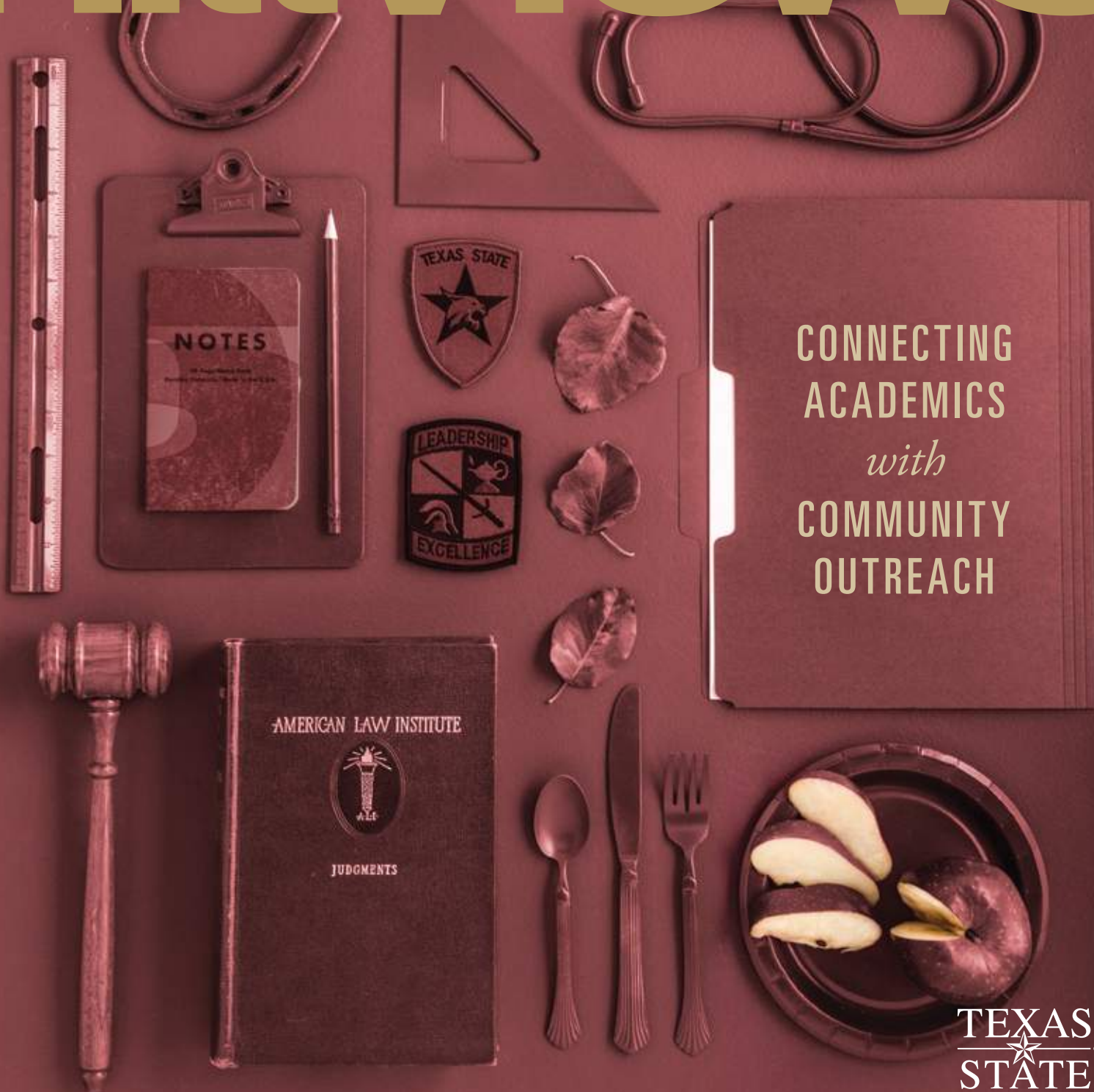


# hillviews

vol. 46 no. 3 | Fall 2015 | MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM





hillviews  
contents FALL 2015

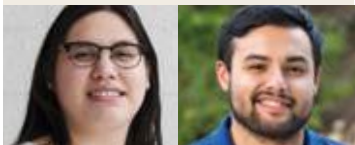


Call with the Herd, ©1988, Bill Wittliff, courtesy of the Wittliff Collections, Texas State

**Lonesome Dove Reunion**  
If you are a *Lonesome Dove* fan, you'll want to head to Fort Worth in 2016 for the Lonesome Dove Reunion and Trail celebrating the 1989 television miniseries.

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**ABOUT:** *Hillviews* is produced three times a year by the University Advancement division. We'd love to hear from you. Send us your comments about the articles in this issue, or send story suggestions. Email [Hillviews@txstate.edu](mailto:Hillviews@txstate.edu); fax to (512) 245-3817; or mail to *Hillviews*, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4613.



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FEATURE

Preparing for the future

The College of Applied Arts offers a variety of degrees and programs to help students gain 21st-century jobs in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Programs offered range from pre-veterinarian studies in agriculture to preparation for leadership in military sciences. Students gain skills and training that transform each of them to become part of the global community. Each program and department has evolved over the years to meet the world's changing needs.

The range of degrees provides the opportunity to make a difference.



hillviews

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Texas State University

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Dear Friends,

Texas State has a history of helping others, and its students, faculty, and staff have a service-oriented mindset that benefits those inside and outside of the university.

Over the last Memorial Day weekend, when heavy rain caused severe flooding in several Central Texas areas, our students, faculty, and staff responded immediately to those who experienced damage or tragic loss.

Hundreds within the Bobcat community joined the volunteer effort. They served meals, removed debris, delivered clothing and cleaned and repaired homes, and the university itself provided temporary shelter to about 200 displaced individuals. The university also raised money to help those in need who were affected by the flooding.

For those who have been around this university, it wasn't surprising to witness this spirit of giving and helping.

Each year, more than 4,000 of our students fan out to 250 neighborhoods in and around San Marcos for a daylong public service project known as Bobcat Build, in which they do yard work, clean and repair homes, and help with other similar tasks.

Over many years, we've built a culture of helping others — and doing things to improve the lives of those who live, work, and go to school in and beyond our area. It is a spirit that has grown into something much more, and is now an integral part of our academic core.

Our McCoy College M.B.A. students in a study-abroad program in Chile helped rebuild a community center for underprivileged children that was ravaged by an earthquake; faculty and students in our communication disorders program established a partnership with a clinic in Monterrey, Mexico, that helps children with speech impediments get badly needed care; and our nutrition faculty and students have created a local program to improve the eating habits of children at risk of becoming diabetic, which you can read about in this issue of *Hillviews*.

There are many other examples of Texas State programs that involve our students and are aimed at improving other people's lives — far too many to enumerate in this space. So we've dedicated this issue to highlighting several of these service-learning activities that make Texas State a truly unique place.

Other features in this issue include an interview with Dr. John Fleming, who earlier this year became dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication; a look at the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of the Higher Education Act; profiles of Texas State's six Distinguished Alumni for 2015; and a profile of alumnus Chris Cortez, an assistant athletic trainer with the NFL's Oakland Raiders.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Trauth

# (wide)views

## What's planned

A number of cast and crew members plan to participate in the Lonesome Dove Reunion celebration, including Bill Wittliff and co-executive producer Suzanne De Passe, Robert Duvall, and Tommy Lee Jones. Other cast members who plan to attend include Anjelica Huston, Diane Lane, Rick Schroder, Barry Corbin, Glenne Headly, William Sanderson, Barry Tubb, and D.B. Sweeney. Crew members will include Simon Wincer (director), Dyson Lovell (producer), Douglas Milsome (cinematography), Van Ramsey (costumes), Carey White (production designer), and Eric Williams (property master).

The Lonesome Dove Trail events will kick off in January with exhibits of costumes, props, photos and artifacts presented in partnership with the Sid Richardson Museum, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, and the Cattle Raisers Museum.



On the Mesa, ©1988, Bill Wittliff, courtesy of the Wittliff Collections, Texas State University

## LONESOME DOVE REUNION

*Proceeds to benefit the Tomorrow Fund of Wittliff Collections*

*By Julie Cooper*

The Wittliff Collections at Texas State University, home of the *Lonesome Dove* production archive, will host a sold-out reunion gala in Fort Worth on March 31, 2016, honoring the cast and crew of the *Lonesome Dove* television miniseries. In addition, the Lonesome Dove Trail will feature exhibits, an outdoor screening of the series, and panel discussions. The title sponsor is Frost Bank. The reunion gala sold out just a few days after it was announced to the public September 30.

Proceeds from the celebration will benefit the Tomorrow Fund of the Wittliff Collections, a special collections library, research archive, and exhibition gallery that collects, preserves, and shares the cultural history of Texas and the Southwest. Dr. Bill Wittliff, Austin-based screenwriter, filmmaker, and photographer, and his wife, Dr. Sally Wittliff, founded the Southwest Writers Collection at Texas State in 1986, a year before he wrote the teleplay of *Lonesome Dove*. Bill Wittliff also served as co-executive producer of the miniseries.



Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Larry McMurtry, *Lonesome Dove* tells the story of former Texas Rangers Woodrow Call and Augustus “Gus” McCrae and their adventures driving a herd of cattle from Texas to Montana. The four-night, six-hour TV miniseries was first broadcast in 1989 with 26 million viewers tuning in for the premiere episode starring Tommy Lee Jones as Woodrow and Robert Duvall as Gus. The miniseries was nominated for 18 Emmy Awards, winning seven. It also won Golden Globes, Western Heritage, and Writers Guild of America awards; honors from the National Association of Television Critics; and a Peabody award.

In 1988, Wittliff began donating his *Lonesome Dove* materials and convinced many of the principals to donate their artifacts. *The Lonesome Dove Collection* includes screenplay drafts, props, costumes, and 80 hours of printed takes from the film. The collection also contains more than 200 photographs taken by Wittliff during filming. *A Book of Photographs from Lonesome Dove* was published in 2007;

and in 2012, *A Book on the Making of Lonesome Dove* by John Spong was added to the Wittliff Collections Southwestern & Mexican Photography Book Series.

Reunion activities will be held on multiple dates and in various locations around Fort Worth.

“Fort Worth’s history and heritage in the cattle industry and its seminal role in historic cattle drives, combined with the city’s embodiment of western culture, make it the perfect backdrop for the celebration of the talented cast and crew who made the world’s most beloved western,” says Dr. Barbara Breier, Texas State’s vice president for university advancement and a principal organizer of the event.

Ticketing for the panel discussions and the symposium will be on a first-come, first-served basis and will be announced in late February 2016. For general information about the Lonesome Dove Reunion and Trail, visit [LonesomeDoveReunion.com](http://LonesomeDoveReunion.com).

Other events

***Lonesome Dove: The Art of Story***  
Sid Richardson Museum, January 15 – June 19

***Bullets and Bustles: Costumes of Lonesome Dove***  
National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame, February 19 – April 17

***Photographs from Lonesome Dove, by Bill Wittliff***  
Cattle Raisers Museum, February 19 – April 17

**Screening of *Lonesome Dove* miniseries**  
Sundance Square, Parts I and II, March 28; Parts III and IV, March 29 (time TBD)

***Panel Discussions with the cast and crew***  
March 30, Texas Christian University, and March 31, Amon Carter Museum of American Art

***Lonesome Dove Cast and Crew Reunion***  
March 31. **SOLD OUT**

***Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Cowgirls: Texas Cattle Trails to the World, Symposium***  
Fort Worth Library, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. April 2

***Lonesome Dove Highlights of the Wittliff Collections***  
Old Jail Art Center, Albany, April 16 – July 15

# Changing face of campus

## Growing enrollment, students’ needs present challenges, opportunities

By Mariah Medina

Sometimes, when you turn 50, a facelift is just plain necessary. Jones Dining Hall, which opened in 1965, served its last meal in December 2014 before it ceased operation for a major renovation that will keep it out of commission until the beginning of the fall 2016 semester.

While the architectural integrity of the building will remain the same, the new and improved Jones Dining Hall will feature a garden exterior, an outdoor patio for lounging, and a sunroom to increase natural lighting.

“We’re really hoping it will be a place that students can hang out,” says Auxiliary Services Director John Root.

Additionally, students will have access to two new food services in Jones: Dunkin’ Donuts and Cheeburger Cheeburger, a Florida-based chain serving burgers, wraps, wings, malts, shakes, salads, and hotdogs. Its motto is “Big is Better” and there are currently two locations in Texas.

The renovation project is expected to cost between \$18 million and \$23 million to complete, according to Texas State planning and construction officials. With one dining hall closed, other campus food venues have experienced an influx of traffic. This is especially true for the food court in the LBJ Student Center.

“More students are coming to the LBJ Student Center at night and on the weekends now because that’s when they went to Jones a lot,” says Jack Rahmann, LBJSC director. “We’re seeing about 400-500 more students a day coming here to eat. It presents the opportunity to provide those students with programs and activities, so we’re scheduling more entertainment and a variety of activities for students.”

The student center has hosted comedian Daniel Tirado, the Zuzu African Acrobats, and several speed-dating events.



Rendering of the future Jones Dining Hall.

“We keep all of our food outlets open anywhere from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m., seven days a week to meet this need, which is something we didn’t do before.”

The increased student presence in the student center, while largely attributed to the closing of Jones Dining Hall, can also be linked to the university’s escalating enrollment. “We are all, whether it’s food services or the student center, working to meet the needs of this growing student population,” Rahmann says. “We have plans to renovate the LBJ Student Center and expand it so there’s more meeting and event space and so we’re able to serve more students meals.”

Although enrollment increases are generally viewed as positive signs for a university, the continued increases at Texas State have posed some space challenges. According to an analysis by the Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board, Texas State has a space deficit of approximately 1.2 million square feet, among the highest of Texas’ 38 public universities. To put that into perspective, the space deficit is roughly equivalent to the square footage occupied by both of San Marcos’ outlet malls.

“There are days where there aren’t a lot of seats available,” Rahmann says. “We do know for a university this size – 38,000-plus – if you compare to what the industry average is for student centers with regard to square footage, we’re undersized.”

For their part, students seem less concerned with the renovation process and more focused on the reopening of Jones.

“I love both Dunkin’ Donuts and Cheeburger,” says sophomore education major, Katie Senatore. “Everyone complains about the construction, but when it’s finished we’re going to forget all about that part.”



### CELEBRATE THE LEGEND OF LONESOME DOVE.

Explore *Lonesome Dove* through museum exhibitions, screenings, and panel discussions. It’s your chance to go behind the scenes of one of the most beloved Westerns of all time. The *Lonesome Dove* Trail includes multiple locations in Fort Worth, Texas, and one in Albany, Texas.



FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT [LONESOMEDOVEREUNION.COM](http://LONESOMEDOVEREUNION.COM)

“Crossing the Rio Grande” © 1988, Bill Wittliff, Courtesy of the Wittliff Collections, Texas State University





# BOBCATS GIVE BACK

*Current, former students volunteer in community*

*By Edmond Ortiz*

**W**hen the deadly floods hit Hays and surrounding counties in the spring, Texas State University students, including newly graduated ones, sprang into action to work as volunteers for the relief efforts. Including faculty and staff, more than 110 Texas State volunteers logged more than 1,600 hours of time cleaning, cooking meals, feeding the displaced, and repairing damaged property.



