

THE COLLEGIAN

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE AND TEXAS SOUTHWEST COLLEGE

Volume 61

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Monday

Issue 15

December 1, 2008

1,100 students to graduate Dec. 20

By **Linnet Cisneros**
Staff Writer

UTB/TSC's 2008 Winter Commencement is scheduled at 9 a.m. Dec. 20 on the Cardenas Hall South Lawn.

A total of 1,181 students are eligible to graduate and 1,317

diplomas are to be awarded, according to Associate Registrar Anabel Salinas.

Of the 1,317 diplomas to be awarded, 390 were earned last summer and 927 were earned in Fall 2008.

The College of Applied Technology and General Studies

is awarding 94 certificates, 33 associate degrees and 77 bachelor's degrees.

The College of Liberal Arts is awarding 239 associate degrees, 192 bachelor's degrees and 52 graduate degrees.

The College of Science, Mathematics and Technology is

awarding 13 associate degrees, 73 bachelor's degrees and 10 graduate degrees.

The School of Education is awarding 11 certificates, 61 associate degrees, 143 bachelor's degrees and 69 graduate degrees.

The School of Health Sciences is awarding 68 certificates, 64

associate degrees, 15 bachelor's degrees and four graduate degrees.

The School of Business is awarding 40 associate degrees, 74 bachelor's degrees and 18

• See 'Grad,' Page 20

ROCKIN' AT THE UNION



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

Joey Lopez, drummer for Tragedy N April, performs during the "Union Fall Fest," held Nov. 19 on the Student Union lawn. The fest also featured volleyball and board games. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and soft drinks were served to more than 500 people. The event was sponsored by the Student Union and the Student Government Association in appreciation of the Campus Police and Physical Plant departments, said Patricia Longoria, Student Union assistant director. The SGA presented Campus Police Chief John Cardoza and Physical Plant Director Abraham Hernandez each with a Hard Hat Award.

Friction arises between SGA officers

By **Leslie Olivares**
Staff Writer

Student Government Association President Jorge Alanis is questioning the senate's methods of handling the issues brought to its attention by concerned students.

"As SGA president and a public servant, I believe it is not only my duty but my responsibility to raise, address and face issues head on that are of interest to the students of this university; however, there are members within my executive board that [do] not [share] the same opinion," Alanis told the senate at its meeting on Nov. 18.

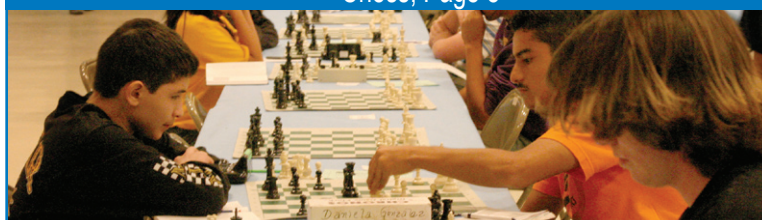
During the association's last executive board meeting,

• See 'SGA,' Page 14

Pastorela, Page 3



Chess, Page 8



Index:

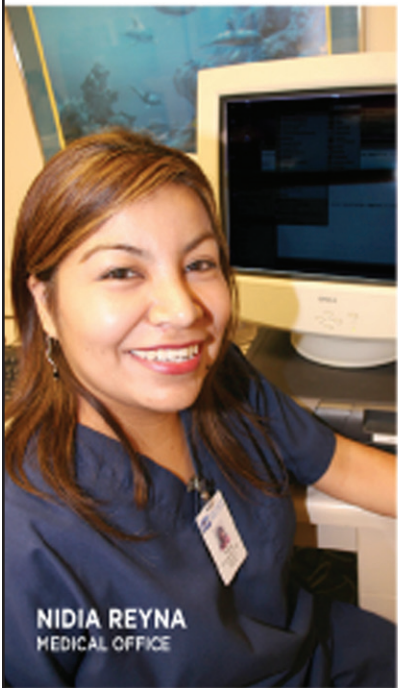
Briefs	Page 7
Viewpoint	Page 4
Politics	Page 5
Police reports	Page 18
Noticias en Español, Página 21	

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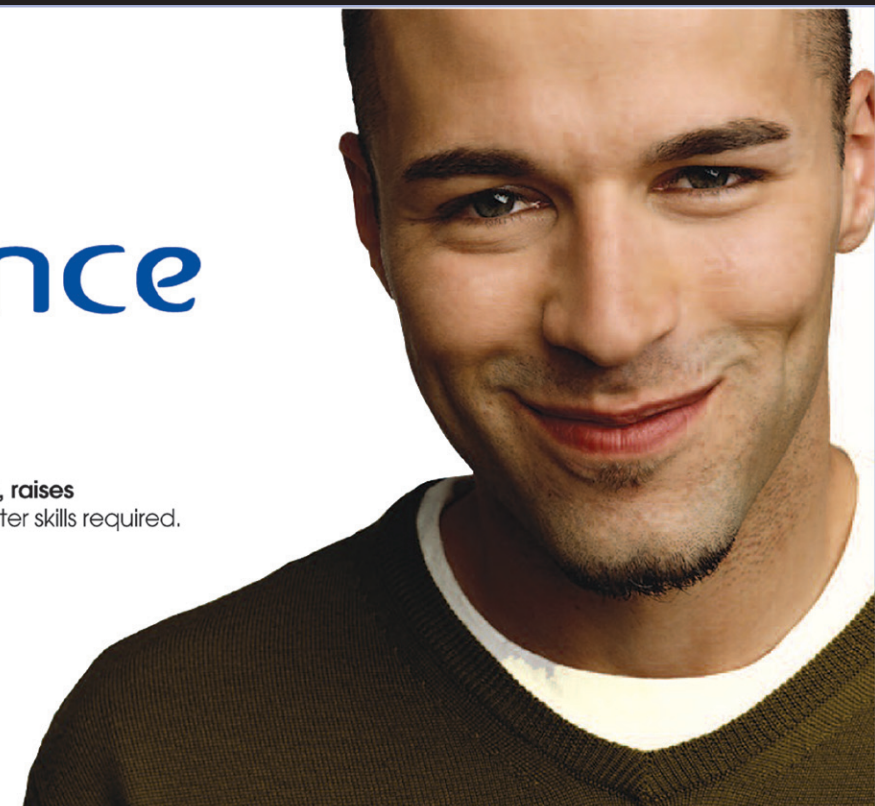
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SAP still has bittersweet results

By Isis Lopez
Collegian Editor

SAP: These three letters have had a bittersweet impact on the university.

More than a year has passed since the Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy was revamped, and so far, millions of dollars and hundreds of students have been lost. Not only is the university hopeful that state money will replenish budgetary losses and that students will return after suspension and eventually meet standards, but it is still figuring out some glitches in the policy.

The university's hopes showed some results this semester, according to Vice President for

Academic Affairs Charles Dameron and Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Linda Fossen, because 180 students returned this fall from suspension.

"So, that's encouraging and so they're getting another chance," Dameron said. "Hopefully, they'll do well enough to at least, you know, if they're still on probation, that's OK because at least they can get back to the 12 hours and on financial aid."

Fossen said the university has been contacting students on suspension through e-mails and letters.

In order to meet SAP, students must have a

THIRD IN A SERIES: THE SAP EFFECT

2.0 grade-point average and complete 70 percent of courses attempted, both cumulatively and per semester.

Dual Enrollment

Last fall, 18 Dual Enrollment students could not register at UTB/TSC because they were placed on suspension. This caused the university to customize the policy for Dual Enrollment students.

The university will not apply SAP

• See 'SAP,' Page 11

Students invited to Christmas Party

By Julianna Sosa
Staff Writer

Students can enjoy free tamales, cakes and cookies in celebration of the approaching holidays and the end of a long semester when Student Life hosts its annual Student Organizations' Christmas Party at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the Student Union lawn.

The event is for all UTB/TSC students.

This year, Student Life has decided to conduct a food drive,



and is asking students to donate a minimum of three canned food items or a \$1 donation.

"This year, given the economic situation, I think food is more appropriate," said David Mariscal, director of Student Life. "The number of food requests [for the food bank] has really gone up."

All proceeds will go to the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank.

Student Organizations will compete for the most donations. First-, second- and third-place winners will receive \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively.

Student Life will screen the movie "College" at the event. With final exams starting on Dec. 8, the Christmas party offers students a chance to relax before hitting the books.

Pastorela to have reality-show theme

By David Boon
Staff Writer

This year, UTB/TSC's Posada/ Pastorela will not only have a border wall theme, but will also use ideas from television's "Big Brother."

"[A *pastorela*] is like a Christmas play, and even though it has religious connotations, we usually do it as a cultural part of our heritage," said Aragelia Salazar-Figueroa, an international student specialist with Multicultural Student Services.

The *pastorela*, or shepherd's play, will be directed by junior music performance major Blanca Olvera, who is also writing it as a three-act play for 11 to 15 parts.

"It's going to be something like ... the reality show 'Big Brother' ... and it's going to be speaking about the [border wall]," Olvera said. "There [are]

What: Peregrinación, Pastorela and Posada
When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: El Paseo (by Rusteberg Hall)
Admission: Free

... *pastores* and they are playing first Big Brother, and then they are going to get out of the house and then they are going to look for *el nacimiento*."

The university's



COURTESY PHOTO

Former students Elsa Castillo (left) and Michael Lopez portray Mary and Joseph in the periginación in 2006.

celebration of the *pastorela* was first sponsored in 1992 by Club Cultural Latinoamericano, which got the idea from Salazar-Figueroa, then the president of the club.

