonio.

As a first-generation college student, a researcher, and a former state representative, Villarreal says he is excited to reveal the powerful lessons that data science can teach local stakeholders to improve education on all levels for students and educators. “The institute is primarily focused on leveraging big data to analyze the impact community efforts are making to improve student outcomes,” Villarreal says. One of the first studies he’s produced, for example, is a look at the impact of San Antonio’s Pre-K 4 SA program, a high-priority project, since voters will be asked to renew the sales tax for public education for 4-year-old residents in the near future.

“San Antonio was one of the first cities to fund a pre-K program,” he says, “and it has become a national model of success. The first pre-K students were third graders in the fall of 2017, so we have completed a study of their reading and math scores and determined the impact high-quality early education made on their development when compared to similar students who enrolled in the typical public prekindergarten program.”

“This is how the institute begins to play a role in education policy for the city,” he adds. “Through the institute we will help education professionals from pre-K to adult job training have a more powerful impact on the students they serve.” By starting at the beginning with pre-K children, this institute will further strengthen UTSA as a prosperity driver for a thriving, dynamic San Antonio.

Villarreal has also formed a data partnership with the San Antonio Education Partnership, a public-private program that’s operated in San Antonio for 30 years. SAEP provides up to \$2 million a year in scholarship funds for higher education.

“But,” Villarreal points out, “they have never had the data to evaluate the impact of their investment in students.”

The institute has tracked those students for eight years—beyond high school—and compared their college-enrollment and degree-completion rates relative to similar students from the same high school graduating classes and with the same high school academic records. The study helped SAEP learn how much a difference its scholarship program is making.

Villarreal found that the SAEP scholarship increased a student’s probability of earning a postsecondary degree within six years of college by nine percentage points. Relative to the comparison group that did not receive the scholarship, SAEP grew the number of college graduates among awardees by 23%—nearly a quarter earned a college degree because of SAEP. Many of those recipients have attended UTSA. “We are able to help our partners understand who benefits the most from their assistance,” Villarreal says. “They can see exactly who made the most of their investment and how it ultimately changes lives.”

The institute is also actively assisting local school districts. “We are assisting San Antonio Independent School District to collect data for teacher development,” Villarreal says. “Our quantitative data analysis will complement the district’s qualitative classroom observation data to better identify teachers in need of professional development and support.”

Villarreal is also working with 12 local high schools to help them vertically align their dual-credit classes with UTSA and the Alamo Colleges District to improve student success rates.

In partnership with the P16Plus Council of Greater Bexar County and the Education Service Center of Region 20, high school faculty and their peers at UTSA and the Alamo Colleges are having crucial conversations about what makes a rigorous college-level course. The institute’s role in this process is to provide data analysis support. By the end of the project faculty will develop a shared agreement on curriculum and assessments for dual-credit classes in English and mathematics.

A second part of this project involves developing practical tools to raise educational attainment. Working with UTSA students and a team of area high school students,

When I first heard of President Eighmy’s vision, I told myself I needed to move my research from UT Austin to UTSA and help my own community.

the institute, P16Plus, and ESC will be facilitating a user-designed process to produce a graphic comic book that informs middle school students about dual credit and other ways to prepare for college. Villarreal considers this project the institute’s most innovative project. It builds on a growing body of research that finds sequential visual art—what we often call comic books—is a powerful medium for engaging readers of all ages in complicated ideas and story lines. Their book will direct students to an online companion toolkit featuring a high school course calculator to help students learn about how their high school courses relate to their probability of college degree completion.

As 2019 begins, Villarreal will direct the institute to look for a variety of answers to improve the numbers of local students who actually enroll in college. “In San Antonio eight out of 10 students say they want a college degree in their freshmen year of high school,” he explains, “but only four out of 10 actually enroll. We must ask ourselves why and seek out the local and state policy levers that can change this.”

As part of that journey of understanding, Villarreal will initiate ways to connect UTSA with the community. “UTSA is blessed with brilliant scientists and students across our university,” he says. “We need to be playing matchmaker between our local education stakeholders and our talented faculty.” The institute will create opportunities for UTSA faculty and students at all levels by making these connections and providing financial support to address San Antonio’s most pressing education challenges.