Kim Porterfield

Over the years, students have found volunteer opportunities related to disaster relief and other causes through the university’s Office of Community Relations. Operating under the University Advancement division, Community Relations oversees several programs including College Awareness Tours, which targets middle school students for campus visits; and Pack It Up and Pass It On, which encourages student housing residents to donate reusable items for local families. Kim Porterfield, director of Community Relations, has been working at the university since 2001. She has her own history of community service, having spent time on the San Marcos City Council and volunteering with the United Way of Hays County. “The university crafted the position to concentrate all that it takes to meet community needs, where university resources can be applied,” she says.



Andrew Potter

Andrew Potter, a senior majoring in public relations, began as a work-study student in the Office of Community Relations before becoming a full-time PR assistant. It was through a volunteer clearinghouse in Martindale — via the United Way of Hays County — that Potter helped in flood relief efforts. “One day I literally took out an entire family’s floor. It was a struggle. It was so humid,” he recalls. Later, he helped provide food to flood relief sites. “These people lost everything. It was sad, but it was also heartwarming to see Texans help other Texans.” As an undergraduate, Potter also volunteered with Student Government, Greek Affairs, College Knowledge visits, and Bobcat for a Day. Through College Knowledge, Texas State volunteers guide area youth around the campus. Bobcat for a Day allows Texas State students to serve as mentors to high school students.





Alyssa Garza

“With these programs, you try to get across the amount of preparation that’s needed for college,” Potter explains. “College doesn’t start two months before you get there. It starts years in advance.”

Alyssa Garza, a graduate student with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, has been active with Centro San Marcos, a cultural community center. Garza says that being a College Knowledge tour guide has helped her to better understand the educational gaps that exist, especially in low-income areas.

“I learned a lot about the state of higher education. I learned about the opportunities out there to help fill the achievement gap that exists among certain groups,” she says. Garza plans to apply her College Knowledge lessons in her hometown, Laredo.

“I want to help disseminate information about the college



Meghan Bates

readiness, application, and financial aid processes to the kiddos who would otherwise not see themselves as able to attend college,” she adds.

Meghan Bates, majoring in both public relations and Spanish, is set to graduate in December. She interned with the San Marcos City Council, and was a member of the mayor’s youth master plan council.

“I was compelled to work with the city because I needed a place to work as a freshman. Little did I know that internship would change the way I view being active in the community,” Bates says.

“The city’s staff, on all levels, was more concerned with their citizens than the politics. It was encouraging and an example of the footprint I should leave in the community for the next four years.”

Brenda Lopez, a senior public relations/communications major,



Brenda Lopez

has been a coordinator for the Student Volunteer Connection, a campus organization. She also volunteers with Bobcats for United Way, an education-minded group that works with children at area libraries and elementary schools. “Early childhood education is something that we have started to be involved with children to keep them engaged in wanting to read and learn,” she says.

Lopez also participated in flood relief efforts through the United Way. “We went to Martindale and helped clean up twigs and trash,” she says. “It humbled me to see other communities come together to help families who lost everything in the floods.”

Mariana Zamora, a senior social work major, volunteers with several groups including Texas State League of United Latin American Citizens. Her biggest student project was in the spring when she and her classmates partnered with Hope & Love 4 Kids,



Mariana Zamora

which helps Hays County families in need.

“Volunteering has strengthened me in ways I didn’t think possible,” she says. “Volunteering has given me countless opportunities to speak in front of small and large groups of students, parents, and community members, and has provided me with the knowledge of local resources to help solve ongoing community needs.”

More information

ON THE WEB: [www.txstate.edu/community/](http://www.txstate.edu/community/)

VIDEO: <https://bit.ly/1R7GwSP>





## DR. JOHN FLEMING

New dean proud of college's programs, accolades | By Julie Cooper

If he hadn't gone on a study-abroad trip to London as a University of Wisconsin undergraduate in the 1980s, Dr. John Fleming might have chosen a different path and become a physician. Instead, the former English/pre-med major chose the path of writer — and now is the dean of Fine Arts and Communication at Texas State.

"I understood how science could fascinate people, but it didn't fascinate me enough to go into that as my career," he says. "When I really got into theatre through that study abroad in London, it was a matter of looking at the options I was interested in: creative writing, playwriting and screen writing, and children's book writing. And along the way, I decided I wanted to be at a university."

Fleming earned his master's and doctoral degrees in theatre history from The University of Texas at Austin studying under Oscar Brockett, whose book *History of Theatre* has been used to teach American theatre students for four decades. He joined Texas State in 1999 after three years at Auburn University. In 2005, he was named chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance and served in that capacity until he was tapped to replace former dean, Dr. Tim Motett.

As a former chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, Fleming is proud of the department's escalating reputation, which has been honored by a collection of awards ranging from the regional Austin Critics Table to the national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. All of the programs in the college are growing and improving. He can reel off the recognitions earned by each with ease: dance ranked No. 24 in the nation by dancecolleges.com, and No. 5 among undergraduate programs; M.F.A. communication design ranked in the top 11 by *Print* magazine; master's program in communications studies ranked No. 3 in the nation for education research; the School of Journalism and Mass Communication is one of the 25 largest in the country; and the music program is No. 1 in Texas for music teachers.

This year the theatre M.F.A. program will introduce a dramatic writing degree and a design degree to go along with its directing degree. "We are adding programs that complement each other, especially the undergraduate programs," Fleming says. "The graduate programs enrich each other and enhance the opportunities for our nationally recognized work in the undergraduate acting and musical theatre programs."

As dean, Fleming says he works with each academic unit to help them realize their potential. "In my presentation I said 'it's not my vision for

the college, it's *our* vision for the college.' They know their programs better than I do, and so my job is to help them achieve their goals." Fleming says he understands the administration side and how the university works building relationships.

As a scholar, Fleming has published extensively on contemporary theatre. His books include *Tom Stoppard's Theatre: Finding Order amid Chaos* (2001, University of Texas Press), *Romulus Linney: Maverick of the American Theater* (2008, Smith & Kraus), and *Stoppard's Arcadia* (2009, Continuum), and Brockett's textbook *The Essential Theatre* (2013 and 2015, Wadsworth Cengage). He has also written award-winning plays such as *Transposing Shakespeare* and *The Two Lives of Napoleon Beazley*.

Fleming, one of eight children, grew up in Wisconsin. He is a big football fan and even owns a share of the Green Bay Packers — and has the certificate to prove it. His wife, Julie Jalil, is an artist and some of her work hangs in Fleming's office in Old Main. He also enjoys playing golf, but admits he hasn't had time for it lately. In his free time, Fleming says he likes sports, movies, reading, and music from Bruce Cockburn to British punk rock.

"I enjoy teaching. I enjoy interacting with students," he says. He will continue to teach a graduate class, one that prepares graduate students to teach.

Fleming sees the university as a first-rate place to work. "This is not a stepping-stone job. Most people come here and they stay here," he says. It is also a destination for audiences to see theatre, concerts, and works of art. "We are, more and more, no longer the backup choice for a lot of students. Particularly in this college, for a lot of (students), we are the first choice."

Last year, the College of Fine Arts and Communication had 1,139 graduates, up from 975. And Fleming says he continues to work on getting the message out about Texas State. "Our general statement is 'opportunities for excellence make Texas State a destination for the fine arts and communication.'"

"It's a really good time for Fine Arts and Communication here at Texas State. There's a lot of great things happening," Fleming says.

"THIS IS NOT  
A STEPPING-  
STONE JOB.  
MOST PEOPLE  
COME HERE  
AND THEY  
STAY HERE."

— DR. JOHN FLEMING





## BOBCATS WOW THE BIG APPLE

### Theatre graduates perform Senior Showcase to woo agents, land roles

By Dan R. Goddard

**T**he star power of Texas State University's Department of Theatre and Dance shone brightly in the Big Apple. All of the students performing in the 2015 Senior Showcase wowed a New York audience of theatre, film, and television professionals. Every one of the newly minted graduates received calls from agents and casting directors, paving the way for professional stage and screen careers.

Sixteen acting majors rotated through dual male-and-female roles in *The Venus in Fur Spectacular*. Seven musical theatre majors performed songs and dances from shows such as *Cinderella*, *Frozen*, *Big Fish*, and *The Bridges of Madison County*.

Rehearsals began in October 2014 for the showcase that premiered May 15, 2015, in the Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre. The show then traveled to New York for two performances. The students also had a chance to attend panel presentations by show business professionals.

"We're excited all of the students are getting phone calls from agents and for tryouts," says Kaitlin Hopkins, head of musical theatre. "Our program is not just about the craft of acting, but also about the business and physical well-being of being a professional performer. We want them to know how to send out portfolios, get representation, audition, and land roles. That's why our faculty is made up of working professionals. We want to train our students for the current market, so they can go from university training straight to Broadway and Hollywood."

Hopkins has 30 years of experience in theatre, film, television, and radio, ranging from TV's *Law and Order*, *Rescue Me* and *Star Trek Voyager* to Broadway appearances in *Noises Off* and *Anything Goes*. She was in a national tour of *Dirty Dancing* in 2009 when Dr. John Fleming, then-department chair and now dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, asked her to design and run a new B.F.A. in musical theatre. Hopkins' husband, Jim Price, is head of playwriting at Texas State.

"Faculty collaboration is something I highly value and consider vital to a successful and healthy student work environment," Hopkins says. "Having access to working artists and projects in development through a comprehensive guest artist program is an essential component to any competitive performing arts training program and it's a thriving part of our program, thanks to alums Mike and Dianne Bowman and the Bowman

Guest Artists Series."

Lauren Lane may be best known as an acerbic blonde, C.C. Babcock, the foil for Fran Drescher in the TV comedy *The Nanny*, which ran for six seasons in the 1990s. More recently, she's become the university's head of acting and a stalwart of theatre in Austin, where she performs at the Zach Theatre and was named "A Theatrical Wonder" by the *Austin Chronicle*. A native of Oklahoma who grew up in Dallas, she has an M.F.A. from the American Conservatory Theatre.

"I think the caliber of professionals we've been able to attract for our faculty during the past five years reflects the growing national reputation of Texas State," Lane says. "But getting into our program is really competitive. Last year, we saw more than 600 applications and we only accepted 12 students. This is a tough, tough business, but our students get excellent training and are able to compete with anyone on a national level."

Senior Stephen Brower showed off impressive dance moves while performing Cole Porter's "Too Darn Hot" in the showcase. Six different agents in New York showed an interest in him, along with the casting directors for the Broadway musical *Book of Mormon* and a national tour of *White Christmas*. Brower lined up two shows this summer at The MUNY in St. Louis, Missouri, the country's oldest and largest outdoor musical theatre. He performed in *Holiday Inn* and *Oklahoma*.

"I didn't start dance training until I was 16 so it just shows what wonderful training I got from LaQuet Pringle, Cassie Abate, and the other dance teachers at Texas State," Brower says. "And it's rare for a student showcase to feature dance, so it's great that our showcase allowed us to show all our abilities."

Gabriel Bernal, who performed "In Love with You" from *First Date*, says the showcase provided a dream-come-true introduction to the New York theatre community. "Our audience was filled with agents, casting directors, actors, composers, and alumni who had all come to see us as new talent moving to the city," Bernal says.

Zuhdi Boueri, senior acting major, says he got a promising call from an artistic director in New York, but he's already been accepted into the M.F.A. program at Pennsylvania State University. "I went to showcase for the experience, to scope out the city, meet professionals and perform one last time with my friends and fellow artists," Boueri says.

**TOP ROW:** Sydney Roberts Goodwin, Stephen Brower, Betty Marie Muessig, Danezion Mills, Evan Davies

**SECOND ROW:** Zuhdi Boueri, Brianna Rip, Taylor Scorse, Shelby Acosta

**THIRD ROW:** Johnique Mitchell, Morgan MacInnes, Mitchell Slan, Regan Goins

**FOURTH ROW:** Sarah Mullinnix, Cody Jenkins, Gabriel Bernal, Rachel DeRouen, Lauren Rutherford

**FIFTH ROW:** Glenn DeVar, Melanie Notinger, Ava L'Amoreaux, Charles Werner, Ashley Mrozek-Thurrow



## We're No. 1 — again

For the third consecutive year, San Marcos has been named the fastest-growing city in the nation. This has been attributed to the city's location on the I-35 corridor between Austin and San Antonio, and, of course, because it is home to Texas State University.

58,892

San Marcos population in 2014

7.9%

percent of increase from 2013

5

Texas cities among the top 10 fastest-growing in the country:  
San Marcos,  
Georgetown, Frisco,  
Conroe, and McKinney

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Photo courtesy Shirley Kay Photography

## Spring Lake — a place to celebrate

Katie Weatherby and Tory Mac Carpenter wanted a wedding reception their guests wouldn't forget. So when the Texas State graduates who live and work in San Marcos tied the knot on April 18, they hosted family and friends at a reception on the banks of Spring Lake at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.

"When we began to consider wedding venues we wanted our guests to have an experience and fall in love with San Marcos at the same time," Weatherby says. "Our wedding was about showcasing our relationship *and* our town."

### FIND PRICES BOOKING FORMS, FAQs

[meadowscenter.txstate.edu](http://meadowscenter.txstate.edu)  
(click on Book Events  
& Access)

Discounts are available  
for **current students**  
and **employees**.

Or, for more information, call  
**(512) 245-7507**



Mason Puckett

## Bobcat on the trail

**Mason Puckett** is a Texas State junior who is taking the fall semester off to take a hike. Not satisfied with just a stroll in the country, Mason and his brother Conor are hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) that stretches from the border of Canada and Washington through Oregon to California and the Mexican border.

UT graduate Conor (aka Big Tex) is writing a blog — SeePuckHike. Wordpress.com — but Mason (aka Saltlick) is there with him step for step as the Dallas duo tackle the PCT's 2,650-mile challenge.

## KUDOS TO...

### Paul Goldschmidt: Arizona Diamondbacks three-time All-Star

**First baseman at 86th  
MLB All-Star Game**  
July 14 in Cincinnati, Ohio.  
AL won 6-3

**Became first Bobcat  
baseball player to have  
his jersey retired.**  
February 25, 2015

**Career leader in home  
runs (36) and RBI (179)  
for the Bobcats**

Photos courtesy Jennifer Stewart/Arizona Diamondbacks



## ACCOLADES

### Scholarship named for Rohde



**Dr. Rodney Rohde**, chair of Clinical Laboratory Science, was recognized by Cardinal Health with the 2015 urEssential Award for his contribution to the field of laboratory science.

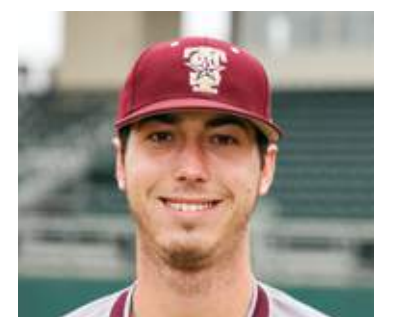
In addition to the award, Cardinal Health has established a scholarship with Texas State's University Development Foundation in Rohde's name, which will be awarded to students seeking careers in the field of laboratory medicine.

## Bobcats drafted

Texas State pitchers **Lucas Humpal** (No. 21) and **Scott Grist** (No. 36) were drafted in the 2015 Major League Baseball Draft held in June. The Cleveland Indians selected Humpal in the 37th round while Grist went to the Milwaukee Brewers in the 38th round.



