

**UTSA**

# Giving



## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Foundations prepare future science teachers  
Carlos Alvarez and the value of education  
Voelcker's gift aids in recruiting top researchers

## LEADING THE CHARGE

Chairs Fred Chang, Joycelyn Moody and  
Mo Jamshidi are helping propel UTSA to Tier One status





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—UTSA Architecture student Luis Ahumada

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### On the cover:

Chairs leading the charge  
to Tier One status

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# Giving



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Malu and Carlos Alvarez (right), with daughter Carla and her husband John Brozovich.

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### HONOR ROLL OF DONORS





## Dear UTSA Friends,

I have a confession. There are times when being UTSA's president is downright fun! Last year, I had the opportunity to surprise guests at the 2010 President's Dinner by singing a tune with a good friend, Rick Cavender (photo at left). Beyond selling cars, Rick and his family seem to have a natural flair for entertaining folks. It was my pleasure to join him as "Rick y Ricardo" for a spirited song, a way to make an already great evening even more memorable.

That night was special because we celebrated the businesses, organizations and people who support UTSA. We would not be progressing toward our goal of becoming an even stronger, world-class research university without the financial contributions we receive from alumni and friends like you.

In this issue of *Giving*, we are focusing on the impact of your philanthropy on the university. You will read about star faculty who have come to UTSA to share their expertise with our community; an alumna who is helping meet a critical need in San Antonio education; and a student-athlete who is excelling in her sport and now pursuing big dreams. In addition, you will read about a donor who not only encourages student success, but also leverages his generosity to persuade others to give, too.

And there is an update on a gift you may have heard about last fall from the estate of Miss Mary McKinney—more than \$28 million for student scholarships. I continue to be humbled by this special woman's generosity.

Gifts to UTSA make a tangible difference in the opportunities that are available here. We continue our journey to become a nationally recognized research university for many reasons, but the most compelling is that we believe our students, our faculty and the people of our state deserve access to the most exceptional opportunities. As a donor, you are helping to get us there, and I am grateful.

Having this opportunity to give thanks to you ranks as a fun part of my job, too. Many thanks! ¡Mil gracias!

## GIVING SCENE

### UTSA Development Board

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### Spencers step up for UTSA

San Antonio entrepreneur David Spencer and his wife, Jennifer '93, recently committed \$250,000 to support UTSA football. Part of their contribution will provide scholarships for players. This gift comes at a critical time for Roadrunner football. Due to UTSA's commitment to join the Western Athletic Conference and FBS-level football in 2012, the team must now prepare to offer 85 scholarships each year in order to remain competitive.

The Spencers have supported a number of university initiatives during the past decade, including establishing the **David and Jennifer Spencer Distinguished Chair in Engineering**, currently held by college dean Mauli Agrawal.

### San Antonio architect Almond gives papers to UTSA

Through the special collections and archives, UTSA acquires, preserves and provides access to primary source materials that document our local and regional history, as well as the work of prominent local citizens. Killis Almond, a San Antonio architect who has tackled many local and national historic preservation projects, recently donated his professional papers to the College of Architecture and made a gift to support the processing and preservation of the documents. Such materials are often rich in details that greatly help research and other scholarly activities.

In practice since 1978, Almond is a highly regarded consultant and expert in theater renovation. He is a past president of the League of Historic American Theatres and has been a member of several boards, including the Texas Historical Commission Board of Review. Almond's firm has managed design and historic preservation projects for places such as the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse, Alameda Theater, San Pedro Playhouse and Palo Alto College, all in San Antonio.

"Having insight into the design and preservation process, through Killis' papers, will prove valuable for both UTSA students and historic preservation enthusiasts alike," said John Murphy, dean of the College of Architecture.



Photo courtesy of Killis Almond



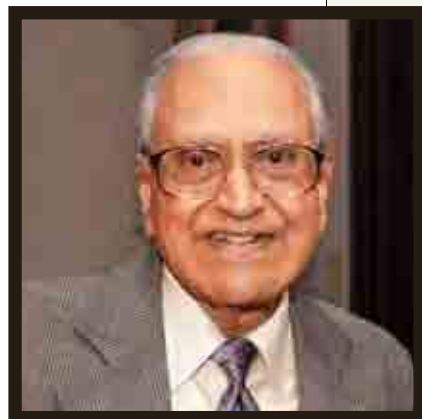
# GIVING SCENE



President Romo waves to revelers at the Texas Cavaliers River Parade during Fiesta 2011.



Isabella Van de Putte (from left), President Romo, State Senator Leticia Van de Putte and former Mayor Phil Hardberger pose at the 2010 President's Scholarship and Awards Dinner.