"We [had] decided to do it as part of our club's activities," Salazar-Figueroa said of how the event started. "Back then, the director of student life, he liked the idea. He saw that it was going to stay here every year."

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Student Soapbox

What will you do during the winter break?

"Visit family members, that's pretty much it, and eat."

Mariana Martinez
Sophomore
early childhood
education major



"I'm going out of town to visit family."

Adriana Flores
Freshman
radiologic
technology major

"Pretty much hang out with family and friends and enjoy the weather. Usually, it's cold and nice.

And, work out, do a lot of things that I can't during school because I work, so time is really limited. So now that school is out of the way, I can do more things and that's pretty much it. ... Relax and wait for the next semester."

Ivan Estrada
Freshman education major



"Spend it with my family."
Juan Carlos Perez
Freshman
computer
science
major



--Compiled by Christine Cavazos

--Photos by Matthew Lerma



A goodbye to Thursdays, Post-its, friends

By Isis Lopez
Collegian Editor

I created a countdown of the number of Collegian issues left to publish this semester with Post-it Notes and stuck it to the bulletin board in my cubicle. I am graduating this semester and will no longer be Collegian editor, so I thought the last issue might be something to look forward to.

But, as the weeks passed by and the stack of Post-its got thinner, the idea of leaving The Collegian became harder to bear.

I entered the student newspaper straight out of high school and have worked for the weekly publication for three and a half years. The Collegian is the place where I grew up. I learned to be persistent, patient, understanding, punctual, precise and honest. I learned to never take no for an answer, to be beyond reproach and to stand my ground.

The Collegian is the student voice of the university, and even though we are relatively small compared to other newspapers,

we have dedicated hundreds of hours to creating a reliable source of news for our university community. Many times, information is tough to get, but university administrators should remember this is a public and a learning institution, and students have a right to be informed.

This semester, I have worked alongside a wonderful staff of 20. Week by week, we overcome the pressure of deadlines, interviews, meetings, complaints and, as if work was not enough, homework.

The one person to whom I credit most of what I know is our adviser, Azenett. She is the backbone of The Collegian. Without her, I really don't know what would happen to the newspaper. I remember the first time I showed her one of my articles. It was on Steal-a-Meal, and I wrote a spicy, but not true, lead that read something like "you can smell the food from



Isis Lopez

miles away as the cooks prepare the next Steal-a-Meal." Well, Steal-a-Meal had not even started, so she asked me, "Did you actually smell the food from miles away?" "No," I said. "Then it's a lie, and we don't publish lies," she said. The delete button

went click, click, click. Azenett has inspired me to ask that extra question, to insist a little longer and to be tougher. No adviser is as supportive as she is.

And, what would The Collegian be like without the life of the party, Graciela? Many people do not know what we go through, and having a supportive friend by my side helps a lot. No matter how stressful the day was, we always managed to laugh at the stupidest things. I will never forget our photo shoots, our Spanish Thursdays and all of our lunches together. I know you will take care of the caliber of the newspaper next semester.

Hugo, the comic relief of The Collegian, I don't know how many times you stained your

shirt, lost something, made an improper comment, printed your page a million times, forgot to assign a photo or arrived late, but somehow you always pulled through. Please set an example next semester, and clean your desk!

My organizer and copy editor, Linet: It's sad that we only got to spend one semester working together at The Collegian, but you kept me sane! I know you will try to keep the paper error free.

For the rest of the current and previous staff members: I love you. Future and current members: Please meet your deadlines, listen to your editor and hold every administrator and politician accountable for their responsibilities.

I would also like to thank all of my professors and everybody who contributed to our publication.

With one last Post-it Note left that reads "LAST ISSUE," I take my lamp, my magazine clippings, my memories and my knowledge out in to the real world.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Collegian are those of writers and do not necessarily reflect

the views of The Collegian or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit the letters. Letters for The Collegian can be sent to collegian@utb.edu.

Obama organizers work to keep youth's interest

By Laura Olson
Chicago Tribune

(MCT)

WASHINGTON--Myra King, who coordinated Students for Barack Obama at Loyola University, Chicago, put in long hours registering voters and canvassing neighborhoods as part of a nationwide campaign that targeted younger voters, drew overwhelming support and now offers potential for a new engagement with American youth.

Now it's transition time for a multitude of organizers who descended on college campuses this fall in an effort to convince their peers that elections are hip. As their candidate prepares to take the oath of office, they are attempting to pivot from pushing voters to the polls to pressing for legislation on their issues. Their challenge: keeping the attention of an under-30 crowd of motivated voters into the next semester and beyond.

Obama captured 66 percent of the vote among those under 30, exit polling showed--an overwhelming majority. Only 31 percent voted for Sen. John McCain.



(CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT)

President-elect Barack Obama introduces members of his economic team during a news conference Nov. 24 in Chicago.

The Obama transition team already has moved to capitalize on this enormous youth base: Webcasting the candidate's weekly addresses on YouTube, communicating its transition steps on a post-election Web site, Change.gov, and reaching out by e-mail to many of the campaign's 3 million donors.

The team also has taken advantage of

booming social networking sites, such as Facebook and MySpace, in reaching out to younger voters in their own element.

"I really enjoyed that during the campaign ... there were constant e-mails about what we can do," King, 19, said. "The Internet and Facebook is the way to keep in touch with our generation."

Experts say factors that contributed to increased youth turnout at the polls will be key to continuing this engagement as the election season fades into governance.

"Obama forged a much different relationship with young voters than [Sen. John] Kerry did" in the 2004 campaign, said Scott Keeter, the Pew Research Center's director of survey research. "In terms of a separate force created from the grass-roots, the machinery for that is in place in a way that I don't think we've ever seen before."

In preventing younger voters from drifting away, one challenge for the new administration will be how well it lives up to its promises, Keeter says. Exit polls show that younger voters are eager for change on a variety of fronts that affect their lives--health care, college costs and, like the rest

of the electorate, economic issues.

"We hope the lesson of this election is that when you pay attention to young people, they pay attention to you," said Sujatha Jahagirdar of the New Voters Project.

The transition team also is focused on another track of youth engagement with plans to expand national service opportunities such as AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps.

Younger voters told Harvard University pollsters this fall that they are interested in public service, particularly if they are asked to serve.

The transition's Web site not only provides information about service opportunities, but also asks those interested in participating to submit contact information to the incoming administration.

Volunteer service can translate into involvement in bigger policy issues later on, Jahagirdar says.

"They get exposed to some of the more systemic problems, and very quickly move towards the idea that you need policy change," she said. "They start asking some of the deeper questions."

President's Corner

Fellow students, our semester is at the brink of reaching its conclusion, and with final exams around the corner, you may find yourselves quite busy trying to juggle classes, take-home assignments and work. However, your Student Government Association has worked continuously on addressing as many concerns as you have laid on the table.

This semester has been vibrant with students who have been expressing interest in their SGA. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for giving SGA not only your constructive criticism but also your support. Remember, the SGA is a forum where students may voice their concerns and that every student on campus



is an SGA member ex-officio.

The SGA is more likely to resolve some of the problems facing our student body politic when:

1. You decide to become involved in the political decision-making process.

2. Acknowledge the fact that you are a "student" and belong to a distinct class in society.

3. Remember that your fragile democracy does not end at the voting booth.

Students who are constantly active and educating themselves on the issues are, in essence, refining their civic skills of good citizenship and further improving their university experience.

As your public servant, I've had the honor of meeting with several different student organizations and by acknowledging their autonomy, I have created a working relationship, and most importantly, I have agreed to help them with their endeavors. I continue looking forward to meeting with the rest of the student organizations.

Being a member of SGA means addressing and facing issues that are of interest to the student body politic of this university. After meeting with the administration of the Student Union to discuss students' concerns regarding the television in La Sala, my approach was misunderstood. I was described as being "arrogant and demanding," and this was not the case. To clear up the miscommunication,

I was there on behalf of the students of this institution discussing and addressing their concern. As it states in our SGA oath, I am here "to serve the students of this institution and the students I represent to the best of my ability." I merely was doing what is stated in the oath.

Again, as one of your peers, I look forward to continue serving you and this institution.

On behalf of your SGA, we hope you enjoy your winter break! Remember that SGA is yours and don't be afraid to take ownership of it.

Jorge Alanis
SGA President

Letters to the editor

Politics story 'offending'

I found your article "County expects to set voting record" [news story, Nov. 3] to be very offending. I suggest that you take every word that you type into consideration before you print it.

"He said the only thing that could prevent Obama from becoming president is racism." I voted for [John] McCain. That does not make me a racist. Just because somebody disagrees with [Barack] Obama doesn't make them a racist.

Another thing I would like to point out is that your paper should be less biased. The article praised Obama and criticized McCain the entire time. A good reporter would write an article reflecting both sides

of a story. I felt the entire article was an attack on anyone voting for McCain.

Ms. Lopez, your job as an editor is to *edit* and you did a very poor job of that. Race should have never been mentioned in this article because that is not what people should be voting for.

I would also like to point out that being entertaining is not a qualification for the presidency, so again, Ms. Lopez, you shouldn't have printed Mr. [Alexander] Dawood's statement, "When you watch him, you just get tired of watching him, despite the age factor."

I am very disappointed with The Collegian, and as one of the very few readers, I'm left with a sour taste in my mouth.

Billy Perez

Dual Enrollment

"... slow down, you move too fast, got to make the morning last."

"... wake up and smell the roses, and, coffee, too."