“When I first heard of President Eighmy’s vision, I told myself I needed to move my research from UT Austin to UTSA and help my own community—the place I was raised and where I am raising my two children,” he says.

Today, Villarreal is one busy man. There is fundraising to do, there are presentations to be made, and there are partnerships to be developed. But his eyes light up with expectation as each evidence-based conclusion is reached. ☂

➤ Milton Babbitt, in 1970, talks about his role on the team of architects who are designing Main Campus.



▼ Babbitt, in 2018, reflects on how the campus has held up to the original planners' vision 50 years later.



UTSA HISTORY
ARCHITECTS

CAMPUS MASTERMIND

Retired architect MILTON BABBITT recounts how the original Main Campus design came to life



BY SHEA CONNER

Milton Babbitt vividly remembers the optimism that rushed through the office of the Ford, Powell & Carson architectural firm when he and his coworkers found out that they would be designing the new UTSA campus in 1970. They immediately knew it wouldn't be one of those projects that only a few people had their hands on.

"Everybody was involved," Babbitt says with a grin. "It came out of the blue. Wham! Here's this wonderful, wonderful opportunity."

Babbitt had joined the San Antonio-based Ford firm in 1965 after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin's School of Architecture in 1963. He

helped design the Tower of the Americas with lead architect O'Neil Ford leading up to HemisFair '68, and the two would work together closely on the first phase of the new UTSA campus a few years later. Babbitt had a little experience with campus architecture and development,

having recently finished up work on the Jesse H. Jones Communication Center at UT Austin, but the creation of the UTSA campus was a significantly greater task.

At the time UTSA was the largest new university under construction in the United States. The team broke ground on the 600-

acre plot on San Antonio's northwest side in May 1972. With a budget of \$41 million, they set out to construct seven buildings that would create roughly 800,000 square feet: the Library-Administration Building (now the John Peace Library), the Arts Building, the Science-Education (now Flawn Sciences) Building, the Humanities-Business (now McKinney Humanities) Building, the Physical Plant (now Bosque Street) Building, the Physical Education Building, and the Convocation Center.

From the start, Babbitt says, Ford and his team had the foresight to see what UTSA would become. "O'Neil made the statement that a lot of people think we're going to build another Trinity [University] out here, but that's absolutely the wrong thing to do," he recalls, pointing out that Trinity's buildings were smaller in scale. Instead, the firm was planning for UTSA's swelling enrollment in future decades. "He said that UTSA would be a huge institution, and the buildings are going to be very, very large."

Babbitt would be the first to admit that the original Main Campus buildings are more "formidable" than "friendly," citing the early 1970s as architecture's "age of brutalism and concrete," but he says the massive structures were meant to serve a purpose. They were built for flexibility. It was imagined that the addition of future colleges might require more cohabited spaces and significant restructuring. Babbitt says that the mechanical systems of the buildings were designed to make such projects more convenient, adding that

'RUNNERS & SHAKERS

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the large columns in the original buildings house a number of services and utilities that can be easily swapped or altered.

When Babbitt wrote the Master Plan Summary that outlined the basic long-term configuration of the campus, density was also a major focal point. He says he's pleased that the walkability and tight proximity of the buildings that started in the original concept has been maintained over the past five decades. "It's a very, very compact campus for a university that size, and UTSA has respected that over the years," he says. "I applaud everybody here who has understood that it should be as dense and pedestrian-friendly as possible."

That density is one of many planning concepts used during the first phase of campus development that were borrowed from historic Spain. Another is the northwest-to-southeast orientation of the campus, a positioning that allows for more sunlight on streets and sidewalks than any other orientation as the sun crosses the sky throughout the day. The most notable one, however, was that the buildings would be subordinatedly placed around a central plaza with "paseos" leading pedestrians to it. Thus, Sombriella Plaza was born.