Humpal, a junior from Corpus Christi, was named the Sun Belt Conference's Preseason Pitcher of the Year. He finished the year with 104 innings pitched and 80 strikeouts to lead the team in both categories. He started 16 games for the Bobcats this season. Humpal, who returned to the Bobcats for his senior year, is majoring in electrical engineering with a minor in applied mathematics.



Grist, a senior from Sugarland, made the Sun Belt Conference All-Tournament Team with a great performance in his last innings as a Bobcat. Grist was named Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week twice this season. He told *The University Star* his goal was to be drafted. Grist was assigned to the Brewers minor league team in Phoenix.



# In the footsteps of Shakespeare

## Theatre and Dance students study abroad in Britain

By Sara Mitschke

Only a time machine could make it possible to spend the summer with the iconic playwright William Shakespeare. But for 23 Texas State Department of Theatre and Dance students, jetting across the Atlantic Ocean for a study-abroad program was the next best thing, as they got a lesson about the Bard unlike any other.

The program in Britain included classes with professionals from the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Globe Theatre. Students attended eight total performances, each one followed by a talkback session with a lead actor.

"We saw four shows, and that part of the class is called, Text and Context, so we get a lot of production history and historical perspective," explains Chuck Ney, head of directing and director of Theatre Study Abroad at Texas State.

The students spent a week in Stratford-upon-Avon — the birthplace of Shakespeare, home of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and a major destination for tourists and Shakespeare enthusiasts. There, the Texas State group saw performances of *Othello* and *The Merchant of Venice*. One of the classes was Stage Combat, taught by Ronin Traynor, a professional fight coordinator, sword master, teacher and actor.



The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon.

After Stratford, the group traveled to London to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Globe Theatre, visit a theatre exhibit at the Victoria and Albert Museum, snap pictures in front of Big Ben and the London Eye, and discover cuisine from some of the local establishments.

"I chose to study abroad because I have never been out of the country before. I thought that would be awesome," says Zeke Mills, a senior acting major. "Plus, it's Shakespeare, which I love. I started doing Shakespeare my second semester in college. I was King Edward in *Richard III*."

The students were groundlings at the Globe Theatre for a performance of *As You Like It*. In Shakespeare's time, groundlings were the people who stood at the pit in front of the stage. The performance of the pastoral comedy lasted more than three hours.

"My favorite thing about studying abroad is meeting people and having experiences that I would never have anywhere else," says Jessica McMichael, a second-year graduate directing student. "I get to see people from all over the world."

The students spent the first night in London in the common room of



"I'M SEEING IN THE STUDENTS' EYES THAT THEY ARE READY TO GO EXPLORE AND TO EXPERIENCE WHATEVER IT IS THAT WE HAVE. IT HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY HEARTWARMING FOR ME AS A TEACHER."

— CHUCK NEY

Wigram House at the University of Westminster, sharing the study-abroad experience with students from other countries. The university, in the heart of downtown London, is within walking distance to many major attractions. Students were able to venture to several London museums; travel to class via the Underground, London's public rapid transit system; and cross a bridge that sits opposite the 17th-century St. Paul's Cathedral overlooking the Thames River.

"We go to new places, we see amazing things, and we experience a history that we don't have in our country and a cultural legacy. I'm seeing in the students' eyes that they are ready to go explore and to experience whatever it is that we have. It has been incredibly heartwarming for me as a teacher," Ney says.

When it was over, program participants had traveled more than 5,000 miles to learn about Shakespeare. They returned with a better understanding of Shakespeare's life, a better understanding of Shakespearean acting techniques, and a better understanding of the country where it all began. It would've made the Bard proud.





# iAm

Summer Camp

The iAm summer camp, a free one-week camp at Texas State for incoming sixth-grade girls, explores the connections between art and mathematics. “It’s all about how we can make things with our own hands, whether it is knitting or crochet, or sculpture in origami or 3-D models,” says Dr. Shaunna Smith, assistant professor of educational technology. Dr. Luz Maldonado and Dr. Sharon Strickland, along with graduate students, are part of the camp that brings 20 students to campus.

More information at [themakelab.wp.txstate.edu](http://themakelab.wp.txstate.edu)



(1) Chloe Calderon explores the mathematics of pattern recognition involved in knitting a cell phone purse.

(2) Dr. Shaunna Smith and Sumin Lee investigate the process of knitting.

(3) The Spirograph gear system is a way to discover graph theory and hypotrochoids.

(4) Ayanna Maldonado explores platonic solids through building a three-dimensional icosahedron using Popsicle sticks and glue.



## LITTLE ENGINEERS CAMP

Elementary school age children got the opportunity to learn about engineering using math and science skills to design a wall (grade 3), create a windmill (grade 4), and design a parachute (grade 5). The free Little Engineers camp in July is under the guidance of Dr. Araceli Martinez Ortiz, director of the LBJ Institute for STEM Education and Research. Local teachers, along with Texas State graduate and undergraduate students, assist with the camp.

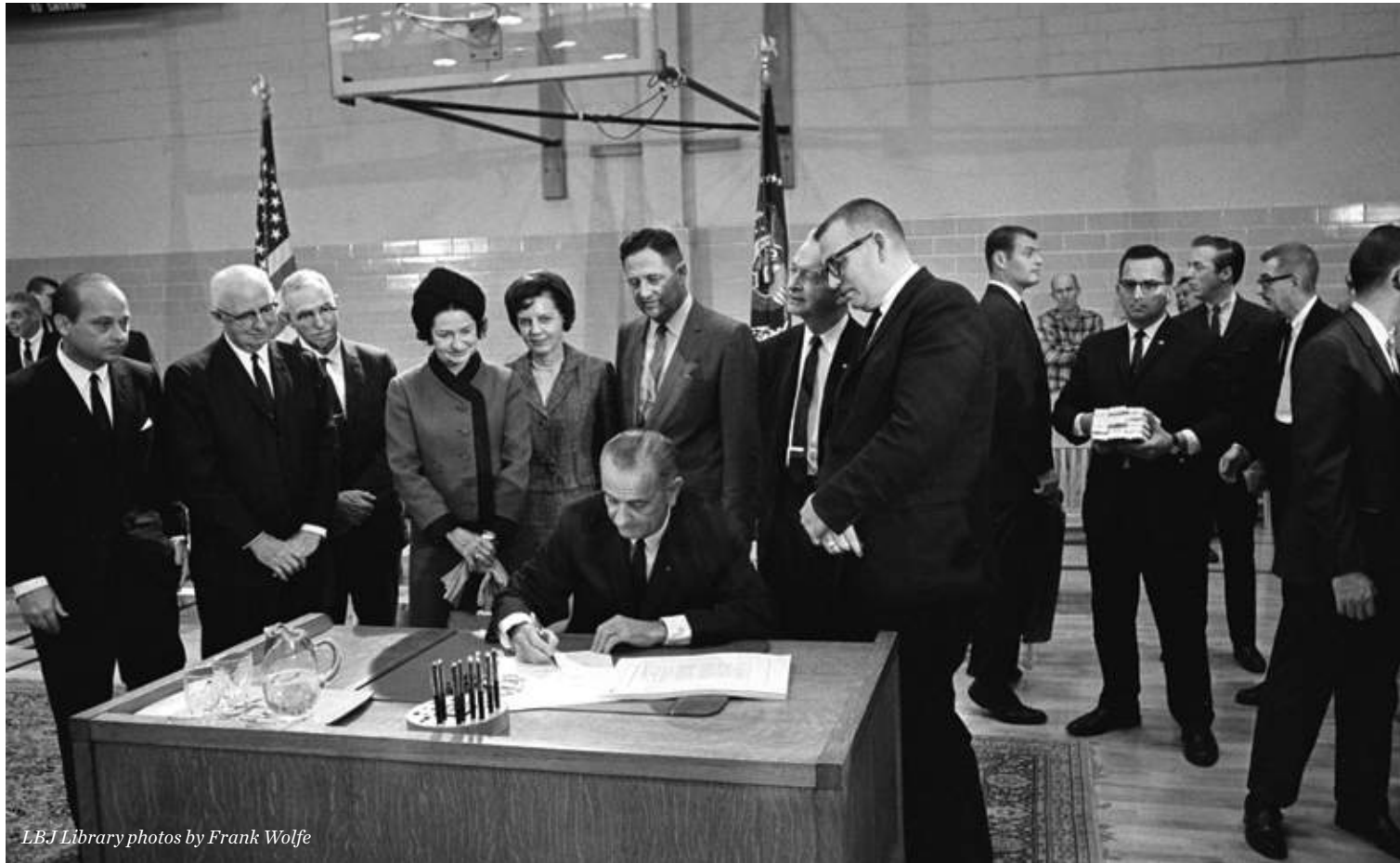
More information at [lbj-stem.education.txstate.edu](http://lbj-stem.education.txstate.edu)

(1) Ronald Vastian, a fifth-grader, demonstrates how his parachute operates. The free camp is a partnership between the university and Centro Cultural Hispano of San Marcos.

(2) Jocelyn Chonka is suited up with a hard hat as part of the Little Engineers camp held in July. Problem solving and design help children with math and science.

(3) Jason Ramos, fourth grade, gets assistance from a teacher on his windmill project in the Little Engineers camp. The 2015 program was two days for children in third grade and four days for fourth- and fifth-graders.





## University celebrates 50th anniversary of Higher Education Act signing

LBJ returned to campus for historic legislation

By Julie Cooper

On November 8, 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson returned to his alma mater, Texas State University, to sign a historic piece of legislation — the Higher Education Act. It was the cornerstone of his Great Society plan and one of the essential components of federal student aid programs still in existence today.

For Johnson, it was his second trip to the university since becoming the nation's 36th president. In November 1964, he gave the address at the inauguration of his friend, Dr. James H. McCrocklin, the fourth president of the university. It was McCrocklin's office chair that was pressed into service, along with Dean

Joe Wilson's desk, for the ceremonial signing of the Higher Education Act. McCrocklin would later tell the story of how the General Services Administration immediately took possession of the borrowed furniture for a future presidential library. The university eventually got its furniture back.

At 12:30 p.m. that Monday in 1965, Johnson spoke in the gymnasium, now the Music Building. The event was moved there when a thunderstorm threatened the original planned outdoor site, in front of Old Main. The event was covered by national news media and merited intense security, coming just two years after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.



In his remarks in the gymnasium, President Johnson emphasized the importance of the legislation — to broaden educational opportunities for all Americans. He did it with these words:

*In a very few moments, I will put my signature on the Higher Education Act of 1965. The President's signature upon this legislation passed by this Congress will swing open a new door for the young people of America. For them, and for this entire land of ours, it is the most important door that will ever open — the door to education.*

*And this legislation is the key which unlocks it.*

*To thousands of young men and women, this act means the path of knowledge is open to all that have the determination to walk it.*

*It means a way to deeper personal fulfillment, greater personal productivity, and increased personal reward. This bill, which I will make law, is an incentive to stay in school.*

*It means that a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or any university in any of the 50 States and not be turned away because his family is poor.*

Among the witnesses to the historic event was Lillian Dees, who in 1965 was a secretary for the Texas State News Service and Journalism department. Today she is a university lecturer in the School of Social Work. "I was pretty much in the middle of it," she says. Dees remembers the crowd at the signing, made up of university and community people in addition to the media. She remembers seeing security people atop the buildings with guns. "That was kind of shocking to see," she says.

After the signing, Johnson came to the News Service offices. "We had pulled a yearbook from when Johnson was in school for him to see. I did get to shake his hand," Dees says.

Historian Robert Dallek, author of *Lyndon B. Johnson: Portrait of a President*, writes that Johnson had an almost mystical faith in the capacity of education to transform people's lives and improve their standard of living. Because public education had been Johnson's ticket out of rural Texas, he wanted all children to have the same chance. He believed that federal funds could make a significant difference in expanding and improving education at every level. Just five years later, in 1970, one out of every four college

students in America was receiving some form of financial assistance. There was a huge expansion in college enrollments.

In November 2015, the university partnered with the LBJ Museum in San Marcos to mark the historic signing with several events, including a college fair/open house for middle school students; an academic panel discussion, featuring people who knew LBJ and those whose lives were impacted by the legislation; a guest lecture by Dr. Philo Hutcheson, who has written extensively on the impact of the Higher Education Act; and a luncheon and reception.



## COMMON EXPERIENCE 2015-16

# Bridged Through Stories

*Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico,  
an Homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera*

By Anastasia Cisneros-Lunsford

Everyone has a story — a story about belonging, a story about struggle, a story about experiences that have influenced whom we've become or whom we will be. These stories often are told through meticulous words, enduring images, or inspired artworks forged in various media.

Scholar, author, and poet Dr. Tomás Rivera shared the experiences of his youth as a migrant worker in his semi-autobiographical works, authenticating the voice of his bicultural identity. Through spring 2016, Texas State University will celebrate Rivera's story and all stories that bridge cultures as part of this year's Common Experience.

The Common Experience is a yearlong initiative that cultivates a conversation on a theme, enhancing student participation and fostering a sense of community throughout the campus and beyond. This year's theme, "Bridged Through Stories: Shared Heritage of the United States and Mexico," is an homage to Dr. Tomás Rivera, a Texas State University graduate.

Born in Crystal City, Rivera and his family worked in the fields of Texas and the Midwest. In 1958, he earned a bachelor's degree in English with minors in Spanish, history, and education at Texas State. He later earned a Texas State master's degree in education. He completed another master's degree in Spanish literature and earned a doctorate in romance languages and literature in 1969 from the University of Oklahoma.

In the 1970s, he became a nationally recognized author of Chicano literature and taught at several schools and universities in Texas and the Southwest. In 1979, Rivera was named chancellor of the University of California, Riverside, a position he held until his passing in 1984 at the age of 48.

Rivera's legacy is honored each year with the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, but this year there will be a yearlong tribute to the man who put education, equity, and access above his own literary ambitions, says Common Experience theme chair, Dr. Jesse Gainer.

"Rivera is revered as one of the most important Chicano writers," says Gainer, director of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award. "He did not write as much as he could have because his life was cut short. He also didn't write as much as he could have because he was so dedicated to the betterment of the community. He could have been writing but he put a lot of time and energy into mentoring people on so many levels."

*Daniel Guerrero, mayor of San Marcos, and Stan Carpenter, Ph.D., dean of the College of Education, join the parade held during the book awards.*



"DR. RIVERA PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON EDUCATION AS A MEANS FOR UPWARD MOBILITY. HE EMBRACED THE NOTION OF THE POWER OF STORY AS A PROCESS OF INTELLECTUAL EMANCIPATION AND POSITIVE IDENTITY FORMATION."

— Dr. Jesse Gainer, Common Experience theme chair





**ROBERT RODRIGUEZ**  
*packs Evans for LBJ Lecture*

Acclaimed filmmaker Robert Rodriguez was greeted by a packed house September 16 at Evans Auditorium when he delivered the Lyndon Baines Johnson Distinguished Lecture as part of the Common Experience.

A native of San Antonio, Rodriguez attended The University of Texas at Austin. In 1992 he won acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival with his debut film, *El Mariachi*. Rodriguez went on to write, produce, direct, and edit a series of successful films. He is the founder of El Rey Network and the director/screenwriter of such films as *Spy Kids*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, and *Desperado*.