Dr. Budalur S. Thyagarajan

## Dr. Thyagarajan honored with portrait, gifts to UTSA

Former UTSA students Blair Andera '98, Damon Wilkerson and Steven Vela commissioned a portrait of UTSA Professor Emeritus Budalur S. Thyagarajan to honor his dedication and passion for teaching students interested in science. Thyagarajan, who came to UTSA in 1974, was the founding director of the Division of Earth and Physical Sciences, which led to the development of the UTSA College of Sciences. The portrait was unveiled at an October event held in his honor.

Also at the event, several monetary gifts were presented by former students, family and friends of Thyagarajan to UTSA President Ricardo Romo, who accepted on behalf of the university. The gifts will be added to the **Dr. Budalur S. Thyaga-**

**rajan Endowed Scholarship** fund, which supports UTSA undergraduates pursuing chemistry, geology and physics degrees.

Of note was a special gift presented by Thyagarajan's 8-year-old grandson, Ocean, who wrote a letter to Romo thanking him for hosting the event in his grandfather's honor.

An organic chemist by training, Thyagarajan earned his doctoral degree in 1956 from the University of Madras, India.

Thyagarajan's greatest legacy may be the impact he has had on countless students. He has mentored undergraduates, graduates and postdoctoral students from around the world who now enjoy professional careers in medicine, science, business and education.



Robert Wehmeyer (left) and Steve Lewis (center), of Jefferson Bank, present President Romo with the largest private gift in UTSA history, now an estimated \$28 million estate gift from Mary E. McKinney.



Edith McAllister and Harriett Romo celebrate the season at the President's Holiday Party.

Pat Mickey (from left), John Jockusch, Ruth Bates, Dan Bates, Marilyn Garcia, Oscar Saucedo, and Ellie Saucedo celebrate Fiesta at the annual UTSA River Parade Party.



## UTSA MEXICO CENTER

### SCANLAN GIFT BENEFITS UTSA MEXICO CENTER

San Antonio attorney William Scanlan Jr. recently committed a gift from the William and Salome Scanlan Foundation to the UTSA Mexico Center. Under the direction of Dr. Harriett Romo (left), the center was established in 2005 as an umbrella organization within the university, connecting institution-wide, Mexico-related expertise through

interdisciplinary research and collaborative programming. Current activities in the center include research on transnational families, and community outreach through a conference on bilateral perspectives on Mexican migration. The Scanlan gift will provide operating funds for research and programming for the next three years.



UTSA President Ricardo Romo received the CASE District IV "CEO of the Year" award in New Orleans in February. CASE, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, is the leading professional association serving educational institutions.



# Chairs move UTSA toward top-tier designation

By Lorna Stafford

With an eye toward achieving Tier One designation for the university, UTSA actively recruits faculty who are experts to teach, lead and serve here. Endowed chairs and professorships, funded by private gifts from donors, are key to attracting top talent to our campuses. Here we feature three faculty scholars who have been named to chair positions; they are innovators who are providing exceptional opportunities in their fields for our students and the community thanks to private support.



**MO JAMSHIDI** is a man of many passions—the passion to help minority students reach their dreams, the passion to take Texas and the U.S. to new levels in engineering and robotics, and the passion to see UTSA become a premier research university.

As the **Lutcher Brown Endowed Distinguished Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering**, Jamshidi is able to realize and share those passions through teaching, research and scholarly contributions to society.

The scientist, who has been an adviser to NASA for 10 years in addition to other advisory positions, has established the Autonomous Control Engineering Lab (ACE) at UTSA thanks to funding provided by the Lutcher Brown Distinguished Chair. In the lab, students work with wireless communication robots that can perform various functions on land, in the air and under water. An important aspect is that the robots can be used for vital military joint operations and future combat missions.

“We are also working on making an interconnected depository where doctors can exchange medical information so that every doctor who sees a patient can download exams and tests,” Jamshidi said, adding that this technology would cut down on the multiple copayments and time patients spend retaking the same exam for a different doctor.

But his greatest passion is seeing students succeed, especially those who come from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. UTSA, he said, is the perfect place because of the university’s mission of access and its vision to be a premier national research university. From his second month at the university, he began an endowment for a graduate student scholarship in electrical and computer engineering.

“I came to UTSA because I saw that I could make a difference,” he said. “I hope that whatever I do at UTSA, every step that I take is going to have an impact after I leave. It’s a good feeling being at UTSA because there is so much going on. Everything you do and everything I do—we need to do—to take the university higher.”

## MO JAMSHIDI:

*Lutcher Brown Endowed Distinguished Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering; College of Engineering*

## EXPERIENCE:

University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Ph.D. in electrical engineering; adviser to NASA, USAF Research Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy (Oak Ridge, Sandia, Los Alamos and DOE HQ), European Commission (Research wing of European Union)

**JOYCELYN MOODY** is the **Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature at UTSA**. Funding from this endowment has allowed Moody to establish the African American Literatures and Cultures Institute at the university.