The design for the plaza was placed on Babbitt, who was responsible for site development, which included walkways, roads, parking lots, green spaces, and outdoor courts and fields. Offering up one bit of guidance, Ford told Babbitt he wanted an area of the plaza to be shaded by "hanging sticks." Babbitt ran with it and created what remains

the greatest gathering place on Main Campus today. "It's not even a building, but it's one of the nicest things I think I've ever done," Babbitt says, and it's a point worth noting when one considers he would go on to restore the Empire and Majestic theaters and serve as the project manager for construction of San Antonio's Central Library.

He takes pride in the fact that thousands of past, present, and future Roadrunners have snapped pictures in front of the Sombriella Fountain, but he's especially grateful because the fountain almost never came to fruition. Babbitt's original plans included two identical fountains that opposed each other in the plaza. But Peter Flawn, UTSA's president from 1973 to 1977, didn't approve. He felt that the public might perceive the fountains as indication that UTSA was being frivolous and extravagant in its spending. Babbitt recounts the back-and-forth coming to a head during a meeting in Flawn's office when even the risk-averse director of the Office of Facilities, Planning, and Construction was trying to sell Flawn on the positives of a water feature.

Babbitt goes through the exchange while holding back a few chuckles: "Dr. Flawn glared at him and said, 'You've been talking to O'Neil Ford, haven't you?' He said, 'Well, yes, I have.'" Flawn knew in that moment that this was one dispute he wasn't going to win, but the cunning

➤ Babbitt expresses his delight at being shown original blueprints for the Sombriella that he drew up in 1970, now housed in the UTSA Archives.



president quickly crafted a compromise. "At that point, Dr. Flawn said, 'OK. We can have *one* fountain.'"

Babbitt has accumulated a wealth of stories and architectural knowledge from his 45 years as a professional. He worked for Ford, Powell & Carson until 1985, owned his own firm for five years, and then became the principal architect at 3D/International until retiring in 2010. His appreciation for the craft is what led him to volunteering at the UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures, where he has been organizing, cataloging, and digitizing several collections of architectural plans and drawings since the summer of 2017. His excitement shines when he discusses sifting through Isaac Maxwell's designs for gorgeous punched-metal light fixtures or poring over the materials of Ralph Cameron, the architect who designed the Scottish Rite Temple in San Antonio. "That's like dessert," he laughs. "That's just fun for me. That's not work."

One of those volunteer projects recently brought him back to the Main Campus, where he hadn't stepped foot in at least 10 years, he says. That day, he went through many of UTSA's original architectural drawings at the Bosque Street Building. It was a nice nostalgia trip, but the impact of what he had done for UTSA didn't hit him until later that day when he meandered over to Sombrilla Plaza. In all of the years that he had spent working on the campus, he had never actually taken a few minutes to relax under the shade of his creation. "I sat with a coffee under the Sombrilla and I thought, *Damn, this is nice!*" ☕

PROFILE
ALUMNI

FOREVER YOUNG

At 101 years old, PAUL KATTAPONG M.A. '79 is UTSA's oldest alumni

Paul Kattapong M.A. '79 knows the secrets to a long life: First, have oily skin. It makes your face look younger. Second, wash your hands constantly to keep germs away. And finally, laugh often. When he originally shared these insights for an interview with *Sombrilla Magazine* in 2010, Kattapong was 93 years old and said he was hanging his hopes on these three things to get him to 100. "I will try my best to live to 100 years old," he said. "Once I get there, I will join the centennial crowd. After that, I will try my best to get to the supercentennial. I keep my fingers crossed."

His own advice has served him well. Now 101, despite arthritis, gout, and swollen legs that require him to use a walker, Kattapong boasted that his doctors estimate he'd make it to 109. "I hope that is true."

Kattapong is UTSA's oldest living alum. And decades after receiving his master's degree in bicultural-bilingual studies, he remembered how difficult—but worthwhile—it was to complete his degree.

"Those four years were really tough," he said. "I came home after 5 p.m., sat down in my chair, and would catnap for five to 10 minutes before I would get up and go to my evening class. I finally finished my 36-hour requirement, but it was very rough, those four years."