Dual Enrollment at UTB/TSC, and I suspect the idea will soon sweep the nation, is like fast food; it's filling, but at what price?

Late teens get--in some situations--as much as half a university four-year degree at scant cost while still in high school, and can graduate [from the]university by 19 or 20.

Rush, rush! To what? Why?

I can envision pre-kinder and kinder students being moved to mid-elementary, and mid-elementary to junior high, and

junior high to high school in not exactly a science-fiction scenario if this theft of youth's phases continues.

Quite filling, but not a sit-down meal with long conversations and contemplation.

Go ahead, Dual Enrollment students, get that early piece of paper, race into the world of work, debt and consumerism, and then, maybe, you will realize that your fast-food education left you vitamin deficient; but you can always go back for a slow meal.

Eugene "Gene" Novogrodsky
Part-time instructor, English and Language Institute

Ring Ceremony set for Friday

University to honor Lopez, Alanis for leadership

By Elizabeth A. Perez
Staff Writer

About 80 UTB/TSC students will each receive a graduation ring during UTB/TSC's fourth annual Ring Ceremony.

The ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. Friday in the Student Union's Gran Salon. UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia will give the keynote address and present each student with his or her ring.

Two students will receive special recognition at the event.

Isis Lopez, a senior communication major, and Jessica Alanis, a senior psychology major, have each been awarded the Scorpion Leadership Ring.

"Those two girls were selected by a committee of faculty and a couple of staff members who reviewed the application[s] and tried to measure the two best students in our opinions that exemplified leadership, academic achievement, civic involvement and represent the university as role models," said Mari Fuentes-Martin, dean of students and associate vice president of Student Affairs.

Fuentes-Martin said Lopez was selected because it was "a real transformation in what we knew and read about her, from the time she came in as a freshman to the young woman she has become at this point--from a shy



Jessica Alanis

and sheltered young lady to a very confident, outspoken, well-articulated professional. ... She just really blossomed."

Lopez is editor of The Collegian, president of The Collegian Press Club, a Scorpion Ambassador and an orientation leader.

She also has served as a



Isis Lopez

volunteer judge for the Brownsville Independent School District's Brainsville contest.

"Isis ... won [Texas Intercollegiate Press Association] awards and she did those special internships ... and she continues to seek out opportunities where she can improve herself and give back to others," Fuentes-Martin said.

Lopez already has made plans for life after graduation.

"After I graduate, I plan to get some experience in advertising and as soon as I have enough experience, I want to obtain a master's in either advertising or public relations," she said.

Her long-term goal is to have her own business here in the Rio Grande Valley.

"It'll be a multimedia business, where I would include advertising, printing services and public relations services, everything in one little company," Lopez said.

She also has set her sights on publishing a magazine.

"Having my own magazine is something I [have] always wanted to do, and I'm pretty sure I'll accomplish [it]," Lopez said.

Asked how she felt about receiving the Leadership Ring, she replied, "Jessica and I, ... we worked so hard. It's nice that ...

• See 'Ring,' Page 18

Thousands experience early Thanksgiving

By Cynthia Hernandez
Staff Writer

Thousands of people lined up outside Jacob Brown Auditorium on Nov. 19 for an early Thanksgiving meal provided by the H-E-B supermarket chain.

"One of the objectives of the event is to make this a very special day for the people that come," said Eddie J. Garcia, a consultant for the H-E-B Food Bank Program. "They are to be treated with a lot of dignity, and we provide them a real hot meal."

Officials were expecting about 11,000 people to attend but only about 9,500 came, however.

"Today we're experiencing a little bit less than what we expected. I think it has to do with the parking situation," Garcia said, referring to the fewer parking spaces on campus due to construction of the new Arts Center next to the auditorium.

As people waited outside the auditorium, they were treated to hip-hop, Tejano and *huapango* tunes played by a disc jockey. As they ate their meals inside, the entertainment was provided by the Porter and Hanna high school estudiantinas, and the El Jardin Elementary School cheerleaders.

Hundreds of volunteers gathered to contribute to the distribution of the warm meals. Elementary, middle and high



LESLIE OLIVARES/COLLEGIAN

Guests enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal of roast turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce, bread rolls and pumpkin pie.

school students attended as part of many clubs or organizations.

Sixty members of Hanna High School's GEAR-UP program volunteered.

"I think [Feast of Sharing] is great because we have time to bond together, not only us high school students but also with the people we're serving," Hanna sophomore Yareli Iglecias

said.

Other volunteers came from out of state and have been volunteering for several years.

"I've done it for a few years and enjoy coming out and helping," said Christine Looney, a Michigan resident and Winter Texan.

Looney volunteered for six hours that day, along with one of her friends from Michigan, by setting the tables, serving the meals and 8-oz. cans of Coca-Cola.

"We couldn't do it without our volunteers," Garcia said.


It took only eight men to prepare the meal, which consisted of roast turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, mixed vegetables, bread rolls and pumpkin pie.

"Before I retired from H-E-B, I did [the Feast of Sharing] in San Antonio for several years," Rudy Herrera said as he cooked in the kitchen inside an H-E-B trailer. Herrera was a distribution employee in San Antonio for more than 27 years.

These eight men spend 22 days in November and 23 days in December traveling to several cities in Texas to cook the meals.

"Six of the eight men were previously with H-E-B, but

• See 'Thanksgiving,' Page 14



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Briefs

Art exhibit

An exhibit titled “**Senior II Student Exhibition**” opens with a reception at 6:30 tonight in the Rusteberg Art Gallery. The exhibit runs through Saturday. Admission is \$1. For more information, call 882-7097 or send an e-mail to gallery@utb.edu.

Food for fines drive

People with outstanding campus parking tickets can donate non-perishable food in lieu of paying fines at the Campus Police Department in Cavalry Hall from today until Dec. 31. The cost of the food must be equal to the fine to be considered for citations. For more information, call 882-7009 or send an e-mail to police@utb.edu. Suggested items include canned tuna, soups, Vienna sausages, Spam, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, boxed macaroni, packaged dry noodles and other items.

Winter health fair

UTB/TSC’s **Student Health Services** will sponsor a **Winter Health Fair** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Truan Sculpture Garden, located in front of the Barnes & Noble Bookstore. The fair will provide free health and wellness screenings and information on recreation, medical and clinical entities. For more information, call **Cynthia Wittenburg** at 882-8967 or 882-3896.

Feed the Scorpion

The **Accounting Society** and the **Ronald McDonald House** will host **Feed the Scorpion** aluminum recycling project. Participants are asked to bring aluminum cans anytime between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday in the Education and Business Complex parking lot. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House. For more information, contact **Sergio Martinez** at 882-7152.

Jingle Bell Jaunt

Campus Recreation will sponsor the **Jingle Bell Jaunt**, its first annual 5K run/walk, at 8 a.m. Saturday in the Manuel B. Garza Gym. The cost is \$5 for UTB/TSC students and REK Center members, \$8 for all others before the race and \$10 on the day of the race. Awards will be given to the first-, second- and third-place winners. For more information, call Campus Recreation at 882-0172.

‘Messiah’ performance

George Fredrick Handel’s ‘Messiah’ will be performed at 6 p.m. Dec. 14 in the Jacob Brown Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7945.

Toy drive

UTB/TSC’s 17th annual **Toy Drive** will collect toys and distribute them Dec. 17 to children at Reynaldo Garza Elementary School. Toy collection sites have been set up around campus. Donations of cash or checks will be accepted and can be mailed to **Maria Ruth Torres**, Fort Brown Memorial Center, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville, Texas 78520. For toy pickup service, call **Meliza Lopez** at 882-7945.

Winter Commencement

UTB/TSC’s **Winter Commencement** will take place at 9 a.m. Dec. 20 on the Cardenas Hall South Lawn. For more information, call 882-8201.

Going Green

The **Communication Council** is “**Going Green**” by accepting old batteries of any kind: cell phone, alkaline, lithium, etc., between 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Endowment Courtyard and in Cardenas Hall South 237. The batteries will be taken to a battery recycling center. The council also will be selling winding, kinetic and solar watches, with no batteries needed to operate. For more information, send an e-mail to **Omar Perera** at pereraomar@gmail.com.

Symposium

The **Communication Program** will host a symposium sponsored by the **Ford’s Foundation’s Difficult Dialogue Grant**. The event will feature speakers from Mexico and the United States and will take place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the SET-B third-floor conference room. For more information, send an e-mail to **Omar Perera** at pereraomar@gmail.com.

Tamales for sale

The **Buena Vida Compassion Kitchen** is accepting orders through Dec. 22 for tamales made with olive oil for holiday gatherings. Prices range from \$5 to \$6 per dozen. For more information, call **Guadalupe Rosales** at 882-4308.

Platillos for sale

The **Buena Vida Compassion Kitchen** sells *platillos* with *picadillo y verduras*, *guisado de res*, *pollo en achote*, *pollo en mole* or *chile relleno*. Each plate costs \$6 and comes with rice, beans, corn tortillas, jalapeño and a soft drink. Delivery is free for 10 or more plates. For more information, call **Guadalupe Rosales** at 882-4308.

Flu shots

Student Health Services has flu shots available for currently enrolled students. The fee is \$10. To schedule an appointment, call 882-3896, or visit Cortez Hall 237.

Research volunteers needed

The UTB/TSC **Biological Sciences Department** is seeking volunteers to participate in a research study that proposes to investigate genetic factors that are important in maintaining body weight, blood pressure and metabolism, and that will significantly contribute to the advancement of therapies in the area of diabetes and obesity. The study is being conducted by Assistant Professor **Saraswathy Nair**. For more information, call **Gaby Zavala**, **Ixiu Ortiz** or **Karina Sanchez** at 882-5037.