“It was the generosity of the endowment; the openness of the position. Dean Daniel Gelo of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts invited me to come and grow English studies at UTSA. The Denman family wanted to develop American literature in some way,” she said.

“The purpose of the institute is to build a pipeline

“Dean Daniel Gelo of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts invited me to come and grow English studies at UTSA. The Denman family wanted to develop American literature in some way.”

—Joycelyn Moody

of English professors to keep African American literary studies alive,” Moody said. “At UTSA, we want participants of the institute (undergraduate juniors going into their senior year) to go onto graduate school to study African American studies through English departments, ethnic studies departments and history departments.”

The Denman Distinguished Chair, she said, is very important to her mission because it provides 95 percent of the funding for the institute, which aids the travel costs of participants who come from universities across the nation, provides for resources and allows the institute to take participants on a trip to New York for a four-day immersion in African American literature, history and cultural history.

The Denman Endowment also helps in other areas of Moody’s scholarship, such as presenting her research internationally and helping graduate students within the Department of English present their professional papers.

“I am also working with UTSA Libraries Dean Kris Maloney and Tara Schmidt, library staff liaison for the English Department, to apply Denman Distinguished Chair funding to the cultivation of an African American literary space at the John Peace Library on the Main Campus,” she said.

Moody’s desire to further English literature and African American studies is a nice fit in a university on its way to Tier One designation, she said. “To me, a Tier One university in San Antonio means a smart, intelligent



## JOYCELYN MOODY:

*Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair in American Literature; College of Liberal and Fine Arts*

## EXPERIENCE:

University of Kansas, Ph.D. in English; editor in chief of *African American Review*; taught at the University of Washington, Saint Louis University, Hamilton College and Harvard School of Divinity

progressive city, filled with people who make thoughtful decisions. And the humanities are very important to a Tier One city because it has an impact on how people think and treat each other as citizens—that is the primary goal of the humanities, to get us to respect each other as human beings.”

The Sue E. Denman Distinguished Chair has done so much for the students at UTSA, said Moody, especially those in the institute.

“In the institute, I see students grow, and that gives me so much joy. Watching the light bulbs go off, making the professoriate something that these students believe they can do, developing their confidence and supplying them with the nuts and bolts of how to get things done. That’s what it is all about.”

CHAIRS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



**FRED CHANG:**

*AT&T Distinguished Chair in Infrastructure Assurance and Security; College of Business*

**EXPERIENCE:**

University of Oregon, Ph.D.; served as associate dean of Information Technology for the College of Natural Sciences and director of the Center for Information Assurance and Security at UT Austin; former director of research at the National Security Agency and former president of technology strategy for SBC Communications; member of the Commission on Cyber Security for the 44th Presidency; awarded the National Security Agency Director's Distinguished Service Medal

## CHAIRS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**FRED CHANG'S** passion is to see UTSA, its students and the city of San Antonio take the lead in one of this country's growing needs—trained cyber security experts.

"When you think of hi-tech cities, you think of Silicon Valley, Palo Alto, Santa Clara and San Jose. You think Massachusetts Institute of Technology and others. Well, why not think San Antonio? Why not think UTSA?" he said.

With a résumé full of accomplishments and distinctions, Chang is sharing his expertise and research with the community thanks to the **AT&T Distinguished Chair in Infrastructure Assurance and Security in the College of Business**.

"The San Antonio area is a great area for cyber security with the 24th Air Force cyber command, the National Security Agency, and a host of security-related companies and retired military," said Chang. He previously served as associate dean of Information Technology for the College of Natural Sciences as well as director of the Center for Information Assurance and Security, both at UT Austin, before coming to UTSA.

The Distinguished Chair, he said, allows him to fund research projects with graduate students as well as help them with travel expenses when they present

their findings at various conferences.

"It's a game changer for the students," Chang said. "To have an expert say, 'Wow, that was a great paper, let's get together and conduct some more research.' That's powerful."

The Distinguished Chair has also been the catalyst for the establishment of the UTSA Center for Education and Research on Information and Infrastructure Security. The center will serve as a home for valuable research dealing with cyber security issues. That, Chang said, will be a game changer for San Antonio.

"Cyber security is so interrelated—it involves engineering, psychology and policy, for instance. Endowments could really help fund interdisciplinary research in cyber security incorporating these areas," Chang said.

"Part of moving to Tier One is moving the university and the city onto a national platform," he added. "It would be great for somebody in Washington to say, 'Where is the best broadly-based thinking being done in cyber security?' And the first thing they think is ... UTSA."