In 2000 he founded Troublemaker Studios, an Austin-based production facility, which has been instrumental in making Austin a vibrant hub for filmmaking. Rodriguez says he was shocked that Hispanics were underrepresented in the mainstream film industry. When he pitched the idea for *Spy Kids*, the studio wanted to know why the family “had to be Hispanic” and worried the cast’s ethnicity would minimize the audience. “You don’t have to be British to enjoy James Bond,” Rodriguez says.



Gainer, associate professor of curriculum and instruction, says Rivera pursued education to its highest level and worked hard to make education accessible in marginalized communities. He also advocated that the quality of education to be culturally responsive. “Dr. Rivera placed great importance on education as a means for upward mobility,” Gainer says. “He embraced the notion of the power of story as a process of intellectual emancipation and positive identity formation.”

For the past year, 60-70 people from around the university and the San Marcos community have been part of a planning committee, developing the Common Experience theme and creating a synergy for all of the events.

“We have made it interdisciplinary and stayed true to Tomás Rivera and what he stood for,” Gainer says. “The theme of ‘Bridged Through Stories’ highlights the work and values of Rivera as well as that of others from all walks of life who have contributed to the fabric of our common understandings of the world.”

The Common Experience began this summer with the Common Reading Program’s selection of Rivera’s novel ... *y no se lo tragó la tierra*/... *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*.

In September, just in time to mark bothHispanic Heritage Month and the 20th anniversary of the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award, Texas State hosted a conference and literary fair celebrating Rivera’s legacy with a weekend of keynote speeches, dance and musical performances, art displays, hands-on activities for children, and a book parade.

The conference featured the 14 authors and illustrators who have won the Rivera book award in the past 10 years and recognized this year’s winners Isabel Quintero, author of *Gabi: A Girl in Pieces*; and Duncan Tonatiuh, author of *Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation*.

**Rivera’s book recounts Mexican-American experience through the eyes of young boy**

*By Anastasia Cisneros-Lunsford*

Seeking solitude and finally finding it under a neighbor’s house among unrestful fleas and darkness, an unnamed boy lets a barrage of impressions invade his mind, leaving a heap of discovery, identity, and hope in their wake.

The fragmented experiences, told from what the boy has seen, heard, and felt, are much like the lives of migrant workers who travel here, there, and back again. Sometimes called the Chicano *Grapes of Wrath*, Tomás Rivera’s critically acclaimed novel ... *y no se lo tragó la tierra*/... *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* gives readers an opportunity to travel with these migrant workers in the mid-20th century.

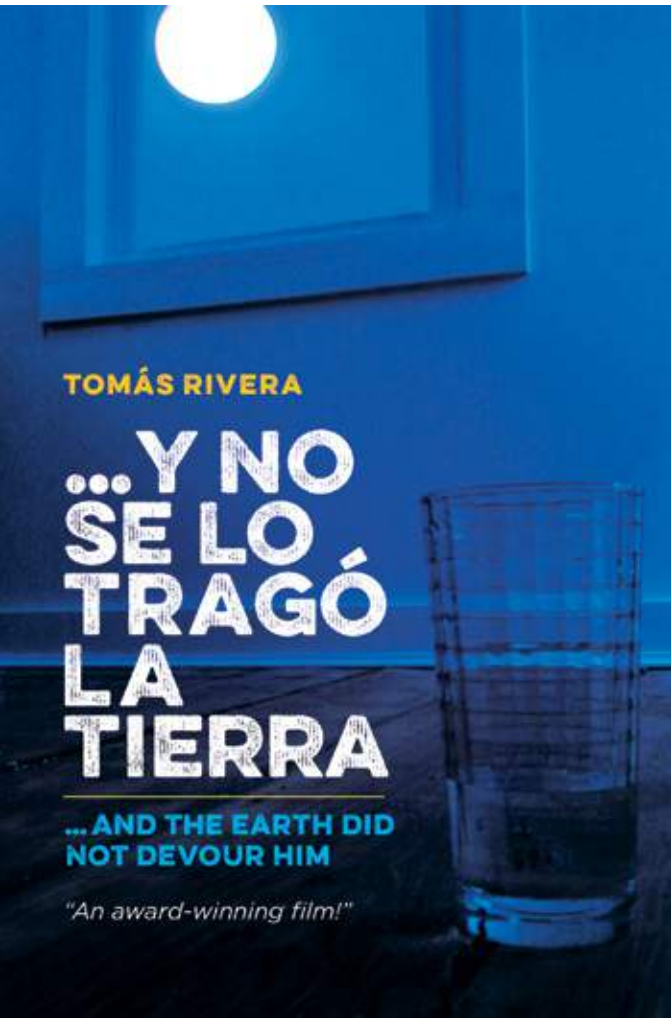
Rivera’s book is the selected work for this year’s Common Reading Program, part of the Common Experience at Texas State. Twister Marquiss, director of the Common Reading Program, says the book recently was republished in Spanish and English by Arte Público Press of the University of Houston, featuring a new cover design and photography by Rivera’s daughter, Irasema Rivera.

“The book is a collection of interconnected vignettes that tell the story of a Mexican-American community,” Marquiss says. “It’s about acknowledging and understanding the confluence of cultures in this part of the world.”

The tales of struggle, hope, happiness, and violence race through the boy’s mind in a stream of consciousness, leading him to discover who he is, what he comes from, and whom he will be. Similar to what the average college student experiences through an age of discovery, the novel allows readers to enhance their awareness and strengthen knowledge. Incoming freshmen at Texas State have the opportunity to read the book and discuss its themes this fall in University Seminar classes and other courses. They are prepared to engage in these themes all year as part of the Common Experience.

*Want to join the Common Experience conversation? You can do so on social media with the hashtag #bobcatbook. What is your story? What will your legacy be?*

[txstate.edu/bobcatbook](http://txstate.edu/bobcatbook) | [facebook.edu/bobcatbook](https://facebook.edu/bobcatbook)  
[twitter.com/bobcatbook](https://twitter.com/bobcatbook)



Furthermore, the invitation to share in the Common Reading Program extends to the entire university community, says Common Experience 2015-16 theme chair Dr. Jesse Gainer, associate professor in the College of Education.

“The book is a multi-voice narrative, a metaphor, in a way, of what the Common Experience is,” Gainer says. “Students come to the university to develop their own identity, to figure out who they are in the world and how to act in the world. The Common Experience is one of the tools we have to help facilitate that, to create that kind of collective understanding.”

Gainer says the Common Experience is all about sharing ideas and feeling pride in your identity. “I can’t tell you how many people have told me that when they read Tomás Rivera, ‘It just changed my life,’ ” Gainer says. “It was such a powerful experience for them. I want everyone to feel that power.”





# SERVICE LEARNING

Connecting academics  
with community outreach

## SOCIAL WORK

*Their mission: To educate competent, ethical social workers who are prepared to serve as leaders for change in a dynamic, diverse society.*

## AGRICULTURE

*A variety of courses are offered such as landscape design, animal science, and farm management, which all build a strong foundation to a successful career.*

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

*Study concentrations include policing, corrections, law, juvenile crime, female offending, environmental criminology, criminological theory, and management and organization.*



AFROTC/  
AROTC

*Preparing men  
and women for  
leadership development  
roles as officers in the  
U.S. armed forces.*

By Matt Flores

AT TEXAS STATE, students aren't just being trained for skilled jobs; they are being prepared to be model citizens.

Students across all disciplines are engaged in service-learning projects aimed at everything from fixing dilapidated homes to helping families start their own businesses. Others are pursuing degrees that will enable them to make lasting contributions to the communities in which they live.

Take the College of Applied Arts. It offers a variety of degrees and programs to help students gain 21st-century jobs in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Programs offered range from pre-veterinarian studies in agriculture to preparation for leadership in military sciences. Students gain skills and training that transform each of them to become part of the global community. Each program and department has evolved over the years to meet the world's changing needs.

One example is the Ph.D. program in the School of Criminal Justice. When it was launched in 2009, the idea was to have a mix of traditional graduate students and working professionals. The Institute of Criminal Justice Studies has trained more than 30,000 professionals from Texas and 43 other states.

Another example is the Nutrition and Foods program in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, which recently took aim at local eateries in an effort to rein in a growing incidence of childhood obesity. The Best Foods FITS program enabled San Marcos restaurants to create healthier meal options on their children's menus.

Texas State graduate Sara Moreman is taking all she learned as an agriculture major and channeling it into one of the top veterinarian schools in the nation as she takes her place at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. A former outstanding senior, Moreman credits the professors in animal science and her work at the Freeman Center with preparing her for a future as a veterinarian.

Leadership training is what the Army ROTC is all about in military science. Many of the members of the Bobcat Battalion are second-generation military enlistees, others are veterans. Considered a veteran-friendly university, Texas State has several scholarships for both Army- and Air Force-bound students.

José de Jesús García-Cuellar is a bilingual counselor at an Austin nonprofit. He daily puts into practice the knowledge he gained at the School of Social Work, helping young men and women who have suffered abuse, neglect, violence, and abandonment.

In this section, we'll share stories that demonstrate Texas State's strong commitment to both educating our students for successful careers and developing them to be vibrant, civically engaged members of the communities in which they live. 🍌

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

*Five programs include family and child development, consumer affairs, fashion merchandising, interior design, and nutrition and foods.*

## OCCUPATIONAL, WORKFORCE AND LEADERSHIP STUDIES

*Allows students to receive credit for knowledge and skills acquired through the workplace or technical vocational training.*



# CRIMINAL MINDS

Doctoral program finds success with working professionals

By Julie Cooper

Tiffany Cox Hernandez is a criminal justice doctoral candidate who could be the poster child for the program's part-time working professionals. At 47 and with 12 years of teaching at the collegiate level under her belt, she is on track to complete her Ph.D. at Texas State in December.

A former county prosecutor in Arizona and an Air Force veteran, Hernandez is currently the coordinator of the criminal justice program at San Antonio College (SAC). As an assistant professor she teaches such courses as Legal Aspects of Law Enforcement, Police Systems and Practices, and Fundamentals of Criminal Law. Before joining SAC in 2009, Hernandez taught business and criminal law for Park University at Randolph Air Force Base.

"Working in academia I have come to realize that the juris doctorate doesn't carry near as much weight as the Ph.D.," she says. "It is completely different from the way a lawyer would look at information. My law school education wasn't sufficient for understanding the type of research and information that I was trying to teach my students as a criminal justice professor."

The doctoral program was launched in 2009 with the aim to have an equal mix of traditional graduate students and working professionals. That plan has been a success and 13 people have graduated since it began. It is one of four such doctoral programs in the state, and one of 35 in the nation. "Criminal justice as a separate discipline is relatively new; criminal justice as a Ph.D. is very new," Hernandez says.

Dr. Mark Stafford, program director, says there are several things that make the Texas State program stand out. "When our program started, one of the distinctive things about us was that we did recruit working professionals like Tiffany. People who had experience in the criminal justice system, in the field, firsthand experience, and were very strong academically. She fit that profile perfectly," he says.

One of its first graduates was former San Marcos Police Chief Howard Williams. Stafford says he once asked Williams, now a Texas State lecturer, about his success in the program. Stafford attributed it to time management.

While most Ph.D. programs are unwilling to accept part-time students or offer summer classes, Stafford says, that is not the case with Texas State where the



**Tiffany Cox Hernandez**

- Coordinator, criminal justice program at San Antonio College
- Former county prosecutor in Arizona
- U.S. Air Force veteran
- Recipient of Doctoral Research Fellowship, The Graduate College
- Doctoral candidate, expected graduation December 2015

average class size is seven to 10 students. The summer classes are necessary because The Graduate College requires all doctoral students to complete 18 hours of credit in one calendar year. "And when you put that on top of a full-time job, that's very difficult," Stafford says. "I admire our part-time students enormously. They face many challenges that our traditional students do not."

Texas State also provides resources — including workshops and travel expenses — to support doctoral students. In November 2014, Hernandez presented a paper with Dr. Jaclyn Schildkraut of State University of New York at Oswego, at the American Society of Criminology conference in San Francisco: *The Sandy Hook Elementary School Shooting and Changes in Mental Health Legislation: A Review of the Evidence*. This spring she was awarded the Doctoral Research Fellowship from The Graduate College, which provided a laptop, scanner, and funds to help her write her dissertation.

Hernandez, who graduated from law school in 2000, took graduate courses in statistics and research before beginning

doctoral studies. Now with coursework and comprehensive exams wrapped up, she is completing her dissertation. Hernandez is studying appellate cases from California and Texas, in which claims of prosecutor misconduct were raised.

"I was just really interested in prosecutorial misconduct because it is difficult to even define," she says. "Prosecutors don't agree with defense attorneys, who don't agree with advocacy groups about what misconduct is. The Supreme Court has basically said the prosecutors have pretty much full immunity when it comes to almost everything they do. You're not going to get sued."

One well-known Texas case, which involves the Innocence Project and a finding of prosecutorial misconduct, is that of Michael Morton. In 1987, Morton, from Williamson County, was convicted of murdering his wife, Christine. Freed in October 2011, Morton was formally acquitted after DNA tests linked the murder to another man. The Innocence Project cites Morton's case for government misconduct and improper forensic science.

"Ken Anderson, the prosecutor, withheld exculpatory evidence that would have definitely helped his case, if not resulting in the charges being dropped or a jury finding him not guilty," Hernandez says. "In that case Anderson lied to the judge twice. When the judge said 'do you have any information that might be beneficial to Mr. Morton?' he said no, knowing he did. He said no twice. Anderson later was charged and admitted to perjury."

[In 2013, Gov. Rick Perry signed the Michael Morton Act, which is designed to ensure a more open discovery process by removing barriers for accessing evidence. In May, Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law legislation that would strengthen access to post-conviction DNA.]

"What I am trying to do is to describe more accurately what is going on with these cases, or this misconduct, from an unbiased point of view rather than from the point of view of two groups with very strong biases," she says.

When Hernandez receives her doctorate in criminal justice she will join a special group. She may teach at the university level. "Once I get this degree and have more time, I'm going to start looking at ways I can be actively engaged in solutions," she says. ☺



# What's on the children's menu?

Best Food FITS aims for healthier choices at local restaurants

By Jacque Crouse

San Marcos has proudly touted its three-year run as the fastest-growing city in the United States, but Dr. Sylvia Hurd Crixell and students in the nutrition and foods program are more concerned with another statistic where the community has outstripped other areas of the country — childhood obesity.

Crixell, a registered dietitian and professor in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, says that San Marcos is a diverse community that has more restaurants and fewer grocery stores than other similar size Texas cities. Children in the community have higher rates of being overweight or obese than in the rest of Texas and the nation (52 percent compared with 31.3 percent). Statistics also indicate that children ages 2 to 18 in the United States consume 34 percent of their daily calories outside the home.

“My colleague, Dr. BJ Friedman, and I thought it would be interesting to change children’s menus at restaurants,” Crixell says. “There had been a handful of other studies changing restaurant menus, but no one had ever worked with children’s restaurant menus.”

Armed with a \$150,000 grant from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Crixell and Friedman enlisted the help of students, mostly undergraduates, to try to improve the restaurant environment for San Marcos families, ingraining the Best Food for Families, Infants, and Toddlers (Best Food FITS) brand in a study conducted from 2010 through 2014.

“The question was, ‘Will they do it?’” Crixell says. Some 135 San Marcos restaurants were approached and asked about changing children’s menus to include more fruits and vegetables and to exclude sugar-sweetened drinks such as sodas and sweet tea. The first thing the program learned was that most chain restaurants could not participate in the project because of corporate restrictions on menus. (The lone exception was Texas Roadhouse.)