CPA exam review

The **Business Administration Department** will have a CPA Exam Review Course during the spring semester. The cost is \$3,849.30 and includes course materials. Students will receive graduate credit toward their master of business administration. For more information, call **Seth Colwell** at 882-5816 or send him an e-mail at seth.colwell@utb.edu.

SGA meetings

The **Student Government Association** meets at 5 p.m. each Tuesday in the Student Union’s Salon Gardenia. Students may offer suggestions, comments or concerns about UTB/TSC during the “**Let Your Voice Be Heard**” portion of the meeting. For more information, send an e-mail to SGA President **Jorge Alanis** at jorge.alanis10@utb.edu or SGA Vice President of Administration **Joel Alaffa** at joel.alaffa2@utb.edu.

Gorgas Science Society

The **Gorgas Science Society**, the “Club of Science and Adventure,” meets at 1 p.m. each Friday in Life and Health Sciences Building 1.314. New members are always welcome. For more information, send an e-mail to gorgas.sci.soc@gmail.com.

One World meetings

The **One World Club** meets at 2 p.m. each Friday in Cardenas Hall North 222. For more information, call **Mario Garza** at 455-2225.

ACM meetings

The **Association for Computing Machinery** meets from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Rusteberg Hall 111. Students are welcome. For more information, send an e-mail to acm.utb@gmail.com.

C.A.B. meetings

The **Campus Activities Board** welcomes new members to its meetings at 3 p.m. each Tuesday in the Student Union’s Salon Bougainvillea. For more

information, call the **Office of Student Life** at 882-5111.

Toastmasters meeting

The **Toastmasters** meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. every first and third Friday of the month in Education and Business Complex 1.502. For more information, send an e-mail to j.robertsalazar@gmail.com.

Circle K meetings

The **Circle K International** community service organization meets from 6 to 7 p.m. every first and third Thursday of the month in the Education and Business Complex room 2.112. For more information, send an e-mail to organization president **Louis Darte** at louis.darte36@utb.edu or to adviser **Margaret Annen** margaret.annen@utb.edu.

Learning Enrichment services

The **Learning Enrichment Department’s Writing Lab** gives support with writing assignments, research papers, online database research and Blackboard assistance. All services are free for current UTB/TSC students. Operating hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday in Cardenas Hall North 120.

Mass celebration

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will celebrate Mass at 12:20 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union’s Salon Bougainvillea. A luncheon will follow the Mass at 1 p.m.

--Compiled by Paola Ibarra

Corrections

An article in the Nov. 17 issue of The Collegian identified Joe Cantú as a history and psychology major. In fact, Cantú is majoring in history and government.

An article in the Nov. 10 issue of The Collegian identified David Rivera as program coordinator for the Veterans Upward Bound program. In fact, Rivera is the program director.

An article in the Nov. 10 issue of The Collegian identified Juan R. Iglesias as interim chair of the Computer and Information Sciences Department. In fact, Iglesias is the chair of the department.

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NASA or Google?

Student's future in robotics

By Linet Cisneros
Staff Writer

Imagine a robot. Now imagine building that robot from scratch with whatever you can find and no instructions. That is exactly how Herieberto Reynoso built his first robot.

Reynoso, 20 and now a junior computer science major at UTB/TSC, fell in love with creating and building things at age 4 or 5 by playing with LEGOs.

"That was what started to, in a sense, get the creative juices flowing," Reynoso said. "You build something, you destroy it, you build it again, and you make it better. You upgrade and you innovate."

Today, he applies that same theory to building his robots.

"You build your first robot and it's the worst of all, so then you build your second robot and improve upon it," he said. "Now I've built nine robots."

When Reynoso first began to build these robots, he learned everything by trial and error. He took it upon himself to learn all he could from books and experience.

"I broke a lot of parts," Reynoso said. "I fried a lot of circuit boards, and it was because of those experiences that I learned, sort of like Thomas Edison."

When first attending UTB/TSC, he was drawn to both mechanical

• See 'Robotics,' Page 22



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

Students from across the Rio Grande Valley take part in the National Youth Action Tournament Nov. 8 in the Jacob Brown Auditorium.

Hundreds compete in national chess tourney

By Leslie Olivares
Staff Writer

More than 460 chess players participated in the 2008 National Youth Action tournament, held Nov. 8-9 at the Jacob Brown Auditorium.

The competition brought teams from Texas and seven other states, with players ranging from grades pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

"Chess is fun ... it's an interesting thing," said Antonio Galvan, a junior at San Benito High School.

UTB/TSC Chess Program Director Rusty Harwood said UTB/TSC was proud to host the national championship tournament.

"I think it's going great," Harwood said. "Everything seems to be running very smoothly. The kids look like they are having a great time."

Freshman history major Daniel Hung, a student at UTB/TSC's Mathematics and Science Academy, was the only representative of the university in the tournament.

"It's fun and it's a good

learning experience. ... I hope to win all my games," Hung said.

Hudson Elementary first-grader Jorge Treviño was among the contestants.

"I have 2^{1/2} points," the 7-year-old said.

Ted Belanoff, a senior at Woodside High School in Woodside, Calif., won the K-12 division, with 8.5 out of 9 points.

In the K-9 division, seventh-graders Jeffery Hung and Ian Santos of Vela Middle School in Brownsville won with 8.0 points.

The K-6 winner was sixth-grader Michael W. Brown, of Portola Hills Elementary School, Trabuco Canyon, Calif., with 9.0 points.

Second-grader Winston Ching-Tze Zeng, of Turtle Rock Elementary in Irvine, Calif., triumphed with 8.0 points in the K-3 division.

Team Champions were Hanna High School in the K-12 division, Vela Middle School in the K-9 and K-6 divisions, and Americo Paredes Elementary in the K-3 division.



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SAP consequences raise trustee concern

By Julianna Sosa
Staff Writer

It has been a year since the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy was implemented and UTB/TSC administrators are still grappling with academic holes and financial methodologies but say progress has been made.

Provost José Martín briefed Texas Southmost College District board of trustees on the SAP policy in a presentation that raised many questions from the trustees.

"We are going to be ... following the cohorts to see how they are doing, what we have been doing in order to improve student performance and strategies for the future," Martín said during the board's meeting on Nov. 20.

He focused on participation and success, two of the four elements that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board produced in an effort to "close the gaps" of the course completion rate of the university.

One of the initiatives administrators took to inform students of the SAP policy was a communication campaign.

"Just about every student has heard or knew very well what the new standards were," Martín said. "I mean, it was essentially flooded with information in every possible avenue, e-mail communication of every type. The second part is that we beefed up advising, really encouraging all of the students to go to advising and meet with somebody to help decide what the implications of the different choices of courses would be. The third one is that we strengthened our student learning assistance."

The policy requires that students maintain a grade-point average of 2.0 and complete at least 70 percent of their classes per semester and cumulatively. If students do not meet SAP requirements, they are put on probation and only allowed to take 12 hours to maintain financial aid. Once on probation, students are required to sign a mandatory contract for their plan of improvement. If students do not improve their academic standing, they are placed on suspension for one semester.

Trustee Rene Torres asked Charles Dameron, vice president for Academic Affairs, about the mandatory contract that students on probation were required to sign.

"[I] recently read that there were 400 students that didn't sign a contract," Torres said. "My question is, what happened to those students?"

Dameron replied, "If they don't sign the contract during that semester, then they are not allowed to register for classes in the future, until they do establish a contract. They can't register for classes next semester; they must sign the contract."

After Torres asked several questions about the consequences of the 400 students who did not sign a contract, Dameron said,

"Sure, we've identified them and we've continued to communicate with them and tell them by e-mail and by phone to establish a contract and then if they fail to do that, then they are blocked at that point; they can't continue."

Martín presented findings of the total number of credit hours students have completed, credit hours withdrawn, and credit hours failed since SAP's implementation. The findings showed that the number of credit hours increased 3 percent from the Fall of 2006 to 2007. The number of credit hours withdrawn decreased by 5 percent and the number of credit hours failed increased from 11 percent to 12 percent. In Spring 2008, the percentages were about the same, except for the number of credit hours failed, which dropped 1 percent from the previous semester.

Hilda Silva, vice president for Student Affairs, reported to board members that about 400 out of more than 1,800 incoming freshmen were not part of a cohort this year.

"Certainly, our goal was to try to connect every freshman with somebody," Silva said. "So this is a new initiative we tried this semester, but about 1,200 of those 1,800 already belong to an identified cohort."

Trustee Chester Gonzalez asked whether the number of credit hours completed or per capita is used as a source to obtain funding from the Texas Legislature.

"There is a trend to change the funding from attempted hours to completed," said Rosemary Martinez, vice president for Business Affairs. "The formula committees have been working throughout this last year in anticipation of the start of the [legislative] session to do all the calculations based on the completed hours versus attempted."

Martinez added that UTB/TSC's completion rate of upper-level courses and lower-level courses are "pretty good."

"Right now, based on the preliminary estimates, we are in the top 10 of the state," she said. "And that's consistent of where we were last year."

In other business, the board recognized longtime supporters of UTB/TSC, Neal and Lourdes Simmons, for their donation toward the construction of the Arts Center.