But nothing in Kattapong's life has come easy. He was born in 1917 in Bangkok, Thailand, to Chinese parents. When he was 6 years old, he began attending school—first learning Chinese, then Thai—before studying English. When he was in seventh grade, his father died, and so did Kattapong's guaranteed education. Unlike the United States, where all students can attend public school at no cost, Thailand required students to pay



tuition. Without his father's income to pay for school, Kattapong was faced with a choice: quit school or work for it.

He began cleaning classrooms to pay for his education. "From seventh grade until I left Bangkok, I had no money from my parents," he says. "I had to earn it for myself."

He finished high school and then attended college in Bangkok. During World War II he became a member of an underground movement fighting alongside American forces. After the war, he says, he received a scholarship to attend George Williams College in Chicago, where he majored in group work education. In 1954 he met and married his wife, Verna Anna Voth.

After graduating from college Kattapong got a job with the Department of Defense in Monterey, Calif., teaching Thai. Over the next 32 years he continued working with the government, rising in rank from language instructor to specialist to supervisor.

Kattapong credits his mother, Maasii, for the route his life has taken. Though she never went to school or learned to read or write, she pushed for Kattapong to finish school at whatever cost. It's a message he's passed down to his children and grandchildren. "One day my mother was sick," he says. "She told me to study hard, complete your education and graduation, and stand tall in your community, raise your father's family flag up in the sky. I never forgot that."

"Education helped me a lot," he says. "If I had never heard my mother's words to remind me and encourage me to pursue an education, I would never have had the chance to come to the U.S. I would never have had the chance to finish my college education and all of my children to get through their education." ☕

PROFILE
ALUMNI



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

WAYNE TERRY '85 and TRISH DeBERRY are named
the first Mr. and Ms. UTSA at the inaugural homecoming ceremony

BY MICHELLE MONDO

Wayne Terry '85 and Trish DeBerry were named Mr. and Ms. UTSA in 1985 at the university's inaugural homecoming ceremony. Since there was no football team during that era, the Alumni Association chose basketball season for the event. The pair were

crowned on the court of the Convocation Center, where the ceremony was held at a men's game.

Active in Lambda Chi Alpha,



elected as student body president, and involved in the university program council, Terry says no one really knew what to expect with events planning. *Would activities be welcome?*

Would people show up?

"I remember it being very exciting for us," DeBerry says. "We saw the work as a step in the right direction."

DeBerry remains active with UTSA and is a former Development Board member, while Terry was named *Alumnus of the Year* in 2012.

The two say they reminisce when they run into each other at events around San Antonio or when visiting UTSA. A few years ago at

▲ Terry and DeBerry, in 1985, are crowned Mr. and Ms. UTSA at the first homecoming.

◀ The pair, in 2015, return to campus to recall their big night.

the President's Dinner, Terry says, their homecoming photo was part of the *Through the Years* theme.

"People said, 'Is that really you and Trish DeBerry?'" Terry says, joking that he thought to himself, *Let's just push those thoughts off the table*. "I had an early '80s Jheri curl going on."

DeBerry also chuckles at the decade of tortured, big hair: "It certainly was damaged and fried, lots of overuse of product. I don't know how we thought that looked good."

Both are now successful professionals in San Antonio, with Terry working as a public affairs manager for H-E-B, while DeBerry runs her own public relations firm. She spent only two years at UTSA before transferring to Trinity University because, she says, UTSA didn't have a PR program at the time.

"I would have stayed if they'd had it then," she says. "It's just that the university was so new. They have a great PR program now. It makes me really proud to see how the university and degree programs have grown." ?



“ I ripped myself out of the egg, and the crowd was going crazy! It was a wonderful experience.

▲ Gonzalez's Rowdy, in 1981, is introduced to 'Runner fans at the first men's basketball game.

➤ Gonzalez, in 2018, returns to campus and meets a Rowdy successor.





PROFILE
ALUMNI

ROWDY'S ROOTS

ANTONIO "TONY" GONZALEZ III '82 *is revealed as the first Rowdy at the inaugural men's basketball game*

BY DONALD SPARKS

Little did Tony Gonzalez III '82 know when he signed up for a gymnastics class at UTSA to meet his physical education requirements for graduation that his college experience would change forever. One morning he was simply playing around and cracking jokes with classmates, and then he was on his way to making history.