On the local front, change began with Grins — a San Marcos landmark restaurant for more than 38 years. Owner Paul Suphton immediately agreed to partner with Best Food FITS. “Of course, this is a restaurant and I serve a lot of fried foods, a lot of fatty foods,” he says. “But I am also a single dad, and I know how hard and how expensive it can be for parents to provide healthy food for their children. The whole thing was to try to give families more alternatives.”

With Grins on board, students paid visits to other restaurants to enroll partners. Participating restaurants — several of which still use the Best Food FITS children’s menus — display the project logo on children’s menus and restaurant doors.

## Best Food FITS restaurants in San Marcos\*

\*July 2015

EuroCafe and Market

Garcia’s Mexican Food Restaurant

Grins Restaurant

Herbert’s Taco Hut

Mana’s Restaurant

Palmer’s Restaurant

Rogelio’s Restaurant

The Root Cellar

## Obesity Rates

Children in the San Marcos community have higher rates of being overweight or obese than in the rest of the nation.



31.3%  
United States



52%  
San Marcos

Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health



At the beginning of the project, the stakeholder discussions indicated a need for community cooking classes. A serendipitous collaboration with the San Marcos Housing Authority led to the use of grant funds to install four working kitchens in the design of the new Chapultepec Adult Learning Center. Healthy cooking classes for both parents and children continue today.

When it was complete, Crixell and her colleagues were pleasantly surprised that 24 percent — nearly a quarter — of the non-chain restaurants in the city agreed to be part of the program. “When we went and talked to them, we found out that a lot of people really cared, and wanted to help,” Crixell says, “while others told us that obesity was not a restaurant’s fault. And they are right, at least to some extent — obesity is complex.”

At the same time, she notes that a restaurant’s menu can have a big effect on what consumers eat. For instance, most menus have sugared sodas or sweet tea. “If it is on the menu, people probably will drink it.” If a children’s menu offers only drinks such as fruit juice, milk or sugar-free drinks, she says that it is more likely children will simply pick from what is offered. It was a key part of the program to have restaurants stop putting sugar-sweetened drinks on children’s menus.

The research teams found it was critical to the project’s success to meet with restaurant owners and managers in person, talk, and develop relationships. Crixell credits the perseverance and dedication of her students, who are part of a generation that more often connects through technology rather than face-to-face encounters. “They were fabulous,” Crixell says. “Most nutrition majors just want to make the world a better place. They came in and could see the value of this project immediately. Even one of the school’s graduate students, Deborah Fisher Torrey, evaluated the program as part of her master’s thesis work, enlisting the help of Dr. Lesli Biediger-Friedman in the evaluation process.”

Jay Avazi, owner of EuroCafé, a Mediterranean restaurant near the university, says that he already had healthy options and did not mind Best Food FITS coming up with a few more tweaks to the menu. “Kids eat all the things we have on the children’s menu,” he says. “Parents like it, too.”

Suphton says the Best Food FITS children’s menu is still in place at Grins, and will remain. “We are not preaching, and kids can still get a Coke if they want one. But we are trying to make it easier for families with children to eat healthier,” he says. 🍌



## Bobcat cooks up healthy menu for public schools

Best Foods FITS played role in job with school district

### Rebecca Kenefic, SNS

is the dietetic supervisor for Spring Branch ISD. She worked on the Best Food FITS program as an undergraduate and a paid intern. In 2011, she earned a bachelor’s degree in Family and Consumer Science. These are her thoughts on the program in her own words.

**On current employment:** I create all menus and take part in nutrition education for all grade levels. Best Food FITS played a vital role in my move from the medical field to child nutrition.

**On cooperation from restaurants:** The restaurant side of the project was almost completely dependent on the managers’ and/or owners’ cooperation. Without their dedication and willingness to try our menus, the project would have never succeeded.

**Biggest victory:** Seeing our menus at the restaurants when I went with my family. My son could order off the Best Food FITS menus and I knew I had been a part of something that was making an impact in our community.

**Best Food FITS for other communities:** I think if there was enough funding for these types of programs with enough people to sustain them, small and large communities could be successful in the implementation of projects like Best Food FITS. If we could eliminate sugar-sweetened beverages (first and foremost) from our restaurants and offer healthier options, I believe the health of our nation would immediately be impacted.

**Community classes:** We had community partners and hosted cooking classes for a low-income side of town. These classes included a nutrition education segment taught by us, the interns, and then we developed cooking classes and recipes with commonly used foods. It was a good outlet for kids wanting to learn and grow their culinary techniques.

— Jacque Crouse

## Healthy Drinks for Kids

A key part of the program was to have restaurants stop putting sugar-sweetened drinks on children’s menus.



water



100% orange juice



milk



unsweetened tea

## Access to Healthy Diets

Compared with home-cooked meals, foods consumed away from home are higher in calories, fat, sodium, and sugar and contain fewer essential nutrients.



34%

daily calories consumed away from home

*American Dietetic Association*



# ARMY ROTC

## BOBCAT BATTALION TEACHES LEADERSHIP, TACTICS IN MILITARY SCIENCE

By Tammy Valentine

“MANY ROTC PROGRAMS HAVE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ONLY FOR SENIORS, BUT WE START GIVING CADETS OPPORTUNITIES EARLIER. FRESHMEN LEARN ABOUT GREAT MILITARY LEADERS AND THEIR LEADERSHIP STYLES AND THEN IMMEDIATELY BEGIN FIGURING OUT THEIR OWN.”

— Lt. Col. James Adams



Training at Freeman Center

Texas State University’s Army ROTC program may not be the country’s most high-profile officer training program, but it is becoming one of the most prestigious. The program’s unique training model and distinctive student population led to one cadet receiving ROTC’s highest honor this year and others developing critical leadership skills to prepare them for Army careers.

The university’s almost 40-year-old program allows cadets to begin assuming leadership positions as early as their sophomore year, according to Lt. Col. James Adams. “Many ROTC programs have leadership positions only for seniors, but we start giving cadets opportunities earlier,” Adams says. “Freshmen learn about great military leaders and their leadership styles and then immediately begin figuring out their own.”

Leadership training focuses on communication style and repetition that allows students to grow. “We steer them toward less authoritarian styles of leadership,” Adams says. “The stereotypical image of a drill sergeant isn’t a very effective way to lead.” Until his retirement

in May, Adams was a professor and chair of military science. This fall, Lt. Col. José Garcia took over as program chair.

The program typically has about 100 students, which allows cadets a more realistic experience. “Because of the size, we have the ability to operate like a regular Army unit,” Adams says. Each year, 14 to 21 seniors run the vast majority of the program.

Juniors use their academic year to prepare for the Cadet Troop Leadership Course, a 28-day exercise involving approximately 6,000 cadets from across the country. To prepare, the Bobcat Battalion takes advantage of wide-open spaces on the university-managed Freeman Center to practice leadership and tactics, Adams says. “They practice real-life scenarios. We present them with problem sets that require them to use leadership skills, creativity and critical thinking.”

Cadets practice leadership skills not only in ROTC, but also in other areas of the university, Adams says. “Texas State has the feel of a small school, but that’s deceptive,” he says. “There are lots of





Training at Freeman Center



2nd. Lt. Walter Brinker,  
recipient of George C. Marshall Award

leadership roles for the cadets in fraternities, sororities, and clubs all over campus.”

The university’s proximity to military installations in San Antonio draws veterans and children of military personnel, Adams says. “The majority of our cadets understand the military and its expectations,” he says. “If you haven’t been in it — or raised in it — you may have a bit of a learning curve. Our second-generation and veteran students share that knowledge with the students with no military experience.”

Amber Moore, whose parents were in the Army, found other opportunities at Texas State appealing, especially the availability of both military and STEM scholarships. The sophomore from El Paso is majoring in electrical engineering and hopes to pursue a career in aviation, the Corps of Engineers, or the military police. “My parents met in basic training,” she says. “I always wanted to be in the Army. I loved moving to new places and

meeting new people.”

Sean Tirey, a spring 2015 graduate and also a second-generation military student, says he initially chose Texas State to play in a rugby club, but after injuries sidelined him, the university’s ROTC program became a stronger focus. “We’re the only school with a facility anything like Freeman ranch,” Tirey says. “It allows us to get hands-on experience.”

Texas State has built a reputation as a veteran-friendly university, Adams says, and it isn’t difficult to find ROTC alumni who give the program high marks. Andre Salmon, who graduated with a degree in criminal justice in August 2015, enrolled at Texas State after being stationed at Fort Hood and serving in Afghanistan. A husband and father of two, Salmon says he learned a lot about himself and his leadership style while going through the ROTC program at Texas State. “It built up my confidence,” he says. “I learned that when the pressure is on is when I play at the top of my game.”

Salmon’s classmate, Walter Brinker, who graduated with a degree in Spanish in 2015, found out before graduation that he was recognized with the George C. Marshall Award, the ROTC’s highest honor. Brinker was one of 300 cadets nationwide to attend the George C. Marshall Awards and Leadership Seminar, and one of 15 chosen to receive the award. Brinker, 30, was the first Texan to win the honor, which is based on outstanding leadership, physical fitness, and scholarship.

The former Green Beret served two tours of duty in Iraq and was deployed in Afghanistan and several locations in Asia. His brothers also serve in the Army, and his father and grandfather are veterans.

Brinker says he chose Texas State to further his education because he loved San Marcos and the campus. “The ROTC program allows students to fully embrace the college lifestyle and pursue a career in the military,” he says. ☆

## SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE

Army ROTC has been part of Texas State since 1976, when the university signed an agreement that allowed students to take military science classes at The University of Texas. In 1982, the university added Army ROTC to its curriculum and the Bobcat Battalion was born. In 2000, it became a program in its own right and dropped ties to UT.

ROTC is a program of leadership development that prepares men and women for service as officers in the U.S. Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard. Students who complete their academic degree and ROTC programs are commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

The Green to Gold scholarship program is designed to offer enlisted soldiers in the Army the opportunity to complete a bachelor’s degree or a two-year graduate degree and earn a commission as an Army officer. [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)

Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) is designed for the soldier who participates in unit training one weekend a month, while earning a commission through ROTC. There are programs for those who are already serving in the Reserve or National Guard. SMP cadets pay in-state tuition rates. Upon completion, graduates are commissioned as officers in the Army, and have the option of serving full time on active duty or part time in the Army Reserve or Army National Guard. [www.txstate.edu/armyrotc/scholarship/smp.html](http://www.txstate.edu/armyrotc/scholarship/smp.html).

Scholarships are available for those who meet the requirements. The Army requires an eight-year service commitment upon graduation — four years in the Army and four years with the Individual Ready Reserve. [www.txstate.edu/armyrotc/scholarship/fed.html](http://www.txstate.edu/armyrotc/scholarship/fed.html)

The Capt. Alex Funkhouser Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established to provide financial assistance to Texas State students majoring in military science with preference to those seeking a career in the Army after graduation.

The William W. and Elizabeth Adamson ROTC Endowed Fund awards scholarships to Texas State students who are enrolled full time and in the Army or Air Force ROTC programs.

Texas State Army ROTC offices are located in the Adamson Building, 101 Lueders Court, San Marcos 78666; (512) 245-3232, email [armyrotc@txstate.edu](mailto:armyrotc@txstate.edu)

### ARMY’S PROGRAM

### PROMOTES

### CULTURAL

### UNDERSTANDING

Several Texas State ROTC cadets are seeing the world through a different lens: the Army’s Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program. Students volunteer to spend up to three weeks in one of 40 countries to become immersed in another culture.

Rebecca Squires, a senior political science major from San Antonio, spent her time in the small country of Montenegro in 2014, embedded with its army. “I didn’t even know where Montenegro was,” Squires says. “Once I got there I found that their culture was similar to Germany’s.”

Squires’ parents and grandparents were career military. “I lived in Germany four years,” she says. “I learned early that you live with the culture rather than against it. I grew up learning to experience culture rather than living in a bubble.”

Justin Spiars, a senior criminal justice major, journeyed to Mongolia with the Alaska National Guard. He participated in a United Nations training event that included military representation from 24 countries and trained with the Mongolian army.

“Mongolia is trapped between China and Russia, and there’s a lot of tension,” he says. “We were building relations with them as well as providing training.”

Spiars says he enjoyed his downtime playing tourist. “I saw real-life nomads. They live in big, round tents and keep horses, yaks, and goats.”

The experience inspired Spiars to study languages, in particular, Arabic. “The Mongolians had translators, but we didn’t,” he says. Despite the language barrier, Spiars says he learned to see the world as a bigger place. “People are people everywhere. We have more in common than not.”

— Tammy Valentine



# FREEMAN CENTER

**UNIVERSITY MANAGES A TEXAS-SIZE SWATH OF LAND FOR RESEARCH**  
By Ashley Festa

More than 4,000 acres in the Texas Hill Country are dedicated to supporting Texas State University’s research opportunities — and any other project a student might want to do.

“There aren’t many things I can think of that we haven’t done out here,” says Chris Thomas, facilities manager at the Freeman Center. “I don’t know that we’ve ever told anybody no.”

“If you’re in fine arts, and you want to do some landscape painting, we’d support that,” says Dr. Donald Huebner, director of Freeman Center. “If you called me up and said you’re an English major and you need a quiet place to write poetry, I’d say ‘OK, we’ll find you a spot.’ Any activity that enhances student learning or student research outcomes, we’ll support that.”



# THE FREEMAN CENTER'S PRIMARY GOAL IS ENHANCING RESEARCH AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

The Freeman Center, often called Freeman ranch, is a parcel of land held in a perpetual trust as the Harold M. Freeman Educational Foundation. The Freeman brothers, Harry and Joe, bought the land in 1941 to use for recreational purposes — hunting, fishing, hiking, and their legendary poker games. In the 1980s, Harry Freeman bequeathed 3,485 acres to be used for farm, ranch, and game management, and educational and research purposes. The university is the operating trustee of the land. Joe Freeman's ranch land is managed by Frost National Bank.

As the on-site manager, Thomas supports visitors' needs in countless ways. He's collected air samples for students analyzing weather data, and he's helped build a structure to hold a wind vane. He cares for the ranch's herd of cattle, gives tours, clears brush, digs holes and maintains equipment. His work varies so much that there's no such thing as a typical day for him. Thomas and his family make their home at the ranch. Two student workers also live on the ranch land full time.

"We're on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year," Thomas says. "There's not a time in the day that I haven't had my phone ring or door knocked on."

That's because there's always something happening out at the ranch. Members of the university's ROTC programs hold nighttime activities out at the ranch, sometimes arriving at midnight. Deer hunters come in as early as 4 a.m. Not a week goes by that someone isn't visiting the ranch, sometimes as many as a half-dozen groups at a time.

The ranch has frequent visits from agriculture majors conducting research on the 90+ head of cattle and other livestock. Students in animal science classes benefit from working with live animals, learning to use sonograms and palpate pregnant cows to estimate their trimester, giving vaccinations, and even trying their hand at artificial insemination. Professors often give a hands-on exam out at the ranch at the end of a class. Dr. Ken Mix oversees the student sustainable farm, a 1-acre experimental and teaching farm that utilizes alternative crops and sustainable practices.