*To learn more about supporting UTSA faculty, email [eric.gentry@utsa.edu](mailto:eric.gentry@utsa.edu)*

# Planning to give

Looking ahead can greatly impact student success

By Lorna Stafford

She was unassuming, except for her hot-pink lipstick; a private person who didn't make a lot of fuss but certainly spoke her mind when required; a deeply intelligent woman who had a quick wit and an even quicker eye for fashion.

That's how many knew Mary E. McKinney, a schoolteacher who educated San Antonio children for 25 years. But after her death in November 2009, she has become known as one of the most prominent contributors to higher education in Texas.

McKinney instructed in her will that the bulk of her estate, now estimated to be worth more than \$28 million, be used to educate students at The University of Texas at San Antonio. The money will continue to fund **The Felix and Elizabeth McKinney Memorial Scholarship Fund**, an endowment she created long before her death, in honor of her parents.

"Because of McKinney's thoughtful estate and gift planning, she will help many generations of students," said Carolyn Lowery, director of gift planning at UTSA.

Planned gifts, according to Lowery, are very important to the fabric of a university, especially UTSA. Of the university's more than 30,000 students, 47 percent are first-generation college students who often lack the means to pay for a college education.

"In addition," Lowery said, "the scholarships that are created through a donor's asset planning help to relieve the burden of working full-time or part-time jobs while in school."

Establishing a planned gift is easy to do, and is usually set up as part of the estate-planning process.

"There is no such thing as a gift that is too big or too small. Every gift makes an impact," Lowery said. "We always want to be certain a donor's intentions can be served and that the gift will accomplish their desired outcome."

In the coming years, as UTSA nears its top-tier goal, gifts made through asset and estate planning will play an even greater role in the university's ability to serve the San Antonio community.

"A top-tier university is considered the best," said Ricardo Romo, president of



Mary E. McKinney in the 1950s.

## WAYS TO ESTABLISH A PLANNED GIFT

- Through a will bequest a donor may designate that a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the remainder of the estate be given to UTSA.
- By giving specific securities, articles of tangible personal property or real property to UTSA.
- By designating UTSA as one of the beneficiaries on their life insurance or IRA, 401K or 403B.

UTSA. "In order to be among the best, UTSA greatly relies on the generosity of our community."

That is something McKinney understood. In the past decade in which she has given to UTSA, more than 100 students have benefitted from The Felix and Elizabeth McKinney Memorial Scholarship Fund. Because of her multimillion dollar planned gift, more than \$500,000 will be available to new UTSA students in the first year of funding alone. That amount will continue to increase annually over time.

"One of the greatest legacies we can leave is that of helping to educate young people," said Marjie French, vice president for University Advancement. "Thanks to Miss McKinney and others who choose to give through planned gifts, our UTSA students will not only have a foundation for the future, they will be inspired themselves to carry on that legacy of generosity in making planned gifts for others."

*To learn more about gift planning opportunities go to [utsa.edu/giftplan](http://utsa.edu/giftplan) or email [carolyn.lowery@utsa.edu](mailto:carolyn.lowery@utsa.edu)*



# A GE<sup>2</sup>MS of an idea

Foundation helps UTSA prepare tomorrow's math, science teachers

By Amanda Beck



GE2MS alum Cheryl Alderman is a master teacher at Clark High School.

Four years. That's how long it took Cheryl Alderman '07 to go from novice first-year mathematics teacher to department coordinator and master teacher at Clark High School.

The award-winning teacher has hosted nine student observers and mentored two student teachers during that time, and says she couldn't have done it without the mentorship and support she received at UTSA and in the university's Generating Educational Excellence in Math and Science (GE<sup>2</sup>MS) program.

GE<sup>2</sup>MS is supported through the generosity of community members dedicated to addressing the need for more qualified math and science teachers in the area. The joint program within the College of Sciences and the College of Education and Human Development serves society by training math and science majors to become effective teachers. Unlike a traditional teacher preparation program, GE<sup>2</sup>MS places participants in the classroom as early as their freshman year. When they complete the program, students have both a bachelor's degree in their discipline and teacher certification.

The program began in 2006 with the help of Frost Bank Charitable Foundation. Called UTeach at the time, it has become highly effective at reducing the gap between needed math and science teachers in the community and the number of certified teachers trained each year.

The Ewing Halsell Foundation realized the impact of the program and recently granted more than \$287,000 for GE<sup>2</sup>MS to enhance its support of student teachers and teachers with less than five years' experience.

Jackie Moczygemba, foundation manager for the Ewing Halsell Foundation, said, "We are pleased to partner with UTSA through the expansion of the GE<sup>2</sup>MS program by preparing, graduating and supporting the next generation of exceptional math and science teachers for San Antonio and South Texas."