"Neal and Lourdes Simmons and their family have been longtime leaders in our community in promoting education, community development, community service and the fine arts," said Ruth Ann Ragland, vice president for Institutional Advancement. "Over the years, they have been enthusiastic and generous supporters of UTB/TSC. ... They have established an endowed scholarship for students."

The Arts Center is under construction behind the Jacob Brown Auditorium and will cost \$25 million. UTB/TSC has set aside \$18 million from the \$68 million bond issue approved by district voters in November 2004 for its construction and is raising \$6.7 million through a capital



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN
Texas Southmost College Trustee René Torres asks administrators questions about Dual Enrollment during the Nov. 20 meeting of the board.

campaign.

"When I was on the board of development, I was always surprised [UTB/TSC President Juliet V. Garcia] always had a new project," Neal Simmons said. "And being in the construction business, I really, to this day, cannot understand how we brought about everything that we have here at the university and it couldn't have been done without her leadership because like I've told her, she does not know 'it cannot be done.' ... So, it was a pleasure working with her and I want to recognize her for the good she's done for this community."

Garcia did not attend the meeting because she was in Washington, D.C.

"We are fortunate that they think highly enough of her as we do to include her in this important transition," Chairman David Oliveira said about Garcia serving on President-elect Barack Obama's transition team. "I know that she has a lot to offer and a lot to tell them about higher education."

Board members passed a resolution naming the Arts Center Teaching Studio C "The Neal & Lourdes Simmons Teaching Studio" and awarded the Simmons a plaque with the sketch of the Arts Center.

Martinez presented Oliveira with a billy club that originally belonged to Oliveira's grandfather Abelardo Oliveira.

"David's grandfather was a police officer and he was a foot patrolman and lived on Adams Street, one block from my husband Gerry's grandfather," she said. "And for whatever reason, Abelardo thought that Gerardo Martinez needed protection, and so he gave him that billy club and it's been in Gerry's family since that happened in the late 1960s."

"So it's been in our family for 40 years and now it belongs in your family, and, hopefully, you'll find a good place for it," Martinez said.

Board members also received Volume 8

in the "Studies of the Rio Grande Valley History," which was published by the Division of External Affairs.

Tony Zavaleta, vice president for External Affairs, presented board members with the book.

"This is the only sustained historical product and project that exists over the course of 20 years," Zavaleta said. "It was begun by our esteemed faculty, of which Rene [Torres] was a member of Pan American University at Brownsville back in the '80s. And Volume 1, I think, was published in '86 and this is Volume 8, and we are going strong."

In other business, the board voted to approve:

--the purchase of furniture through a contract with Workplace Resource for the Classroom and Library building in the amount of \$1,140,069.

--the mural design for the new library that will be displayed on the façade of the main entrance.

Veronica Mendez, assistant vice president for Planning and Construction, presented a status report on the International Technology, Education and Commerce Center renovation and the Recreational, Education and Kinesiology Center construction.

"The ITECC main entrance has been transformed now into the beautiful arched entrance reminiscent of the Gorgas arches on our campus," Mendez said. "So, we've completed the work outside and painted that entry. We are ready to move in in two weeks."

Mendez reported that all installation of windows and doors has been completed for the REK Center. The swimming pool's steelwork and rebar work have been completed. The pool is expected to be finished in mid-January.

Public Info request

During its Oct. 30 meeting, the board voted to approve the purchase of three condominiums in the Fort Brown Villas. The Collegian requested the names of the sellers at that time, but the Office of the Vice President for Partnership Affairs did not release the names until the newspaper submitted a formal request under the Texas Public Information Act. The Collegian submitted the request on Nov. 4, and the university complied on Nov. 14.

The sellers and the properties are as follows:

--Cesar Enterprise Inc. sold Fort Brown Villas Condominium Unit 10F, Type D, Building F, Phase II for \$45,000.

--Elda P. Guerrero and Irma L. Montemayor sold Fort Brown Villas Condominium Unit 1A, Type A, Building A, Phase II for \$45,000.

--Felix Rodriguez and Victoria L. Rodriguez sold Fort Brown Villas Condominium Unit 2003, Type C, Building 2, Phase I for \$36,000.

Students' pioneer research recognized

By Leslie Olivares
Staff Writer

Two students in UTB/TSC's Mathematics and Science Academy are making it easier to gather information on pulsars.

Sophomore computer science majors Louis Dartez and Oscar Garcia are building a natural language interface for the Australia Telescope National Facility that can answer questions users post in English about pulsars, said Rupert Tang, an assistant professor in the Computer and Information Sciences Department.

Pulsars are highly magnetized rotating neutron stars that emit a beam of electromagnetic radiation in the form of radio waves, Tang said.

The students presented their research at the Association for Computer Educators Conference, held Oct. 2-4 in Austin.

"What they do is they have [a] database for pulsars. ... Scientists all over the world can log on to the database and enter

attributes and find out about whatever pulsar they want," Dartez said about the Australia Telescope National Facility. "What we are doing is we are taking a machine-learning approach in creating a more interactive interface for this database."

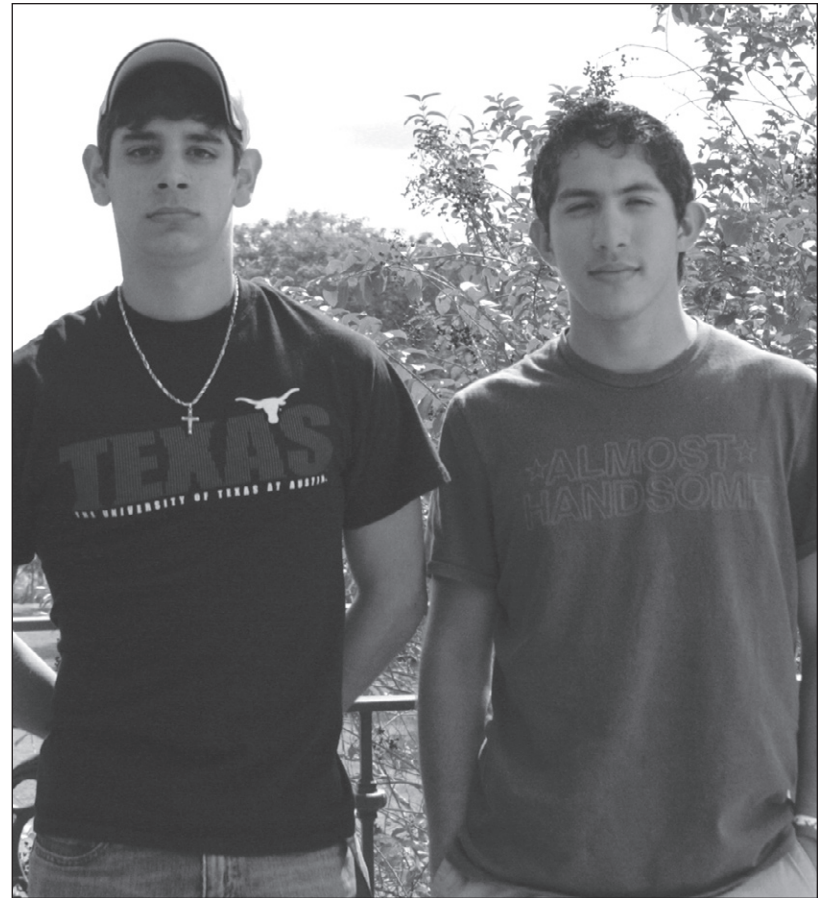
He said the machine-learning approach is a branch of artificial intelligence that changes the software of the query database. Instead of database users manually clicking attributes for pulsars, it simplifies the approach by using "a text box," where users can type in a question and it will generate the answer. For example, if you type in "What is a pulsar with the fastest frequency?" the machine will reply with an answer.

"Until now, no one has been able to post questions to that database to retrieve its vast amount of information in a relatively natural way," Tang said in an e-mail to The Collegian. "Our work is the first of its kind in creating a language understanding system

for an astronomical database about pulsars, which makes UTB/TSC a pioneer in this effort; hence, we named the system ATNF Query to honor the facility in Australia and its team of researchers in pulsars."


The research was funded by a grant from the U.S. Education Department Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE). The three-year grant funds a summer school and weekly research activities over the school year for high school and college students to work on real scientific research, said Betsy Price, faculty associate and head grant writer.

"These outside funds are very important in order to provide students with these rich educational experiences," Price said. "I was the driver to get everyone to the conference. It is very rewarding to be able to participate in these events to watch our students grow and expand their horizons as they experience life as a scientist and set their career goals."



LESLIE OLIVARES/COLLEGIAN

Sophomore computer science majors Oscar Garcia (left) and Louis Dartez are building a natural language interface for the Australia Telescope National Facility that can answer questions posted in English about pulsars.




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Pedagogy & Professional Responsibilities

The **deadline** to register is **Wednesday, December 3rd**. You will need to come by the School of Education to register and pick up your **ticket** prior to the Benchmark Test date. If you need further information, please contact our Field Experiences Office at 882-5720.

In addition, you are required to bring your UTB ID or Texas Driver's License, scantron sheet and a #2 pencil on the day of the Benchmark Test.

The Office of Student Media is accepting applications for volunteer disc jockeys. Applicants must be UTB/TSC students with a grade-point average of 2.2 or higher. For more information and an application, call 882-5143 or visit Student Union 1.28.





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New exercise equipment tested here

By Julianna Sosa
Staff Writer

UTB/TSC is one of three schools nationwide to receive an opportunity to work with state-of-the-art exercise equipment, known as KAATSU.

Takashi Abe, a professor from the University of Tokyo, met with some faculty in the Health and Human Performance Department on Nov. 10 and 11 to present the exercise equipment.