The Freeman Center is different from typical commercial facilities because it's not focused on the business side of ranching. As part of the university, its primary goal is enhancing research

and training opportunities. But with the research component comes concerns about humane treatment, because the animals are part of a living laboratory. Their welfare is protected under the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which oversees and evaluates the care they receive.

Besides ranching, the land also hosts non-agriculture student and faculty activities, such as forensic science, archaeological, and anthropological studies at the Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State, comprised of about 30 gated acres within the Freeman Center. As one of only seven outdoor decomposition facilities in the world, scholars come from all corners of the earth to conduct research. Donated cadavers are securely placed at the center for researchers to use in evaluating any changes that occur in the ecosystem post-mortem. Entomologists, soil scientists, microbiologists, anthropologists, and law enforcement forensic scientists use the center for advanced training.

"Our students have better training and have seen more bodies decomposing than most professionals have," says Dr. Daniel Wescott, director of the Forensic Anthropology Center. "Most people gain that experience having read about it and over years in their professions. Our students, even after only a couple years, they've seen 70 bodies decomposed."

Students have unique opportunities out at the Freeman Center, and Huebner says the ranch itself is special for Texas State. It's the only university that manages significant ranch land in the Hill Country, an area with many types of ecosystems, providing a rich environment for research and stewardship.

"The Freeman brothers donated this land to enhance the education of Texas State University students. Our mission is to make sure that we honor that request. We are also charged with maintaining the integrity of this landscape and making sure that future generations of students will continue to have access to this amazing ecosystem," Huebner says.

The Forensic Anthropology Center at Texas State relies on body donations to continue its educational research support. For more information on the donation program, visit [www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts](http://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts). 🌱





# OUTSTANDING in her field

Ag major Sara Moreman  
ready for vet school

By Ashley Festa

For someone who wasn't certain she was good enough to be a veterinarian, Sara Moreman sure makes the quest look easy.

She began her studies as a freshman at Texas State majoring in wildlife biology because she knew she wanted to work with animals — but believed a career as a doctor was out of her league. Clearly she was wrong, judging by her undergraduate academic success and her recent acceptance into Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, one of only 28 veterinary medicine schools in the nation.

"I was one of those nerds who actually enjoyed going to class," Moreman says. "The agriculture department was supportive of me. They've been on my side since Day One."

And she has made the department proud. Moreman earned the Outstanding Student Award for her sophomore, junior and senior years. As a senior, she also earned the Outstanding Undergraduate Award for the entire College of Applied Arts.

This fall, she'll begin studying to become a doctor of veterinary medicine at Texas A&M, which accepts only 25 percent of the students who apply.

Moreman isn't only academically talented. She also spent her time in voluntary and leadership positions, including serving as president of the pre-veterinary society of Texas State, teaching horseback riding lessons at summer camp, and donating time at veterinary clinics and an animal rescue shelter.

In fact, it was during a vet clinic internship that it dawned on a 17-year-old Moreman that she wanted to be a veterinarian. Even with all her experience with animals, she still felt uncertain about her future as a successful doctor. One of her professors, Dr. Hardin Rahe, finally convinced her that her aspiration was an attainable goal.

"Dr. Rahe is a tough professor, and his expectations were really high," Moreman says. "He inspired me to learn and do as well as I could and never accept second best. His expectations had me in the right mindset to start vet school."

The retired professor and former chair of agriculture has nothing but praise for Moreman, who graduated in May. "I taught almost 10,000 students in my life many of whom wanted to be veterinarians, so they were usually above average in college intellect," says Rahe. "Sara was one of the crème de la crème. For someone to pull off the grades that she does and have the leadership skills that she does, it's incredible. With her intellect and leadership, she will continue to make significant contributions to society."

Like most veterinary medicine schools, Texas A&M doesn't require students to have an undergraduate degree. They must, however, fulfill 12 prerequisite classes such as animal science, genetics, and nutrition, as well as English composition and public speaking. After spending her freshman year in the biology department, Moreman discovered that Texas State's agriculture-animal science major, with specialization in pre-veterinary medicine, would ensure nothing was overlooked in her pursuit of vet school and also provide her a bachelor of science diploma. She also took electives such as human anatomy and physiology — "to get my feet wet studying humans" — before studying animal anatomy in veterinary school.

**"With her intellect and leadership, she will continue to make significant contributions to society." — Dr. Hardin Rahe**

When she finally decided to follow her dream, Moreman's first thought was to work with cows, horses, and other large animals. She was, after all, studying in the agriculture department. "When you think about veterinarians, most people think domesticated pets," Moreman says. "But vets are important to food safety and production. Herd health is important to society because we eat these animals, and vets help with the world's food supply."

After much hands-on experience working with farm animals at Freeman Center, the university's animal research ranch, she realized that as a woman just 5 feet, 4 inches tall, it might be difficult to handle the large livestock. Instead, Moreman plans to focus on small companion animals and will consider specializing in exotic pets.

"Larger animals aren't out of the picture, though," she says. "There are lots of petite vets who take care of larger animals. If that's something I decide to do, I'll find a way."

For now, Moreman is leaving her options open to explore and pursue the specialty that most suits her. Eventually, her goal is to open her own practice, preferably in the Hill Country. The Houston native says it's her favorite place in the world since her parents moved to Wimberley four years ago.

Research also interests her as a future possibility, and ethics are high on her list of priorities. "If I do research and testing on animals, I want to give those animals the best life possible and treat them humanely," Moreman says. "I want to get my foot in the door and make changes. I know animal testing is necessary, but I want to do it humanely."

That's vital, she says, in working with animals because they don't have the ability to communicate like humans do. That's also one of the reasons Moreman believes veterinary medicine is more difficult than human medicine.

"Your patients can't tell you what's wrong," she says. "And sometimes they try to attack. But they don't sue. That's the one good thing." 🐾



# An ear for listening the willingness to help

GARCIA-CUELLAR SERVES YOUTHS, FAMILIES AT CLINIC

By Tony Cantú

Social work is defined as a profession centered on the improvement of a society's overall well-being, particularly that of its most vulnerable populations. For Texas State alumnus José de Jesús Garcia-Cuellar, that definition extends beyond a mere job description into something more akin to a personal calling.

"I love what I do," Garcia-Cuellar says. "That passion I have to help others helps me get through the day. I take every client seriously. I love going to my office each morning and preparing for my next client."

The enthusiasm he conveys about his chosen field is genuine. In the fall of 2013 that passion was recognized when Garcia-Cuellar was awarded a Hogg Foundation Bilingual Mental Health Scholarship — a program launched in 2008 to increase cultural and linguistic diversity among the ranks of mental health professionals in the workforce. The Hogg Foundation initiative has supported more than 100 students since its inception.

Today, Garcia-Cuellar works as a bilingual counselor and a licensed master social worker at the Austin-based nonprofit Lifeworks. He daily puts into practice the knowledge he gained at the School of Social Work where he earned a master's degree in clinical social work in June 2014. At Lifeworks, he sees up to six clients a day as part of his family therapy specialty — couples, children, and older adults suffering from depression or anxiety to a degree that it hampers their personal relationships.

With his younger patients especially, his preferred method is trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) — a psychological treatment model tailored for treating post-traumatic stress and related behavioral and emotional issues. The model

was originally developed to deal with issues related to child sexual abuse, and now its use has expanded to deal with a range of trauma — from domestic violence to trauma suffered prior to foster care placement.

"What I like about CBT is that it is an evidence-based practice," he says. "The progress is very high because it's so efficient in a short amount of time." Asked to recall a particularly memorable client he's recently helped, Garcia-Cuellar didn't hesitate: "A young kid, he was maybe 13. He wanted to commit suicide because he was being bullied in school. He told me later 'You really saved my life and helped me be a better person.' The mom was very thankful. It's a great feeling, and extremely rewarding."

Aside from his training, Garcia-Cuellar's youthfulness — he's 27 years old — helps his young clients relate to him. Being Hispanic also helps, as Latino men, by and large, have historically been disinclined to seek treatment. "Sometimes, when we get the clients in, they get a sense of relief when they see a Hispanic male because it's so rare," he says.

Garcia-Cuellar's own life experiences have yielded an empathy that is a cornerstone of social work. Born in the town of San Martín in the Mexican state of Puebla, he immigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 8 years old. He helped his father do landscape work while his mother sold homemade tamales and baked goods. The family struggled to survive. His parents would later divorce, and a younger brother would be diagnosed with mental health issues — a pair of developments that spurred him to pursue his studies in dealing with family issues. From a young age, Garcia-Cuellar says he was always fascinated by the workings of the

brain, but family issues further propelled him to study social work. "We mowed a lot of lawns, did a lot of yard work," he recalls of his early years. "Sometimes, we couldn't afford rent and would get evicted. We also suffered discrimination, and acculturation was tough."

His family has since persevered. Another brother also graduated from Texas State and works as an accountant in Austin. A younger sister is currently studying business at UT Brownsville. And the youngest brother has largely overcome personal issues and attends high school in Brownsville.

As for Garcia-Cuellar, he's got big goals: "I want to eventually have my own private practice and reach out to low-income families," he says. "To see how far they came and I was the one that helped them, it's just an amazing feeling."

To help explain the personal enrichment he derives from his work, he long ago wrote a memo to himself. His message has since evolved into something of a personal mantra that he likes to tell himself daily: "I believe that in order to identify who we are as individuals, we need to expand throughout our limitations that were instilled upon us by the chains of ignorance and wisdom from generations past." ☘

**"I LOVE WHAT I DO. THAT PASSION I HAVE TO HELP OTHERS HELPS ME GET THROUGH THE DAY."**

— José de Jesús Garcia-Cuellar





# People helping people

**SOCIAL WORK GROWS FROM A FEW COURSES TO  
SCHOOL WITHIN COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS**

*By Tony Cantú*

**“ONE OF THE REASONS SOCIAL WORK IS SUCH A GROWING FIELD IS THAT PEOPLE NEED HELP. WE EXIST TO HELP THE VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED, TRYING TO BE THE VOICE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST IT, TO HELP THEM REGAIN THEIR FUNCTIONING OR ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF FUNCTIONING.”**

— Dr. Catherine A. Hawkins

**W**hen Dr. Catherine A. Hawkins first arrived in 1991 at the Texas State School of Social Work, she was just the sixth faculty member to join its ranks. The school was enrolling about 30 graduates a year. Today there are more than 20 full-time faculty members and about 220 B.S.W. and M.S.W. students graduating each year with bachelor’s or master’s degrees in social work.

Such is the growing popularity of social work as a chosen field, but also reflective of the university’s efforts to bolster its graduating ranks. “Now, we’re in the discussion stages for a possible doctoral program,” Hawkins says. Through a federal grant, the school also established one of the many completely online graduate degree programs in the country. “I’ve seen the enormous growth of the school,” she says.

The school has roots dating to the 1970s, when a small patchwork of social work courses grew into the Walter Richter institute of Social Work, offering a bachelor’s degree. Over the next two decades, the institute secured a child welfare grant, launched the Center for Children and Families, and initiated a master’s program. In October, the

School of Social Work celebrated this convergence of milestones, the master’s program on campus and online, and other significant accomplishments.

Part of the appeal that draws students to the program is its close-knit feel, says Rudo Dozva, an international student from Zimbabwe who currently is in the master’s program. She plans to be a marriage and family therapist and pursue a doctoral degree. “What has stood out to me the most about my time as a student in the School of Social Work is the hospitality I have received from the department at large. In class you are not just a number, you are a part of a family and everyone looks out for each other. Professors go out of their way to make sure you are doing great in class.”

The school’s faculty serves about 600 students at any given time. The online program, begun in 2005, has transformed the master’s program from a traditional classroom setting to a more tech-savvy program, utilizing technology in both baccalaureate- and masters-level teaching. In 2015, the School of Social Work was recognized among the top 18 “Best Online Social Work Master’s Programs” by the Online Master’s Programs website.

“We became a free standing department [1996], then a free standing school [2001],” Hawkins says. “That was kind of a game-changer. It gave us more status. One of the reasons social work is such a growing field is that people need help. We exist to help the vulnerable and marginalized, trying to be the voice for those who have lost it, to help them regain their functioning or achieve a higher level of functioning.”

“We are a value-based profession that empowers people to gain greater levels of autonomy and advocacy,” she says. “I’m very proud of that.”

Hawkins points to students such as Dozva — and alumni such as José Garcia-Cuellar, a bilingual counselor in Austin who works in family therapy — as shining examples of students and graduates the program produces.

Eventually, Dozva says she would like to go home to Zimbabwe to open a counseling and mediation center. “I was exposed to so much need in my community as a young girl and I always had dreams to grow up and make a difference. I strongly believe my degree here at Texas State will equip me with the knowledge and skills that I need to go out and be a great advocate of change.” ✪



# (class)views

## DA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

**T**exas State honored six new Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming Week in November. With these newest honorees, the Alumni Association and the university have now presented the most prestigious award to 192 graduates since the first was given to then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1959.

The latest honorees reflect the breadth of Texas State's academic programs and represent extraordinary contributions not only to their professions but to the civic and philanthropic arenas. These outstanding individuals have gained success and demonstrated leadership in their chosen fields, and have set high standards among their contemporaries in business, science, industry, government, education, literature, healthcare, and sports.



### SUSAN ANGELL-GONZALEZ '80

Choreographer, director, and entrepreneur Susan Angell-Gonzalez is president and CEO of Susan Angell Enterprises, Inc., doing business as ShowMakers of America.

In 2013, Angell-Gonzalez completed 16 years as the director and choreographer of the world-renowned Texas State University Strutters, during which time she choreographed performances for tours in 16 countries, the live semifinal round of NBC's *America's Got Talent*, and twice for the nationally televised Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

A former Strutters head captain, she was the first one to be inducted into the Strutters Hall of Fame. Her achievements have earned her numerous recognitions, including the Dance/Drill Team Directors of America Lifetime Achievement Award, the Texas Dance Educators Association Hall of Fame Award, the Texas Dance Educators Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Texas State Alumni Association Star Award, the Texas Dance Educators Association Distinguished Service Award, the prestigious Rolle Award and the "M" Award for her years of service to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in dance and physical education from Texas State University.

### MARY ROSE BROWN '79

Mary Rose Brown is executive vice president and chief administrative officer for NuStar Energy LP, one of the country's largest terminal and pipeline operators. She oversees all of the company's administrative functions and has helped NuStar become one of the top 20 companies on *Fortune* magazine's list of the Best Companies to Work for in America.

Brown has earned countless honors, including the prestigious Silver Anvil Award, one of the Public Relations Society of America's highest national honors. Additionally, she was named the Outstanding Texas PR Practitioner by the Texas Public Relations Association, was honored as one of the Top Woman Business Leaders by the Chamber of Commerce, and was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame. She also serves in leadership positions for worthy causes throughout the community.

Brown holds a bachelor of science degree from Texas State University and is a member of the university's Advisory Council for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She credits Texas State for enabling her to have an incredible career and lists her children as her proudest accomplishment.



### OLIVER DEL CID '95

After receiving his bachelor of arts degree in political science from Texas State University, Oliver del Cid returned to his home country of Belize and joined the Foreign Service in 1996 after a short stint in the Belize Defence Force.

Since then, he has served as a desk officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deputy chief of mission at the Embassy of Belize in Guatemala, and deputy coordinator in the National Security Council Secretariat. He was appointed as Belize's ambassador to Mexico in 2011 and as non-resident high commissioner to Jamaica in 2014. Though most of his career has been centered on national security, including dealing with the outstanding territorial dispute with Guatemala, his current assignment now includes more conventional issues such as strengthening bilateral relations and promoting tourism, trade, and investment.