"The donation from Ewing Halsell to UTSA has generated a tremendous amount of good will among math and science teachers across the city," said GE<sup>2</sup>MS director Joseph Lazor. "There has been a genuine sense of surprise."

Before GE<sup>2</sup>MS graduates



"I want to give back to my community and to the program that supported me when I was at UTSA."

—Cheryl Alderman '07



"That's our purpose at UTSA, to educate students like Cheryl so they can be leaders in our community. As an emerging research university, the GE<sup>2</sup>MS program fits nicely with that purpose as well as our mission to be an educational leader in this state. Programs like GE<sup>2</sup>MS cannot exist without the financial generosity of individuals in our community."

—GE<sup>2</sup>MS director Joseph Lazor

are ever given their own classrooms, they must spend a semester shadowing master teachers. During that time, they put in the same number of hours as their mentor, investing a large portion of their time creating lesson plans and drafting innovative ways to help students understand and retain information.

Because GE<sup>2</sup>MS student teachers have very little time to supplement their income with a job, support such as that from the Ewing Halsell Foundation is very important. The foundation provides stipends for students to complete their student-teaching semester, allowing them to focus on gaining as much information from their master teachers as they can.

Alderman understands the importance of learning from master teachers. Even with years of preparation as a GE<sup>2</sup>MS student, the first year as a teacher, she said, is hectic.

For many, the frustration is too much. Research shows that new teachers are leaving the profession at a rate of 16 percent per year during the first five years. GE<sup>2</sup>MS wants to change that rate, which is the reason mentoring is such an important component of the program.

Alderman agrees, saying mentoring is integral to new teachers' success. "I've been blessed with some amazing teachers," she said. "I want to give back to my community and to the program that supported me when I was in UTeach at UTSA."

The Ewing Halsell Foundation also supports the GE<sup>2</sup>MS mentoring component to help new teachers thrive in the classroom like Alderman has.

Funding provides a stipend for classroom observers. In addition, new teachers are invited to participate in a two-day, Ewing Halsell-sponsored professional development symposium during the summer, which Alderman also helps plan.

Another component of the GE<sup>2</sup>MS program is to address the needs of teachers after they enter the classroom.

Teachers are expected to have both the knowledge of subject matter they teach and an understanding of new trends in pedagogy. Post-baccalaureate education becomes necessary to keep teachers up to date.

In programs that offer dual credit courses like the ones at Clark High School, teachers with master's degrees are essential. So, a portion of the Ewing Halsell gift has been set aside for post-baccalaureate scholarships for teachers with less than five years of experience so they can remain competitive and effective.

Alderman is finishing up her master's degree this May. She is one of 22 teachers in the school district chosen to complete the master's in educational leadership program at UTSA. The district selected teachers who have the potential to become administrative leaders.

"That's our purpose at UTSA, to educate students like Cheryl so they can be leaders in our community," said Lazor. "As an emerging research university, the GE<sup>2</sup>MS program fits nicely with that purpose as well as our mission to be an educational leader in this state. Programs like GE<sup>2</sup>MS cannot exist without the financial generosity of individuals in our community," he said.

As for the master teacher, Alderman is continuing to educate the next generation of leaders. It is what she loves most about teaching—developing a relationship with her students and seeing them grow up and realize their own goals.

Recently, four former students stopped by for a visit. They were sophomores at the time in Alderman's first geometry class. She helped them apply for college and she saw them graduate.

"And they came back to tell me what was going on with their lives and how much they appreciated what I did," she said. "I couldn't ask for anything better than that."

To learn more or to support the program, go to [utsa.edu/gems](http://utsa.edu/gems) or email [kim.fischer@utsa.edu](mailto:kim.fischer@utsa.edu).



# ‘DINING’ AT THE TABLE OF EDUCATION

Philanthropists  
Carlos and Malu Alvarez  
invest in UTSA, South Texas

By Lety Laurel

For Carlos Alvarez, there was never that fork-in-the-road moment where he was forced to decide if he’d go to college.

The choice was made for him, whether he liked it or not.

“It was education. That was never a question,” Alvarez said. Often, his father would talk to his five children about their choices, comparing their lack of enthusiasm for higher education to rejecting a fancy dinner.

“He’d say, here’s this great table, here are these fine linens. Here’s this fine china and wonderful food so very nicely served and the best for you to drink and you are wasting it all. You would prefer to go to the taco stand,” he said. “That’s the way he would illustrate how he was giving us the best of what was education and we would not really appreciate it.”

But Alvarez did pursue education, receiving a biochemical-engineering degree from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and attending the U.S. Brewers Academy in New York.