Japanese for “apply pressure,” the KAATSU is a unit that provides a new training technique that restricts blood flow to the working limb muscles by placing specially designed elastic cuffs that can be placed around the thighs and arms.

“Each cuff is equipped with a pneumatic bag along the inner surface and is connected to an electronic air pressure control system

that monitors and maintains consistent restriction pressures set by the investigator,” Murat Karabulut, an assistant professor in the Health and Human Performance Department, explained in an e-mail to The Collegian.

This pressure enables a person to exercise at greatly reduced intensities while achieving the same response similar to high-intensity exercise. Through this technique, one can achieve an increase in muscle size and strength.

“With this one, you can control the pressure and you use very low intensity exercise instead of high-intensity,” Karabulut said. “So, basically, with that low intensity you have that advantage for putting less pressure on the joints.”

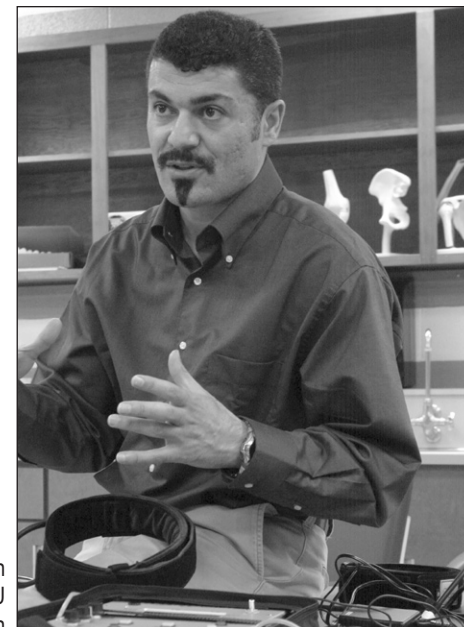
KAATSU was invented about 40 years ago by Yoshiaki Sato, a devoted researcher from Japan. Despite the age of

the KAATSU, Karabulut said its research findings are “fairly new.” Karabulut is collaborating with professors from the University of Oklahoma and the University of Tokyo to conduct further studies on this new technique.

He said this new technique can benefit everyone, including persons in weaker conditions.

“I have finished some research on it but ... the research is moving to the elderly population, or populations with some problems like joint problems, like arthritis, or people who cannot really do high-intensity exercises, like people with multiple sclerosis or some others,” Karabulut said.

Professor Murat Karabulut, of the Health and Human Performance Department, explains how the KAATSU exercise unit works during a demonstration Nov. 10 in Cortez Hall 223.



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

SAP

Continued from Page 3

regulations to Dual students until after their first semester as incoming freshmen.

Dameron and Fossen said high school students sometimes transfer from one high school to another and that might result in dropping, or suspending, Dual Enrollment students.

“We didn’t want to create a situation where a high school graduate wouldn’t have an opportunity to be with us,” Dameron said. “So, we said, ‘The way we can address this is to say that for Dual Enrollment students, they will be held accountable for the work that they do while in high school in their Dual Enrollment classes, but we want to give every high school graduate the opportunity to begin with us.’”

He said that at the end of their first semester at UTB/TSC, the

university would then check their academic status, “and then we’ll make a call at that point.”

“It is one of those things where we’ve had some people on campus—some of the faculty, some folks [say] ... ‘Is that fair? Is that the right thing to do?’ And, it is a little bit complicated because there is a difference,” Dameron said.

Fossen said the university decided that “it really was in the best interest to the students.”

“What happens in high school is that sometimes students will move—they move quite a bit,” she said. “If they move, say from Hanna to Porter, there is no guarantee that they’ll have the availability of Dual classes. ... Many times, in the high school situation when the students drop, it’s not because they just didn’t do the work. There’s a lot of extenuating circumstances, and ... the availability isn’t guaranteed. ... So, they don’t have a way, a mechanism, for taking that class

in that new location. Yet, under old policy, it didn’t matter. They were going to drop and that would strike against them.”

Academic Success contract

Another issue the university is still “discussing” is the consequences students have if they don’t sign the required contract while on probation.

Students who are on academic probation have to visit the Academic Advising Center and sign a personalized Academic Success Plan Contract.

Fossen said that 75 percent of students on probation this semester have completed their contract.

“The other 25 percent are more vulnerable, I think, to continue to be challenged to successfully complete their academic program because they didn’t follow through their side of the contract,” Fossen said. “For those 25 percent, what we’re discussing now is that those students may be blocked from early registration.

That is a serious penalty as we know. If the students do not have an opportunity for advance registration, they typically struggle with getting the classes that they need.”

Asked whether that will happen during the Spring 2009 semester, Fossen responded, “We’re still discussing it, but I think that it’s a strong possibility.”

Budget

Vice President for Business Affairs Rosemary Martinez said in an e-mail interview with The Collegian that it is too early to tell what the financial impact of SAP would be next semester.

“I do not have a number for Spring 2009 at this point,” Martinez said. “It is too early to tell. We will not know until first class day for the spring. Basically, at this point, nothing has changed from the last conversation that we had. The next point of review will be in January of 2009.”

According to a Satisfactory Academic Progress Report for

Fall 2008 provided by Fossen, the university is “expecting that state funding will cover future deficits, assuming no significant changes in state funding methodologies.”

“We have taken the financial hit that we know would come from the expected enrollment decline, and we know that the state is not going to punish us for doing the right thing,” the report further states.

This semester, the university had a budget deficit of \$2.3 million, according to Martinez, because 940 students were on suspension.

The total enrollment for the Fall 2008 semester is 17,189 students: 6,195 are Dual Enrollment students, 10,145 are undergraduate students and 849 are graduate students.

Dameron said students will be informed whether they met SAP this semester at the end of December or at the beginning of January.

The Office of Student Media is accepting applications for the position of cartoonist for the Spring 2009 semester.

Applicants must be UTB/TSC students with a grade-point average of 2.2 or higher. Applicants must also submit three drawing samples. For information and an application, call 882-5143 or visit Student Union 1.28.

Student Media is accepting applications for the position of Collegian Editor for the Spring 2009 semester.

Applicants must be UTB/TSC students, have excellent writing skills and a grade-point average of 2.5 or better. Applicants also must be proficient in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop or QuarkXpress.

Applications are available at the Student Media Office, located in Student Union 1.28. Along with their applications, applicants must submit three writing samples, a résumé and unofficial transcript. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. Dec. 5.



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Student Organizations' Christmas Party

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Choirs, Dancers, Mariachi
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EVENT**

SGA

Continued from Page 1

Alanis said, Vice President of Administration Joel Alaffa informed him of his concern over the negative publicity the association has received over the recent concerns students have had on the SGA constitution.

“Mr. Alaffa believes and blames the constitutional inquiry ... [as] the main reason SGA has received [this] negative publicity,” he said. “This view strikes me as curious because last time I checked, [the] SGA was a forum where students may voice their concerns. And, instead of addressing this concern, some of the members of the senate have spent more time trying to discover the identity of the students who brought their concerns to my attention. Mr. Alaffa’s solution to this problem is to remove my President’s Welcome from any upcoming agenda, which I see as a form of censorship.”

In the last two meetings, students have asked why the director of student activities no longer serves as an adviser to the senate, even though the SGA constitution states that the director is an adviser.

Vince Solis, associate vice president for Student Affairs, has

explained to The Collegian that the director of student activities no longer advises the senate because of organizational changes.

Alaffa informed the senate of what was done regarding the concerns brought forth by student during the association’s meeting on Nov. 11.

“In my opinion ... I agree 100 percent that [the change of titles] needs to be corrected, but we need to follow procedures outlined in our constitution for amendments,” he said. “I can assure our students that [the] SGA is addressing these concerns. Mr. Alanis and I will be working [on] the constitution committee to update and recommend any changes to the constitution; however, this process will take time.”

Alaffa added, “I do agree, we need to revisit the constitution to update it and reflect the recent organizational changes, but I personally think we need our advisers from Student Affairs with the experience and knowledge to help us support our programs and initiatives; however, this does not mean I am against student input or amendments.”

He said the senate met with Solis and SGA adviser Sergio Martinez, and they agreed that if the students

would like advisers from other departments, they welcomed any suggestions.

During the Let Your Voice Be Heard portion of the meeting, graduate student John Frootan and senior government major Elizabeth Garza addressed the senate on the constitution.

“You all here are here as servants to the student body and I would like to think that [this] is your intention for being here,” Frootan said.

Garza thanked the association for answering some of her questions.

“Thank you for answering a lot of the questions that I had this past week,” she said, referring to the issue of SGA advisers. “But, there are still questions that are going to be raised. ... You guys are for the students and if those are the choices that they would like to make, then you all need to help them get there.”

“Whether they’re changes in the constitution, changes in departments ... they are the students. They are paying. Their voices need to be heard.”

In other business, Alaffa announced that Senator Pro Tem Rosalinda Rangel had resigned. The senate then voted to appoint

School of Business Senator Erasmo Castro as the new senator pro tem.

“My grades were suffering,” Rangel told The Collegian in an interview on Nov. 19. “The people in SGA, we have to be an example. ... So, if my grades are suffering, the best thing for me [to do] is step down and take care of my grades if I’m going to graduate next semester.”

Campus Recreation Director Laurie Braden gave a presentation on the Recreation, Education and Kinesiology Center, which is scheduled to open in late February or early March.

“We don’t have an exact day because they can’t tell you an exact [date] for certain reasons like [Hurricane] Dolly and the rain that we had,” Braden said, referring to construction delays.