Through the years del Cid has maintained a strong relationship with Texas and Texas State University, returning regularly to visit, and in March 2015, he presented a lecture titled "The Caribbean in the 21st Century" at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Museum in San Marcos.

Del Cid also has a master of arts in international policy and diplomacy from Staffordshire University in the U.K. and attended Oxford University's Foreign Service Programme as a Chevening Scholar.





**ROD C. KELLER, JR. '81**

Rod C. Keller, Jr., has been president of Segway, Inc., since May 2013. He is a technology veteran with more than 25 years of experience in the technology industry and more than 10 years in executive and general manager of sales roles. He served in various senior executive roles in management, sales, and product marketing with Epson, Digital Equipment Corp., Compaq, and Dell, and has worked with numerous organizations, from startups to Fortune 500 companies.

Highly regarded in the technology industry for his innovative leadership, Keller received the prestigious Technology Marketer of the Year Award in 2003 from *Technology Marketing* magazine. Keller is a founding board member of the Beaumont Foundation of America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives and enhancing the futures of less fortunate children and youth, families, and the elderly with a focus on improving education, healthcare, and social services.

He holds a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing from Texas State University and is a longstanding member of the McCoy College of Business Administration Advisory Board and the Texas State Development Foundation.

**BETH GUASTELLA '84**

While earning her bachelor of science degree in fashion merchandising, Beth Guastella was a member of the Strutters and the Delta Zeta sorority. Upon graduation, Guastella began her career in retail fashion as a store manager, and has since held increasingly responsible positions, contributing to the success of such prominent national and international brands as Stuart Weitzman, Kate Spade New York, and Hermès.

As a recognized industry veteran with more than 30 years of leadership experience in retail and merchandising, Guastella consistently helped fashion giants increase sales, enhance organizational capabilities, and experience brand growth through both B2B and B2C channels.

After just one year with giggle, Inc., a specialty omnichannel retailer of upscale baby products and resources, Guastella rose from president and chief operating officer to chief executive officer. In 2014, she was included in Retail Online Integration's annual list of The Top Women in Omnichannel Retail.

Guastella continues to maintain strong ties to Texas State, where she is a frequent speaker.



**NELVA GONZALES RAMOS '87**

In 2011, Nelva Gonzales Ramos was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a judge in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, where she presides over civil and criminal cases in the Corpus Christi division.

Previously she was an associate with a law firm in Corpus Christi and was elected to the state district court bench in Nueces County in 2000, where she served for 10 years.

A native of Port Lavaca, Ramos graduated summa cum laude from Texas State University with a bachelor of science degree in education. During her time on campus, she was a member of the Association of Mexican-American Students, the Catholic Student Association, and the Golden Key National Honor Society.

She earned a juris doctor with honors from The University of Texas Law School in 1991.

Ramos participates in community activities, including leadership roles in organizations such as the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, and the March of Dimes.



**Rose Berglund –  
elementary teacher  
of the year**

**Enthusiastic PE educator  
keeps pace with her students**

*By Julie Cooper*

In the 28 years that Rose Berglund has taught physical education in San Marcos she has twice been named Elementary School Teacher of the Year. But the more recent of the two honors, which came in April 2015, was a bit sweeter. That was the academic year Berglund, 57, came close to retiring.

"I actually talked to my principal early and said, 'This is probably going to be my retirement year,' " she recalls. But last Thanksgiving, Berglund changed her tune, and told him: "I can't retire! I love my kids, I'm happy with what I am doing!"

Clearly, Berglund, who has been teaching for 34 years, still gets a charge out of educating children. She currently works at Bowie Elementary. It's evident in her voice and by the fact that she's won the Teacher of the Year Award twice (the first time was in 2000).

"If you could be here when my kids walk in, it is like someone plugs me into electricity. I'm not saying there are days where I'm not tired, or I'm stressed with all the paperwork and bureaucracy, but when you love kids, the job is so fun."

After graduating from Adams State University in Colorado, Berglund taught PE in small-town schools. She has coached gymnastics, basketball, and track. She served as bus driver, hauling her teams to competitions, and as trainer, taping student-athletes' ankles.

Berglund earned a master's degree in education at Texas State with a minor in counseling. Midway through graduate school, she took a job teaching PE at Crockett Elementary. "My goal was — as soon as a junior high or high school job came open — I was going to be gone," she says with a laugh. "It's funny because sometimes you land where you are supposed to be. You don't realize it and I love this age group. I'm really glad it worked out this way."

For the past 15 years Berglund also has worked as a lecturer in exercise and sports



science at Texas State. "I give them a million different things they can do to make their classroom a movement class for these kids," she says.

In her earlier teaching days, Berglund says, it used to be the principal considered a teacher was doing a good job if his or her students sat quietly with their feet firmly on the floor and their eyes fixed to the front of the class. But that's not conducive to learning for all, she notes, and movement is now part of the learning process.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, when her father was stationed there with the U.S. Air Force, Berglund has lived in several cities here and abroad. She also has some Texas State family ties. It was a spring break trip to visit her sister and brother-in-law, Rock Light, then the Bobcat track coach, which prompted her to move to San Marcos. Her son, Scott, is a senior outdoor recreation major at Texas State; and her husband, Paul, is a local builder.

Berglund recalls her early days as a PE teacher, when a typical staff included two certified teachers and two assistants in the school gym. Many programs are now reduced to a single teacher and an aide — and PE is sometimes offered only two to three times a week. These days, Berglund is teaching the children or grandchildren of former students. "My new philosophy is what's the next best thing? Because you can't always have the ideal every day," she says.

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IT WORKED OUT  
THIS WAY.”

— ROSE BERGLUND





1 Vanessa Cortez

**1 Vanessa Cortez '14** Austin, has joined ROSS Communications as an account associate. Cortez also was political director with Texans for Jeff Boyd, who was elected Texas Supreme Court Justice, Place 7. Cortez was the 2013-14 Texas State Student Government president.

**Molly McMichael '14** Los Angeles, was featured in the television miniseries *Texas Rising*, which premiered in May on the History channel. McMichael played Rebecca Pit, a young woman who falls in love with a Texas Ranger.

**Jonathan David Sixtos '12** Victoria, has been named Teacher of the Year at Victoria East High School. He is the head of the English department at the high school, sits on a state advisory board for STAAR test review, and is a steering committee member of the Victoria Alliance.

**Kyle Loeper '06** Austin, has been named opening senior sales manager for the JW Marriott Austin, the largest JW Marriott in North America. Loeper worked for White Lodging Services Corp. for eight years and is a four-time winner of the company's Chairman's Club Award. He was previously senior sales manager at the Westin Austin at The Domain.



2 S.L. Scott

**Anthony J. Warner '04** San Antonio, was promoted to the rank of major, U.S. Army in 2014. He is currently stationed at Fort Sam Houston. Warner graduated from Webster University's George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology in 2014 with a master's degree, while he was also attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

**Linda Hernandez '01 '05** San Marcos, has been named assistant principal of Hernandez Elementary in San Marcos CISD. Hernandez was previously the school's dyslexia and intervention teacher for kindergarten through fifth grade. She has been nominated for Teacher of the Year three times.

**LeAndra Bridgeman '00** New London, Missouri, has joined the North East Community Action Corp., a nonprofit agency that serves the people of northeast Missouri. Bridgeman works with clients to deliver and coordinate the agency's self-sufficiency programs.

**2 S.L. Scott '94** Austin, released her third book in the *Hard to Resist* series in contemporary fiction. The first book, *The Resistance*, hit the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-sellers lists in May 2014.



3 Giovanni K. Tuck

**3 Giovanni K. Tuck '87** Washington, D.C., has been selected for promotion to major general. He is the director of operations, deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

**David Hinds '86** Victoria, has been named president of Victoria College. He was previously senior vice president of instructional affairs at Allegany College in Maryland. Hines earned his Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin and his M.B.A. from the University of Houston. He began his career in education as a computer science teacher at San Marcos High School.

**Mark. D. Kelly '86** Sumter, South Carolina, was promoted to major general and is now the assigned commander, 9th Air Force, Air Combat Command, at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

**Anne Adams Frye '76** Katy, was named Katy's Senior Citizen of the Year for her volunteer efforts in the community. Frye is one of the founding board members of the Katy Area Continuity Care (KACC) organization, which is comprised of healthcare professionals who help raise funds for Home Delivered Meals. KACC is a mission outreach for the St. Stephen's Society of Katy's First United Methodist Church.

## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Eva Louise Smith**, the wife of Texas State President Lee Smith (1974-81) died May 22 in Dallas. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her sons, Don Adkins and Gary Adkins; Gary's wife, Donna; daughter, Diette, and son-in-law, Tom Barnett; brother, Win Landers, and his wife, Judy; eight grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. On July 19, 2014, Texas State University honored the Smiths for their many contributions through the naming of the Lee H. and Eva L. Smith West Campus.

**Daniel Hannon**, a retired faculty member in the Texas State Department of Theatre and Dance, died July 22 in San Marcos. Hannon, 80, was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Theatre in 2008. Hannon came to Texas State in 1981 and established the bachelor of fine arts degree in theatrical design and technology, a program that is nationally recognized today.

**John Robert Hood Jr.**, who continued to teach into his eighth decade, died July 17 in Kyle. Born January 13, 1935, in Tennessee, Hood spent 19 years teaching and producing theatre at the Yale University School of Drama. He moved to Texas in 1980 and held several theatre positions at The University of Texas. After an attempt at retirement, Hood found his place teaching playwriting and screenwriting at Texas State. By 2004 he found a permanent home within the Honors College.

Send your Class Notes contributions to:  
hillviews@txstate.edu

## Happy 25th birthday, Alkek Library

The Albert B. Alkek Library celebrated its 25th anniversary this fall by commemorating the original move that occurred on May 1, 1990. A human chain of students, faculty, staff, and community leaders lined up on September 23 from Old Main to Alkek to pass several specially chosen items from the library's collections from one person to the next, symbolizing the move from the old library to the new and the evolution of the university library. Dr. Denise Trauth, university president, initiated the book passing and walked the line, just as President Jerome Supple did 25 years ago.

### Alkek Facts – Then & Now

#### 1990

20,940 students enrolled  
543,546 library users  
40 computers  
\$27.8 million to build

#### 2015

38,006 students  
1.2 million library users  
268 computers  
\$14 million infrastructure upgrade



# Action and reaction

Young alumnus Richard Griffin gives back with scholarship



“ALTHOUGH MY DAD DIDN’T COIN THE PHRASE, WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG HE’D SAY, ‘LUCK IS WHERE PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY.’ AND TEXAS STATE GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY.”

— RICHARD GRIFFIN

By Bryan Kirk

Most people find it difficult to talk about themselves, and although he still has a lot of things yet to experience, Richard Griffin is hardly the exception to the rule.

Sipping on a cold drink and seated at a scarred wooden table in a Houston-area pub, Griffin, 33, stops to think about the first time he stepped foot on the campus of Texas State University, and what it was exactly that drew him to enroll.

“It was just comfortable,” he says as he recalls that fall day in 2003. “I just fell into Texas State.”

It’s been nearly 10 years since he earned his bachelor’s degree, and yet he still remembers college life vividly. He recalls the buildings that lined the Quad. “It just had a good feel,” he says. “It wasn’t overwhelming. It was just ... me.”

After another sip, he remembers that it didn’t take him long to fall in love with the classes he took, the professors who taught them, and the culture of Texas State. Griffin especially loved science and before long, he chose to major in physics. Over the first two years, he had his mind set on graduate school and as he got closer to earning his degree, possibly life as an educator or researcher.

“I didn’t think there were that many options out there, except for academia,” he says. But one day after class he was speaking with a classmate who told him he had a job interview. Griffin decided to test the waters and see what he could find, and to his surprise, he ended up working as a geophysicist in the oil and gas industry. It was the start of his adult journey.

“Although my dad didn’t coin the phrase, when I was very young he’d say, ‘luck is where preparation meets opportunity.’ And Texas State gave me the opportunity,” he says.

As the manager of project development for Sugar Land-based FairfieldNodal, the opportunities have come to Griffin. First, on a vessel in the North Sea; then later in Eastern

Europe, in cities such as Sarajevo. His good fortune has compelled him to pass something along to students who are majoring in physics. Griffin has set up an endowed scholarship at Texas State in honor of his mother, Annette Griffin, who lost her battle with cancer in 2013.

Giving back has been something Griffin says he’s considered since his teenage years. “When I was going through school, my parents had a bit of an arrangement,” he says. “I worked and did what I could to help pay my way, but school is a very expensive process and my parents assisted me quite a lot in that endeavor.”

Although his parents helped him pay for college, there were rough patches along the way. There were times Griffin had to sleep in his car, or crash on a classmate’s sofa, but he says his mom always managed to give him a little extra cash to ease the financial burden.

“Going to school and getting an education is what it’s all about, but (mom) wanted me to have some skin in the game,” he says. “It’s mom. She would always help out her kids.” In that same vein, Griffin says he wanted to pay it forward.

He has established an endowed scholarship that will support deserving junior and senior students majoring in physics. Several of Griffin’s former professors, including Dr. Heather Galloway, Dr. David Donnelly, and Dr. Donald Olson, will be playing a part in reviewing potential awardees. “They have a broad set of guidelines for the type of individual that I feel the scholarship should go to,” Griffin says.

Griffin says he didn’t want the scholarship to be used solely on books and tuition, but on other essentials, or even non-essentials, and for the student to be entrusted to do with the scholarship what they desire, just as Griffin’s mother had entrusted him.

“I wanted to pass that along forever,” he says. “It’s what my mother did to help make things a bit easier for me and give me a break, and it was good. Just to be able to give that feeling to somebody else ... is a good thing.”



Bobcat Chris Cortez (second from left) stands with Oakland Raiders training staff members Cameron Beck; Rod Martin, head athletic trainer; Scott Touchett, assistant athletic trainer; and Emilio Rabelo, assistant athletic trainer/PT. Photo courtesy Chris Cortez

## Trainer keeps the team in motion

Cortez brings his skills to the NFL

By Benjamin Gleisser

When Chris Cortez was a Texas State University student, he made a promise to his father. Six years later, Cortez, now an assistant athletic trainer for the Oakland Raiders, made good on his word.

“I told my dad that someday I’d get him on the field at (Dallas) Cowboys Stadium,” Cortez remembers with a smile. “In 2009, the Raiders played the Cowboys in their new stadium on Thanksgiving. My parents drove up from San Antonio and we had Thanksgiving dinner at the hotel, and the next day I took them onto the field when the stadium was empty. I moved a couch to the middle of the 50-yard line and we sat there.”

By 2013 Cowboys Stadium officially became AT&T Stadium. Cortez pauses to chuckle. “Being able to fulfill that promise to my dad was my proudest moment.”

Cortez is one of three Raiders assistant trainers under head athletic trainer Rod Martin, who won a Trainer of the Year award from the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society, of which Cortez is a member. Cortez’s job entails creating exercise, nutrition and rehab plans for players, and also dealing with athletes’

bumps, bruises, sprains, and strains. Occasionally there is a catastrophic injury that might cut short an athlete’s playing days.