Several years later he found himself in a familiar place. “I started with my daughters preaching those same words that my parents would tell me: ‘How can you not enjoy this? You’re learning, you’re having these things open to you,’” he said. “That’s when I started getting that appreciation [for higher education].”

For almost a decade, Alvarez, president and CEO of The Gambrinus Co., has been showing his appreciation for education through philanthropy.

His gifts to UTSA began in 2004. Then, in 2006, he and his wife established the **Carlos and Malu Alvarez Endowment for Student Success**.

In 2009, he established the **Malu and Carlos Alvarez Graduate Research Excellence Fund**, which supports master’s- and doctoral-level student fellowships, conferences and other special opportunities for research. In addition, this generosity enabled UTSA to receive state funding from the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) for a total impact of more than \$2 million.

“In 42 years, UTSA has really grown to be an education engine, so it’s not difficult to be inclined to give to such an institution,” Alvarez said. “You can really appreciate it when you see what you are helping the university achieve.”

In 2006, he received the Tom C. Frost Award, presented by UTSA, for his work to strengthen commercial, cultural and educational ties between Mexico and the U.S. A native of Mexico who became a U.S. citizen in 2001, Alvarez is a founding board member of the San Antonio-Mexico Foundation for Education, a graduate exchange program that



Carlos and Malu Alvarez

“UTSA has really grown to be an education engine, so it’s not difficult to be inclined to give to such an institution.”

—Carlos Alvarez

allows Mexican university students to study at UTSA.

“Carlos and Malu are such good friends to the university, and our students are achieving their dreams thanks to them,” said President Ricardo Romo. “They have inspired our efforts to bring even more exceptional opportunities to San Antonio. They set such a great example in our community as to what can be accomplished when we invest in UTSA.”

Each year the university hosts the Alvarez Expo, which allows students to present their research and other opportunities made possible by the couple’s gift. Similar to a science fair, the expo’s participants set up presentation boards with photos and essays. They give a summary of their experiences to Carlos and Malu. That opportunity is important for everyone in the room, Alvarez said.

“It’s extremely satisfying to see students who are actually saying to you ‘I was able to be at this meeting, I was able to be at this convention, I was able to make a pitch for my idea,’ and they’re honestly very touched and emotional about things that they have come to value greatly,” Alvarez said. “It is certainly very gratifying to see these students and meet them and know them personally and hear directly from them about their experiences and realize how hard a road they had or they are having in accomplishing or achieving their goals.”

“It’s extremely satisfying to see students who are actually saying to you ‘I was able to be at this meeting, I was able to be at this convention, I was able to make a pitch for my idea.’”

—Carlos Alvarez

But the expo doesn’t just serve as a way to thank the Alvarez family. It is also a chance for Alvarez to share what he knows about business, education and the “real world.”

“Any comment that you make or any question that you pose, any advice that you give is incredibly powerful,” Alvarez said. “These guys are looking at you and seeing you as larger than life. And you have an influence that you never really thought you could achieve in such a very short visit. You realize that this is for the students much more than it is for my wife, me and my family. This shows [the students] that they are important and something special is happening here.”

Alvarez said he’s fortunate to be able to help students attain their educational goals. And he feels it’s his responsibility.







Doug Frantz (center) received the "Young Investigator Award" from the Voelcker Fund.

# Recruiting top minds

## VOELCKER'S LEGACY ELEVATES UTSA MEDICAL RESEARCH

By Christi Fish

In a quiet fourth-floor laboratory on the UTSA Main Campus, medicinal chemist Doug E. Frantz is waging a war against cancer and cardiovascular disease with the most unlikely weapons—stem cells.

Frantz began his research at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas following a five-year stint in drug development with pharmaceutical giant Merck and Co. In 2009, he joined the UTSA faculty to continue his research and share his knowledge with students.

As a first-year faculty member at UTSA, Frantz received the "Young Investigator Award" from the San Antonio-based **Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund**. The annual honor supports emerging San Antonio professors whose medi-

cal research has the potential to cure certain specified diseases. As a result, Frantz will receive \$450,000 in funding over the next three years to support his research.

Unlike embryonic stem cells that have to be transplanted, Frantz's research incorporates adult stem cells that are already in the body and have the potential to regenerate healthy tissue under the right conditions. In the laboratory, two classes of molecules called isoxazoles and pyrazoles have made adult stem cells grow into healthy heart cells and neurons, respectively.

"Our goal now is to optimize those molecules here at UTSA to determine which will make the best candidates for pre-clinical and clinical drug development," Frantz said. "It's a time-consuming process that would not be possible but for the support of the Voelcker Fund."



"The Voelckers saw significant medical advances over the course of their lives. They wanted their legacy to continue these advances in medicine with the potential to cure diseases."