Gonzalez admits he was being particularly disruptive in class that day in 1981. His professor pointed her finger directly at him and demanded, "You! I need to see you this afternoon." He'd already had negative attention because when he'd do his gym routines, he'd perform like a clown. So he figured this time he'd finally messed up.

During their meeting the professor explained to Gon-

zalez that she was in charge of the cheerleaders and mascot for UTSA's forthcoming basketball program. "I want you to do something for me," she said. "I want you to try out for mascot. Put on the head and misbehave—just like you do in my class." And the rest is UTSA history.

On November 30, 1981, in the now-demolished HemisFair Arena during the men's inaugural basketball game, against the Arkansas Razorbacks, the arena lights dimmed and the band played the anthem from 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. Midcourt sat a seven-foot paper egg. Inside, Gonzalez waited, ready to "hatch" for the frenzied UTSA crowd.

"I was nervous. It was dark, and I didn't know what to expect," he says. "I ripped myself out of the egg, and the crowd was going crazy! It

was a wonderful experience."

Over the years he has gone to many UTSA sporting events and admits he always looks for Rowdy at the games to see how he is engaging the crowd. "I watch the band come out, I watch the cheerleaders with the UTSA flags, I sing the fight song," Gonzalez says. "But mostly I look at Rowdy. And I've never seen a bad Rowdy. He makes people laugh, has fun, and gets the crowd fired up."

And as UTSA celebrates its 50th anniversary, Gonzalez is honored to be a part of the university's legacy. "It's been a blessing—and not just because of the games," he says, "but because of the goodwill that I did as the first Rowdy. It's humbling to have been a part and represent the university, and it's something that's in my heart forever." 🦋



UNEARTHING SECRETS

THE EXPERTS IN UTSA'S OLDEST RESEARCH CENTER
HAVE BEEN DIGGING UP THE PAST
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF (UTSA'S) TIME

BY MICHELLE MONDO

San Antonio city archaeologist Kay Hindes '86 was in her third year as an undergraduate at UTSA when she and a colleague were working on an archaeological dig that uncovered what would become a highlight of her career—a wooden structure now known as the gates of the Alamo. “It was so cool!” she says. ¶ She was working at the university’s Center for Archaeological Research when the UTSA team spotted the gates during a field survey

on property owned by descendants of the Ruiz and Herrera families.

At the time, driving 150 miles round trip from home in Charlotte to her classes and being a mother of two, Hindes didn’t envision becoming the city archaeologist when she first enrolled in UTSA’s anthropology program. But her time at the university was transformative, she says: “The program was still pretty new under Tom Hester, and I just felt so lucky to be out there and learning from world-class archaeologists. We really had the benefit to be able to study under some really great people.”

As UTSA celebrates its 50th birthday, the university’s Center for

Archaeological Research will celebrate 45 years of exploring the past to help us inform the future. Created in 1974 as the fledgling university’s second—but now oldest extant—research center, CAR now has more than 500 completed projects, many of those from the San Antonio Missions. It has been instrumental to San Antonio and the South Texas region for learning its history.

“CAR is the preeminent cultural resources management organization in the region, with a long history of successful projects and an unmatched understanding of San Antonio issues and history,” says Shawn Marceaux, CAR’s director. “We help the commu-

THE PRACTICAL
AND THE WOW
OF RESEARCH
AT UTSA



“It’s incredibly crucial that artifacts found from excavations in San Antonio and around the state are curated and that those artifacts stay at home. It’s a lot of work to make it happen.”

➤ CAR researchers on the Alamo west wall dig, also known as the Radio Shack excavation, in August 1979.

nity interpret and preserve our cultural heritage through sponsored research projects, provide educational opportunities and training for UTSA students, including undergraduate and graduate students, and conduct outreach programs for the K-12 community as well as adult education classes, and we provide collaborative leadership, create research opportunities, deliver presentations, and produce publications.”