“I remember a pretty remarkable hip dislocation that unfortunately ended one guy’s career,” he says. “Those things are always rough to deal with, especially when you’re around a guy for so long. So when someone gets injured pretty badly, it’s tough to let them go and know you’re not going to see them anymore.”

Cortez’s interest in athletic training began at Judson High School in Converse, outside of San Antonio. As a sophomore he worked with the varsity teams under athletic trainer David Stickelbault, another Texas State alumnus.

Stickelbault encouraged Cortez to pursue athletic training at Texas State, where he studied with several faculty and staff including the Bobcat’s head trainer David Gish, who died in 2014. Cortez graduated with a bachelor’s degree in exercise and sports science in 2004.

“I received amazing tutelage from my teachers and peers at Texas State,” Cortez says. “David Gish pushed me hard, but he knew what I was capable of. He taught me a lot about rehab, and how to make sound decisions under pressure. Because of him,

I became more confident in myself.”

During his junior year, Gish helped Cortez land an internship with the Cowboys during summer preseason training camp, a dream internship for a fan.

Cortez says he has always acted very professionally on the field — except when he met one player. “I’ve never been star-struck, but I grew up a Dallas Cowboys fan and seeing (Cowboys All-Star quarterback) Troy Aikman was a wild moment. I was like, ‘Oh my God! There’s Troy Aikman!’” But Cortez kept his cool, and didn’t ask for an autograph, an act considered tactless in the locker room.

Cortez later interned with the Oakland Raiders, then earned a master’s degree at Oklahoma State University, where he tended to the cross-country and men’s track and field teams. In 2006, he was named Graduate Assistant of the Year. The next year, he joined the Raiders organization full time.

“The first time I walked out on to the field to set up for a real game, I looked around the empty stadium and thought, ‘Wow! I finally got to where I wanted to be!’” Cortez says. “But once the game started, I realized, I forgot the mouthpieces upstairs!”

Besides helping athletes recover from injuries and preserving their careers, in 2012 Cortez also helped save the life of a California woman when her car veered off the road and plunged into the Oakland Estuary. “I was driving by with a friend, who was a Marine,” he recalls. “People were standing around, so we jumped into the water. I’m not a great swimmer — I was just doggy-paddling, but my friend’s a great swimmer. She got her out of the car before it sank. I give her all the credit.”

According to a story in the *Contra Costa Times*, the only injuries were some cuts to the bottom of Cortez’s feet. Thankfully, Cortez was well trained to deal with the injuries.



# 30 years of BOBCAT FOOTBALL GAMES going digital



Earlier this year, the University Archives received the negatives from the University News Service, including approximately 30 years of images taken by photographer Don Anders at Bobcat football games.

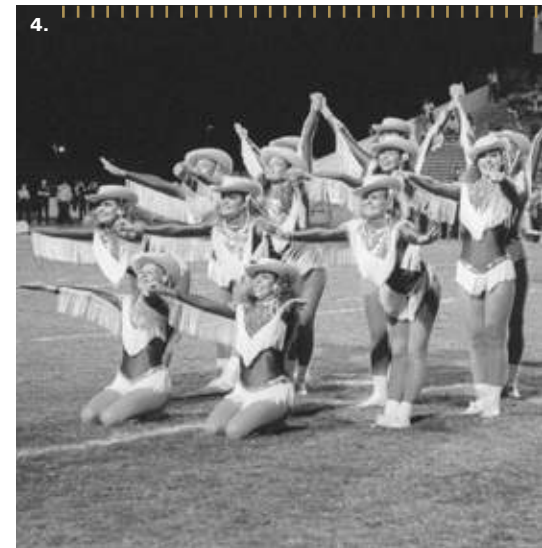
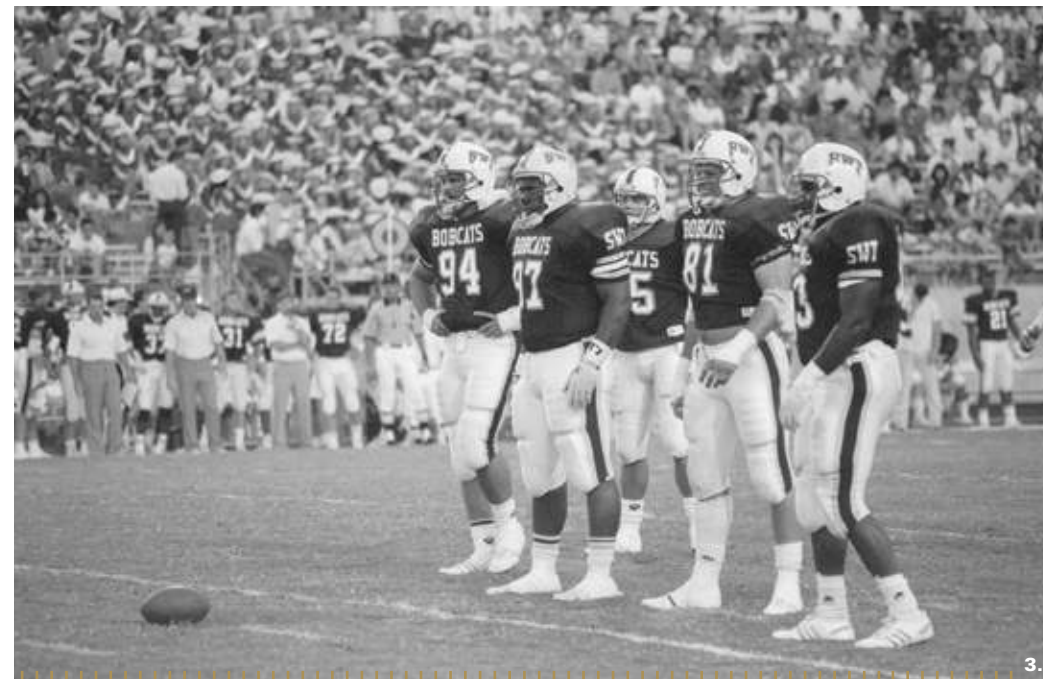
The image library also includes photos of fans in the stands, Strutters, the Bobcat Marching Band, cheerleaders, sideline guests, mascots, and more. Negative sets are usually labeled with a short subject description and a date, which means that the individuals who are part of that negative set are unidentified.

With the creation of the Alkek Library's Digital and Web Services unit and the diligence of student workers, the archivists now have the ability to scan the negatives and make them available through Flickr. The social tagging feature will allow viewers to add identification and relevant information about the images in a way that wasn't possible before this technology. To download or print a photo, you will need a (free) Yahoo or Flickr account. It is free to share a photo on social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest) or send a link via email.

Scanning and uploading negatives will take years, as there is a huge volume of negatives. In the first year, 13 batches of football negatives (referred to as Flickr albums) were scanned for a total of 3,205 individual images.



To view the digitized photos go to the university's Flickr site:  
[www.flickr.com/photos/txstate-library/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/txstate-library/)



1. Bobcat Marching Band, Sept. 2, 1989
2. Bobcats vs. Prairie View A&M, Sept. 9, 1989
3. Bobcats played Stephen F. Austin (SFA) on Sept. 23, 1988
4. The Strutters on Oct. 15, 1988, Bobcats vs. Tigers of Texas Southern University
5. Sept. 9, 1989, game against Panthers
6. Game day Sept. 2, 1989



# Reviving the Big Easy

Bobcat Arnold Baker  
using business skills  
to help New Orleans  
make a comeback

By Natalie Chandler



Photo by Geovanni Velasquez / Black and Geauxld Photography

In the 10 years since Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans and destroyed Arnold Baker's cement business, he hasn't forgotten one of his most challenging sales jobs. That was the day he persuaded authorities to allow him to return to a locked-down city in the days following the storm on Aug. 29, 2005.

While buying bottled water and a generator at a store about 30 miles outside the city, Baker noticed several empty boxes nearby. And from that observation, he crafted a plan. "I set it up in the back of the truck to where it looked like I had 10 generators and all this water," he says. "I went back to the security area and said, 'I'm bringing these downtown.' So they let me through."

Creativity has been the key to success for Baker, a 1988 graduate of Texas State University who lived in six states and Germany by the time his military family retired in San Antonio. As a boy, Baker opened his first business by convincing a neighbor to lend him his lawn mower in exchange for cutting grass.

"I made enough money that summer to buy my own lawn mower, and I said, 'This stuff works!'" Baker recalls. "I was self-sufficient during those summers and had enough money to carry me through the school year. When I was 8, I had no money and no way of getting money. When you don't have money, you have to be more creative about how you go about things."

An All-American defensive back for the Bobcats, Baker had his sights set on a career in the NFL until several knee injuries forced a change in course. So he took his marketing degree and landed an internship with the Simon Development Group, a position that evolved into Baker serving on management and redevelopment teams for three of the nation's largest mall developers.

His new career and reputation for turning around lagging shopping centers eventually led him to New Orleans, a city he had first visited when playing football for the Bobcats. Baker used a new strategy to improve a mall known at the time as one of the most dangerous in the country. Instead of banning young troublemakers, Baker offered them the choice of a one-year mall management course or a mentorship with local college students. In his first 18

Once out of city government, Baker got creative again following 9/11 when the financial market took a turn for the worse and he had to put a hold on his plans to develop hotels. In 2003, he opened Baker Ready Mix and Building Materials, a concrete plant where he still serves as president and CEO.

months at the helm, incidences dropped by 72 percent.

"It became a huge success as an alternate response program from banning kids from malls," he says. "We had some great results."

Baker also found success at the city hall in the 1990's, when he was in charge of \$2 billion worth of development projects as a member of Mayor Marc Morial's cabinet, assisting with policy and planning. Baker was instrumental in creating contractor diversity compliance requirements for several mixed-use, public-private developments. He also helped shape the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, New Orleans Arena, and Jazzland Theme Park.

Once out of city government, Baker got creative again following 9/11 when the financial market took a turn for the worse, and he had to put a hold on his plans to develop hotels. In 2003, he opened Baker Ready Mix and Building Materials, a concrete plant where he serves as president and CEO. His brother Whitney Baker, who also attended Texas State and played Bobcat football, is a company vice president

Two years later, the company had just completed a city contract on an airport runway when the failure of the levees resulted in flooding. Then a tornado touched down. "My plant had no power for six months, no water for six months, and no telephone

for six months," Baker says. "A bomb dropped there."

Once the business recovered, it began supplying much of the concrete to help rebuild New Orleans and reconstruct levees, floodwalls, roads, sidewalks, houses, and public buildings. But Baker's recovery efforts expanded beyond his own company. By working with the National Black Chamber of Commerce, he helped the organization set up charters in the area, testified before Congress seven times, and used their access to the White House to champion the larger business community's recovery.

"Those early projects helped stimulate enough economic revenue that we were able to salvage many of those earlier businesses that would have failed," he says.

Baker has been instrumental in driving recovery in areas outside construction and infrastructure. His influence has been felt at the national level, with his voice playing a part in shaping business policy in Congress. He has become a key leader in business sector efforts, holding a seat on the New Orleans Board of Trade, Greater New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Business Council, the New Orleans Startup Fund, and the Kate Middleton Elementary School Board. Baker also serves on the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans.

"It is truly a uniquely New Orleans vibe, although a bit more progressive and redemptive, and in many ways the city much more appreciates its uniqueness and is no longer taking it for granted," he says.

"There were many things, socioeconomic and economically, that were being ignored that are threats to any culture. Many of those are being addressed as we redevelop communities and bring together initiatives."

Baker uses his success to help others reach their goals. He is a regular speaker at business gatherings, including ones hosted by the National Black Chamber of Commerce, where he discusses challenges that business owners often face. Baker also visits local elementary schools in the New Orleans area, where he enjoys encouraging children to pursue their dreams.

"I talk to them about being a visionary, achieving their goals and not letting things stop them," he says.



# The (last) view

*"Kiss Me Kate," based on Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," closed out the 2014-15 Texas State theatre season at the Patti Strickel Harrison Theatre. The musical by Cole Porter received several Austin Critics' Table Awards, including best production and choreography for director Cassie Abate and a best costumes award for Michael Raiford. Elizabeth Brady received a special citation for outstanding student work for her portrayal of "Kate/Lilli." Other members of the cast included Gabriel Bernal, Maggie Bera, Johnny Brantley III, Sydney Roberts Goodwin, Junior Gomez, Matthew Drake Shrader, and Thomas Miller. Photo by Stephanie Schulz.*



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BASKETBALL



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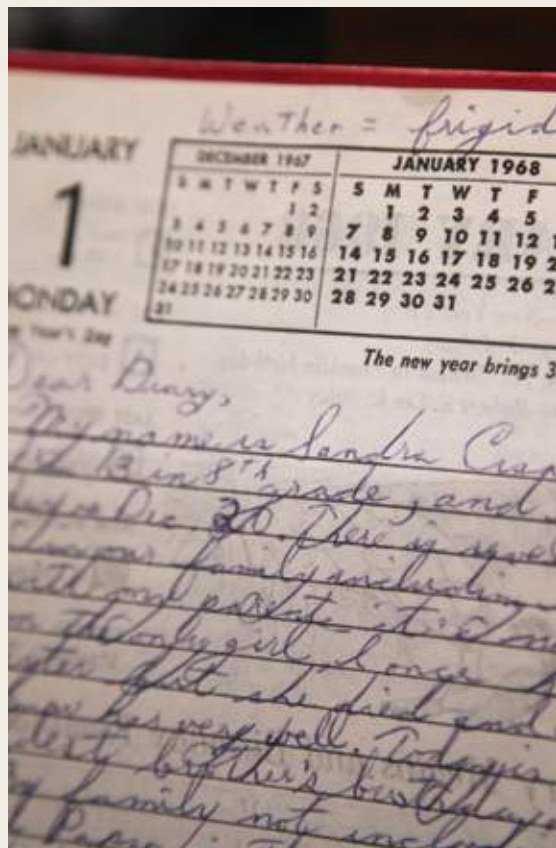
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The Bobcat Club is committed to providing current student-athletes with a first-class education and a chance to excel both in the classroom and on the playing field. Join the Bobcat Club today in support of the student-athlete scholarship fund and Pave the Way for the continued academic and athletic success of our student-athletes.





## from the collections



Sandra Cisneros exhibit now on display in the lobby of the Wittliff.

## AT THE WITTLIFF COLLECTIONS

**Sandra Cisneros Archive: Exhibit highlights treasures from renowned Latina writer NOW ON DISPLAY**

Celebrating the recent acquisition of internationally acclaimed writer Sandra Cisneros' literary papers, the Wittliff Collections has unveiled a new exhibit highlighting some of the archive's treasures.

As one of America's leading writers, Cisneros helped launch the Latino literary boom and is the recipient of a MacArthur "genius grant." She is the author of poetry, a memoir, essays, children's books, and fiction, including *The House on Mango Street*, which has sold more than 6 million copies and has been translated into more than 20 languages.

The Sandra Cisneros archive comprises 250 file boxes documenting the entirety of her literary career. Included are manuscripts for all of her major works, personal diaries, travel journals, correspondence, photographs, videos, awards, publicity material, personal effects, interviews and speeches, original drawings by Cisneros, and files on her famous Purple House in San Antonio.

The Cisneros archive at the Wittliff Collections will provide a valuable resource for dramatically enhancing the vitality and visibility of Latino literature. It will also present a significant opportunity to enrich students of all backgrounds, encourage scholarship, and inspire young writers to find their own voices for self-expression. To learn more, visit [www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/](http://www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu/).