—Voelcker Fund trustee Banks Smith

Established in 2006, the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Fund is a nonprofit trust that primarily supports San Antonio organizations conducting medical research. The fund, built from the sale proceeds of the Voelckers' San Antonio dairy farm, gives priority to research targeting the development of cures for heart disease, cancer, arthritis, muscular dystrophy, retinitis and/or retinal macular degeneration.

Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker were hardworking San Antonio natives who owned and managed a dairy farm. The Voelckers acquired land and dairy cows in the 1920s and 1930s, retaining the farm long after dairy farming became impractical and despite the encroaching city.

The Voelcker's estate funded the Voelcker Fund with 450 acres of land, 311 of which are now San Antonio's Phil Hardberger Park.

Voelcker Fund trustees Banks M. Smith, Forrester M. Smith and David Berndt believe the couple would be proud to see their namesake fund supporting medical research at UTSA.

"The Voelckers saw significant medical advances over the course of their lives," said Smith. "They wanted their legacy to continue these advances in medicine with the potential to cure diseases. Supporting UTSA's medical researchers at a time when the university is aspiring to become a Tier One research institution gives the Voelcker Fund the opportunity to make a significant impact right here in San Antonio that is firmly aligned with the Voelckers' priorities."

"By supporting UTSA in its medical research, the Voelcker Fund is helping UTSA in its growth to Tier One by funding its need to recruit and retain top scholars. The investment by the Voelcker Fund in the greater San Antonio region furthers Max and Minnie's charitable mission," Smith said.

True to the Voelckers' mission to promote promising medical research, the fund also awarded UTSA a two-year, \$600,000 grant in 2010 to recruit two promising

scholars to its College of Sciences.

Oleg Larionov, a German born and educated chemist, was attracted by the Voelckers' support.

When the UTSA Department of Chemistry began recruiting Larionov in early 2010, he was conducting research at Harvard University on the Myristinin class of compounds. The compounds have been shown to effectively treat cancer without chemotherapy's harmful side effects.

The Voelcker Fund has also helped attract Brian Hermann, who is currently a research assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Hermann will join UTSA's growing group of stem cell researchers in the Department of Biology this fall, continuing his research on spermatagonial stem cells, the stem cell responsible for producing sperm.

By better understanding the cells, he hopes to preserve—and later restore—fertility in prepubertal boys who have undergone toxic medical treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation. His stem cell research will also contribute to treatments for organs damaged by cancer and other diseases.

"UTSA's aspiration to become a Tier One research university cannot be fulfilled unless we continue to attract and retain top researchers to teach our students, prepare them for a global environment and contribute to the overall body of knowledge in health-related disciplines," said George Perry, dean of the UTSA College of Sciences. "But faculty recruitment is an extremely competitive process. We cannot offer that competitive edge without the support of organizations like the Voelcker Fund."

"The Voelcker Fund's support of medical research at UTSA is something that Max and Minnie would have been very proud of if they were alive today," said Smith. "The trustees feel honored to be in a position to help carry out their legacy."

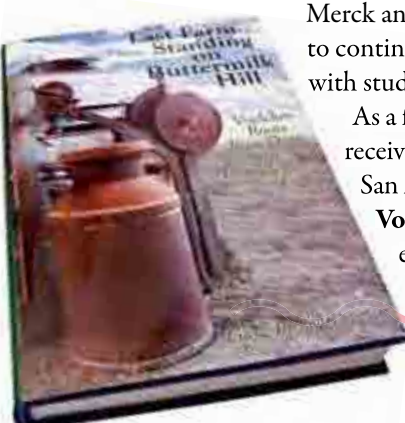
To learn more or to support the sciences at UTSA go to [utsa.edu/cos](http://utsa.edu/cos) or email [kim.fischer@utsa.edu](mailto:kim.fischer@utsa.edu).



Max and Minnie Voelcker.



Author Gayle Brennan Spencer chronicles the life of the Voelckers in her book, "Last Farm Standing on Buttermilk Hill."





# Golfer links success to financial support

By Heather Locke Marlow

Summer Batiste, a junior from Spring, Texas, picked up a golf club for the first time in ninth grade as a way to spend time with her dad and relax during her time off from the other sports she played—basketball, softball, soccer and track.

“My dad plays a lot, so when I was done with my other sports, he and I would go hit some balls at the range,” she said. Those casual encounters with golfing have now evolved into a passion that brought her to UTSA.

When Summer arrived on campus in fall 2007, the UTSA Women’s Golf team was only two years old. “We were a very new program and we didn’t have much help,” Batiste said. “We only had one coach and no home course yet. We often had to compete with members playing at nearby clubs for practice time.”

Today, Batiste is captain of the team, and she gets excited as she talks about the improvements of the last few years.