CAR is certified by the Texas Historical Commission as a repository for state-associated collections, and curates well over 1 million artifacts. This makes exhibits possible that may not have happened, such as one in October 2017, when the city and UTSA joined forces to present historical treasures unearthed at the Alamo—some of which had never been seen—in honor of Texas Archaeology Month. One of the highlights included a seven-inch unfired Howitzer shell.

“We got great feedback on that exhibit,” Hindes says. “It’s incredibly crucial that artifacts found from excavations in San Antonio and around the state are curated and that those artifacts stay at home. It’s a lot of work to make it happen, and Shawn and his group put in that work. They did that because of their commitment to the public. That has always been part of the mission.”

IN THE BEGINNING

Thomas Hester had just graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, when UTSA hired him in 1973 for its anthropology department. “My first class had no students,” he says, laughing, “but I still got paid! Here we were in San Antonio in 1973 and nobody knew the school.”

This provided freedom to create a program and institute without much interference. Seeing how contract archaeology was growing in the state in response to new regulations, Hester and Dean Richard Adams didn’t have a hard time convincing President Peter Flawn to start the center. Flawn appointed Hester its director.



Much of CAR's founding is a who's who of archaeology. Along with Hester and assistant director Jack Eaton, the first hire was Fred Valdez, who now teaches at UT Austin and received his Ph.D. from Harvard. Local historian Anne Adams Fox assisted in numerous excavations, and former research associate Wayne Cox helped "turn downtown San Antonio upside down," Hester says. "Through Anne and Wayne's work, many parts of the city forgotten (or lost!) were revealed, and in the process, some mythologies of old San Antonio were put to rest."

Adams and CAR staff began the Maya program, which has since extended, under Hester's direction, throughout Belize. There were big projects in Mexico (including missions that preceded San Antonio's), digs at the Alamo and the other local missions, along with a growing interest in the community fueled by publicity generated from finds in San Antonio. The center's goal of working in South Texas involved dozens of projects, field schools, and other studies, including the Choke Canyon Project, the largest in the region, with field director Grant Hall, who oversaw the production of the 10-volume report on the work.

"They made my future in archaeology possible," Valdez says, "and I often relay field stories from those days to my current students. CAR was *the* place for archaeology in Texas and beyond. Some of the best training was accomplished through the center and UTSA."

In 1987 Hester left UTSA only because at the time the university lacked a Ph.D. program and he was offered a job to teach at UT Austin. But his influence can be seen today. Hinderes was one of his UTSA students and current director Marceaux obtained his Ph.D. at Austin, working with a professor who Hester helped

to train. "Early on, the center was a tremendous value to UTSA," Hester says. "Immediately when we started doing projects in '74, especially in the city, we got the front page of the newspaper and special projects got picked up by papers across the state and even *The New York Times*. We didn't change the history of UTSA, but through the '70s and '80s the publicity helped the center, and that helped UTSA. I think the recent excitement around the Alamo has generated even more interest."

THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES

CAR researcher Clinton McKenzie first got Alamo fever around age 10. "It was called the Radio Shack project, but it was the excavation of the west wall of the Alamo," he says, "and it was the first dig I ever got to see. It was fascinating." His membership in a local archaeological society got him into the project, and his love of "picking up anything off the ground," as his family describes it, continues to this day.

He worked at the center from 1988 to 1992, but his expertise in Spanish colonialism eventually took him to the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation, where he facilitated municipal and city code that required archaeological investigations. Now earning his Ph.D. in anthropology at UTSA, using collections from CAR brings him full circle.

McKenzie sees the work CAR does within the city and region as an imperative, calling San Antonio an "unsung and underappreciated city." He wants to help tell San Antonio's story objectively, both the good and the bad that came from colonialism. McKenzie says it's an honor to be a part of weaving the historical stories together and providing them to the public. "I've had the opportunity to work at all five of the missions," he says. "I also have a love for Spanish colonial irrigation systems—the acequias—and documenting the history of them. For a guy who is into Spanish colonial ditches, it's a pretty good life." 🌱

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EXPLORE OUR HISTORY
As we celebrate 50 Years

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