The senate approved Resolution 8, which encumbers \$750 for the purchase of Chick-Fil-A sandwiches to be sold to raise money for victims of Hurricane Dolly, which struck the Rio Grande Valley on July 23. All proceeds will go to the American Red Cross. The event will take place at 11 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday in the Endowment Courtyard.

Absent from the meeting were Graduate Senator Joe Lee Rubio, Senators at Large Jason Rios and Lucio Torres and Freshman Senators Emmanuel Martinez and Jorge Munoz.

The Student Government Association will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Student Union’s Salon Gardenia.

Thanksgiving

Continued from Page 6

they’re on contract to work with the dinners in November and December,” Garcia said.

The event is open to everyone. For some people, it’s the only Thanksgiving meal they’ll have, but for others it’s an addition to the Thanksgiving holiday celebration.

“I go to my daughter’s house in San Antonio every year for Thanksgiving,” Brownsville resident Irma Macias said in Spanish. “What a magnificent event. They tend to the people beautifully and the food is delicious. We love the event and we give thanks to H-E-B.”

This is the 16th Feast of Sharing held in Brownsville. It began in 1988 in Laredo, expanded to other cities and now is international.

“In Mexico, they go by the name of ‘H-E-B Fiestas Navideñas,’” Garcia said.

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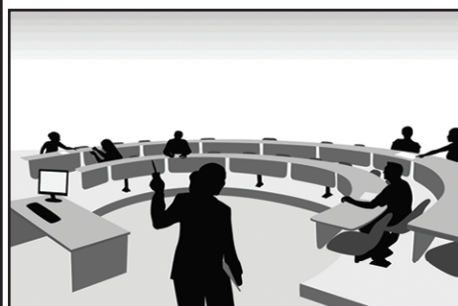
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Men's soccer falls in NAIA opening round

By Hugo E. Rodriguez
Sports Editor

The UTB/TSC Men's Soccer Team was so close, and yet so far, to the second round of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championship Tournament.

The Scorpions faced the University of Mobile Rams in Prichard, Ala., on Nov. 22 and were defeated 3-0 in a tough game.

"It was one of those games where we never really got started," said Head Coach Dan Balaguero. "We did good early in the game and went to the half at 0-0, and then I thought we might be able to stay around, but once they scored, there was just no way back for us."

Forward Fernando Mendoza

agreed.

"The first half was pretty even, we played really well, and we were holding them," he said. "But in the second half, we had a few mistakes, lack of concentration. We were not able to come back into the game, we lost our patience; we didn't play our game."

Defender Dave Purser described the result as disappointing.

"It's a game we should have won," Purser said. "They really were no better than us."

Midfielder James McCarron shared Purser's views.

"I'm disappointed [about] the way it panned out," he said. "We're just disappointed to lose because we could have won that game."

Mendoza added, "I think the score doesn't show what really

happened on the field. It was a pretty even game."

McCarron, Purser and Mendoza are the team's three seniors. The three were freshmen when they reached nationals under Balaguero as members of the Virginia Intermont College soccer team, and repeated the feat in their senior year.

The Scorpions played in Alabama without Brian Hardie, a key player in the defense, who was out for accumulation of yellow cards.

"Obviously, when you're going away from home and you give two goals away for two mistakes, it's going to be hard to come back into the game," Balaguero said. "If we had Brian playing, I think it would have been a different story."

Balaguero, Purser, Mendoza and McCarron recalled their personal highlights of the season.

"I really enjoyed the year, I enjoyed this one much more than the previous one, I think in terms of my whole coaching career, it was the year I enjoyed the most, because we had a bunch of really good guys," Balaguero said. "We had no superstars, just a bunch of hard workers."

Purser said, "I started out slowly, but ... I grew in confidence. And I believe, personally, every game I got better and better. I had a good season, just disappointed that it ended how it did. I'm happy enough with my performance."

McCarron and Mendoza both said that going 20-0 in conference and two conference championships in the two seasons



COURTESY PHOTO

Scorpion forward Fernando Mendoza battles Mobile's David Maddren (4) for a loose ball during the Nov. 22 NAIA Men's Soccer Tournament opening round in Prichard, Ala. The Scorpions were defeated 3-0 by the Rams, who play Nebraska's Dana College today.



COURTESY PHOTO

Scorpion forward Enrique Rivera challenges two University of Mobile players for the ball.

were major highlights.

Balaguero is already planning ahead for next year's season.

"To get stronger and fitter in the offseason," he said. "We do our strength and conditioning program starting in February. And for me, personally, next spring is to recruit, bring in better players, so next year we can go a step further."

The team will also be doing some things for the community.

"We're definitely going to be doing some things, some visits to schools, a couple of coaching clinics, but nothing is set in stone yet."

Purser is confident that the team will return to nationals.

"They should win the conference here every year. They have a good base here to go

further."

McCarron and Mendoza agreed.

"I'm confident that the team's going to make it three years in a row next year. They've got all the ability in the world," McCarron said. "Great coaching staff behind them, there's no reason why they can't do it again next year."

Mendoza added, "We're just three seniors, but [the team has] very good players and new players will come and improve what we have here. I think the team is going to get even better for next season, I really think so."

The University of Mobile advances to the second round of the NAIA national tournament and will face Nebraska's Dana College today.

Volleyball stumbles in conference tourney

By Hugo E. Rodriguez
Sports Editor

There will be no return to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Volleyball Championships for the Scorpions, as they fell 3-0 in the Red River Athletic Conference semifinals against Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

The tournament was held Nov. 14-15 in Austin.

"I think we played up to the best of our ability, I think we had a good tournament despite everything said outside hitter Katie Japp, the team's only senior. "I'm really proud of our team. I think, honestly, everyone went out and played as hard as they could, knowing that each game could be our last game. I don't know if we could

have done anything different."

Japp was unable to play in the tournament due to an injury she received in a collision with a teammate on the first point of the first conference game against Huston-Tillotson University on Oct. 4.

"They were a pretty good team," Head Coach John Barnes said about the Rams. "We had to bring our A-Game all the time against them. We played them hard, but they were just a better team."

Japp and Barnes discussed their most memorable experiences in the season.

"It would have been our first win when we were at St. Thomas," Japp said. "I think each game that we played, it was a learning experience and we all learned something and we got better as each game went on."

Barnes recalled Game 1 on Oct. 11 against eventual conference champion

Wiley College.

"That was kind of the moment where ... this group could do whatever they wanted to do."

He described his first season as head coach as "a learning experience."

Japp remains hopeful about the team's future.

"UTB has always had a strong volleyball program," she said. "I think if there's anything we lack, it would be in the stability in coaching, and then once we get that, we'll definitely see some girl who will stick around for four years. I'd really like to see UTB reach its full potential with the volleyball program."

Barnes outlined his plans for the offseason.

"We were missing a couple of position players this year," he said. "We're going

to be looking to fill those positions. We're going to try to get a little bit more height ... and we're going to work to improve our skill level."

Barnes was also confident about the team's 2009 season.

"I look to be a lot more competitive next year in our conference than we were this year. ... I'm looking for a conference final berth, and, hopefully, a national bid."

At the tournament, setter Chelsea Spadaro was named RRAC setter of the year and along with middle blocker Jacque Touchet, was named to the all conference first team.

Outside hitter Jeanne O'Leary was named to the all conference second team.

Japp and Libero Anayeli Treviño received honorable mention.

Scorpion World series heralds spring success

By **Hugo E. Rodriguez**
Sports Editor

The fall athletics season has ended with the third annual Scorpion World Series and the promise of a bright spring season.

The games pitted the Orange team against the Navy team Nov. 17 to 22 at Scorpion Field.

Head Coach Bryan Aughney saw the event as a good way to build rapport between teammates.

“It’s kind of interesting, I pick team captains, guys who choose teams, and we have a little mock draft out on the baseball field, and I let those team captains manage the game,” Aughney said. “I give them a glimpse of what I go through day to day. It’s a good lesson for our older guys, especially those guys that eventually want to end up in coaching.”

Pitcher Antonio Lerma Jr. described his experience during the series.

“The world series were pretty intense, it was pretty fun, but it was a competition,” he said. “We’ve been playing each other in scrimmages, but I know for the coming season, we’re going to be a solid team.”

Orange won the series 3-2.

In the first game, Orange defeated Navy 6-5. In Game 2, Navy defeated Orange 3-1, and in Game 3, Orange again defeated Navy 6-5.

During Game 4, spectators were treated



MICHAEL PEÑA/COLLEGIAN

Outfielder Victor Venegas hits the ball deep right center during the Scorpion World Series held Nov. 17 to 22. The Orange team won the Scorpion World Series 3-2.

to some of the talent the Scorpions will showcase in Spring 2009.

In the first inning, the Navy pitcher Jesus Mendoza made quick work of the Orange batters, and when the Blue team went to bat, they had an opportunity to score two runs.

The Orange team wasn’t having any of that, and they evened the score with two runs and struck out the Navy team when they were up.

In the next inning, Orange was struck out again, then Navy scored a run on a base hit, bringing up the score 3-2.

In the fourth and fifth innings, the score remained in favor of Navy, but Orange once again came back in force. Scoring two points off a home run, they went up in

the scoreboard 4-3 and struck out Orange when they went up to bat.

In the seventh inning, the Orange team scored again, bringing up the score 5-3.

But Navy wasn’t done yet, and they fought a hard seventh inning, overcoming Orange 6-5 to send the series to five games.