“Now we have a better facility, better equipment and several coaches,” she said. “The tournaments are better; we are playing ranked teams and doing well. We now have a dedicated course to practice on in Briggs Ranch, one of the top golf courses in America.”

As a result, Batiste has seen her golf game improve dramatically—her scoring average has dropped from 83.25 during her first year to her current average of 74.83, and she has earned multiple top 10 finishes, including second at the Northern Migration Invitational in Arizona last year, beating out many nationally-ranked players from across the country.

Batiste attributes much of the turnaround in the program and in her game to UTSA Women’s Golf coach Carrie Parnaby, as well as support from a special group of donors known as UTSA24, made up of community leaders.

UTSA24 was founded by avid golfers, includ-

ing UTSA alumna Cindy Jorgensen and business leader John Kauth, who also sponsors UTSA’s home tournament in memory of his mother, Maryb, each year.

“If you like UTSA, golf, and San Antonio, you should be involved and supportive. That’s why we started UTSA24,” Kauth said.

The generosity of UTSA24, with support from club owner Gil Hodge, has made it possible for the men’s and women’s teams to secure the Tom Fazio-designed Briggs Ranch Golf Club as their home course.

Because of the group, both programs can also offer more robust scholarships, which is important given that almost year-round competitions make employment impossible. The teams also have new assistant coach, Bill Rogers, winner of the British Open and 1981 PGA Player of the Year, thanks to the generosity of UTSA24.

With this support and the new confidence Batiste has found in her game, she now aspires to a career in golf, possibly making the LPGA Tour, something she was not sure was possible before.

And she has a message for those involved with UTSA24 who have made such enriching experiences available: “Thank you for making my college experience possible. You have made golf so much more exciting and we wouldn’t be able to play at some of the best tournaments if it wasn’t for your support. Thank you for everything!”

For more information or to support UTSA golf, go to [stepuputsa.com](http://stepuputsa.com) or email [sloan.thomas@utsa.edu](mailto:sloan.thomas@utsa.edu)

## BY THE NUMBERS

The University of Texas at San Antonio is one of the fastest growing higher education institutions in Texas and the third largest of nine academic universities and six health institutions in the UT System. As a multicultural institution of access and excellence, UTSA aims to be a national research university providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment. UTSA serves more than 30,000 students in more than 130 degree programs.

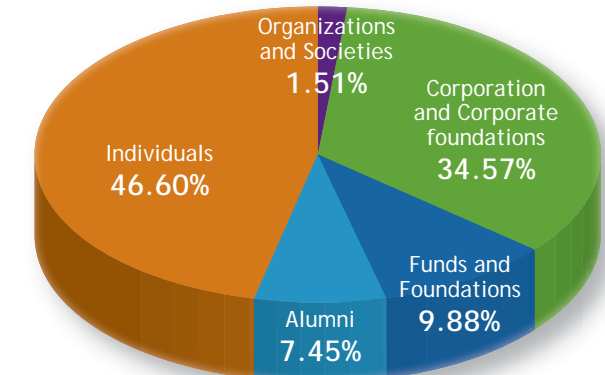


Total Number of Gifts from FY 2010  
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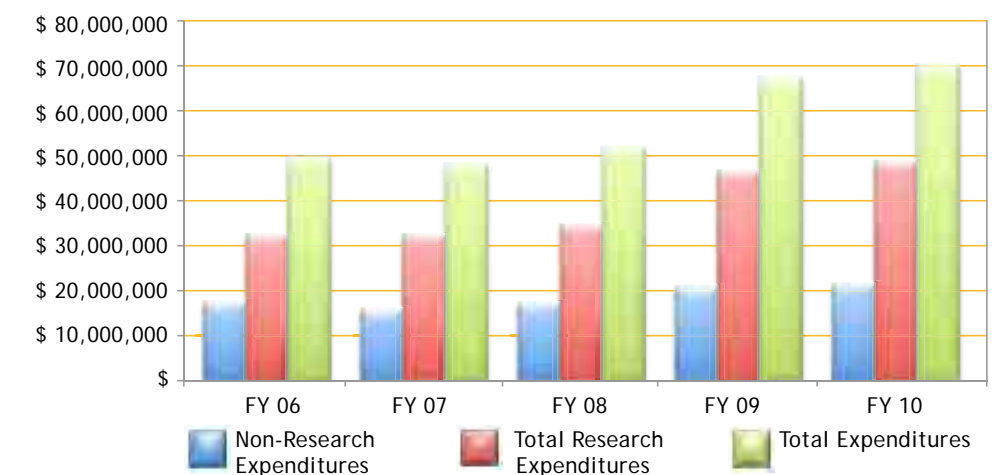
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