Orange won the fifth game with a 5-1 score, and subsequently won the series.

Coaching for Orange were infielder Scott Price and outfielder Alexis De Jesus.

Coaching for Navy were outfielder Jacob Yousif and infielder Jose Guerra.

“We’ve got a great group of guys, we just got to continue to work hard and get better every day, Aughney said. “I was pretty impressed with our pitching and

throwing strikes. ... There’s always things to work on, we can always get better, and that’s going to be our goal. Getting better every day and every game, and that’s what needs to happen if we’re going to achieve the goals we set out [from] day 1.”

Asked what the goals were, Aughney replied, “The goals that we talked about from Day 1 are winning a conference championship. With that comes a bid to the national tournament. ... Two things come with that: One, we’ve secured ourselves a berth. No. 2, it means we’re playing good baseball. Going to the national tournament, playing good baseball. That’s all we can ask for.”

Aughney and Lerma are excited about the spring season.

“We’ve got some good guys, and we’re really excited, we’ve got a great schedule set up,” he said. I think we have 38 home games. It’d be great to get a bunch of our student body out there to watch, I know we’re going to be fun to watch, we’re going to get dirty, get after the baseball, and, hopefully, put ourselves in a good chance to win a lot of ballgames.” “I’m really excited, I can’t wait,” Lerma said. “Competition out there is going to be tough, and that’s what we want, we want to compete, we want to know where we stand, so I’m excited about it. Hopefully this time we get more people to come out to games and support us.”

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Police Reports

Following are among the incidents reported by Campus Police between Nov. 3 and 8.

At 8:08 a.m. Nov. 3, a faculty member found a calculator in SET-B.

At noon the same day, a Chevrolet Malibu and a Jeep Liberty collided in Lot P.

At 12:50 p.m. the same day, an Aqua Systems employee found a silver key in the parking lot located across the street from SET-B.



At 7:08 p.m. the same day, a student found a set of keys in a women's restroom in SET-B.

At 7:30 p.m. the same day, a student reported that his Ford Probe was burglarized while parked in Lot AB. Stolen from the car were \$128 in cash and a cell phone charger. The vehicle's windows had been left open.

At 9 a.m. Nov. 4, a staff member reported that an electric drill and a 7-inch carbide adjustable dado were missing from the Physical Plant.

At 11:11 a.m. the same day, a Physical Plant employee reported finding a Mexican passport near a gutter on Gorgas Drive.

At 2:10 p.m. the same day, a student reported losing his cell phone in the Amulfo L. Oliveira Memorial Library.

At 3:24 p.m. the same day, an Aztek employee reported that for the last few months, someone has been stealing about 18 rolls of toilet paper per week from the men's restrooms in the Education and Business Complex, Rusteberg Hall and Cardenas Hall North.

At 5:45 p.m. the same day, an individual found a set of keys in SET-B.

At 9 a.m. Nov. 5, a staff member found an Audiovox cell phone in the women's restroom in Tandy Hall.

At noon the same day, a staff member turned in a UTB/TSC Sting Card ID found in SET-B and a Compaq charger found by a student in Rusteberg Hall.

At 12:45 p.m. the same day, a Brownsville Police Department officer found a set of keys at the corner of 18th Street and Ridgely Road.

At 2:19 p.m. the same day, a man found a portable radio belonging to Physical Plant on a vehicle in Lot V.

At 5:50 p.m. the same day, an individual found a USB flash drive in the Education and Business Complex.

At 7:51 p.m. the same day, an individual turned in a red cell phone found near the Biology wing of the Life and Health Sciences Building.

At 10:59 p.m. the same day, a faculty member found a purple purse in Tandy Hall.

At noon Nov. 6, a student found a Texas driver's license and a UTB/TSC Sting Card on the bridge leading to The Village at Fort Brown.

At 11:30 a.m. the same day, a staff member reported losing her university-issued key.

At 12:30 p.m. the same day, a Campus Police officer reported an arguing couple in Tandy Hall. The female student claimed the male student grabbed her from her backpack and kept her from leaving after an argument. The woman said she did not want to press charges.

At 2:20 p.m. the same day, the Brownsville Fire Department responded to reports of a burnt odor coming from the Student Union's La Sala. A fire department official said the sheathing of several pipes from the air-conditioning unit was burnt, causing the odor.

At 12:17 p.m. Nov. 7, a Brownsville Public Utilities Board employee reported that he accidentally struck an unknown vehicle while driving on Ringgold Road. He said the driver of the unknown vehicle decided not to report the incident and left the scene.

At 5:20 p.m. Nov. 8, a student reported that her Honda Civic was damaged while it was parked in Lot A. The damage was estimated at \$1,000.

At 6:01 p.m. the same day, a staff member reported breaking his key while trying to unlock the exterior doors of Rustenberg Hall. He was unable to remove the remaining portion of the key from the door cylinder. A Campus Police officer arrived to remove the key.

--Compiled by Cynthia Hernandez

Club spotlight



PATRICIA LONGORIA/FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Members of The Collegian Press Club include (front row, from left) Julianna Sosa, Roxanna Rosas, Christine Cavazos, Elizabeth A. Perez, Rebekah S. Gomez, Cynthia Hernandez, and club adviser Azenett Cornejo. Middle row: Secretary II Ana Sanchez, Valeria Sosa, club Secretary Paola Ibarra, Leslie Olivares, Michael Peña and David Boon. Back row: Matthew Lerma, Hugo E. Rodriguez, club President Isis Lopez, George Echeverria and David Guerra.

Name: The Collegian Press Club

Purpose: To provide timely news and information to students and employees of the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College through *The Collegian* newspaper, *The Collegian Online* and "The Collegian News" Webcast.

President: Isis Lopez

Secretary: Paola Ibarra

Treasurer: Graciela Salazar

Adviser: Azenett Cornejo

Awards: This year, the Collegian staff won 17 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

Events: Members attend the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention each spring to take part in journalism contests and workshops that range

from news writing and photography to advertising design and television announcing.

Meetings: At 8 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Student Union 1.28.

Requirements: Must be a UTB/TSC student with a GPA of 2.2 or higher.

Dues: \$10 per semester

For more information: call 882-5143 or send an e-mail to collegian@utb.edu.

--Compiled by Paola Ibarra

If you would like your student organization featured in the Club Spotlight, call Collegian reporter Paola Ibarra at 882-5143 or send an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu.

Ring

Continued from Page 6

somebody tells you, "[you] did a good job."

Alanis, who will graduate in Spring 2009, is a Student Development peer mentor and a lead resident adviser for the Student Housing Department.

"Jessica has had probably a larger variety of experiences in her leadership," Fuentes-Martin said. "She's just done a lot of different kinds of activities and has been successful in each of them."

Alanis' community service includes volunteering with Friendship of Women organization, which shelters battered women.

"This past spring, I volunteered with Friendship of Women and plan to go back this upcoming spring," she said.

Alanis plans to either go to graduate school or find a job in social work.

The graduate programs she is considering are UTB/TSC's clinical and counseling program and UT-Austin's or UT-Arlington's social work programs.

"She has found that as she has gone through

different milestones, like picking her major [or] choosing a career, she always looked for the opportunity that will help get her to graduate school, help her become a better counselor, help her become a better listener," Fuentes-Martin said.

"I felt, really, just happy," Alanis said about receiving the Leadership Ring. "Throughout college, I wanted to do something that made a difference to other people, that would be evident, and I think being awarded the Leadership Ring is a good indication."

During the ceremony, students will dip their hand in a custom-made font on a pedestal filled with blue dye. The font and its pedestal were made especially for the ring ceremony by Art Professor Nancy Sclight. The bottom of the bowl has a raised scorpion.

"When the students dip their hand in the bowl to get covered with dye, I tell them to touch the scorpion on the bottom of the bowl," Fuentes-Martin said. "That way, you know they get their hand in there. So, they touch the scorpion and then dry their hand before they get their ring from Dr. Garcia."

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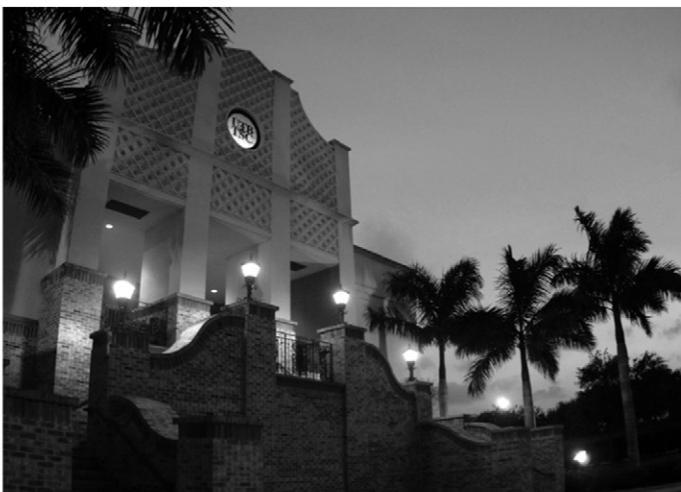
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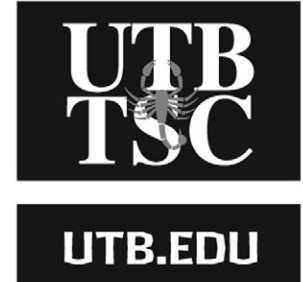
UTB/TSC now offers a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Bilingual Studies. Graduates teach education in colleges and universities and assume leadership positions statewide. For more information, contact Graduate Studies at (956) 882-6552.



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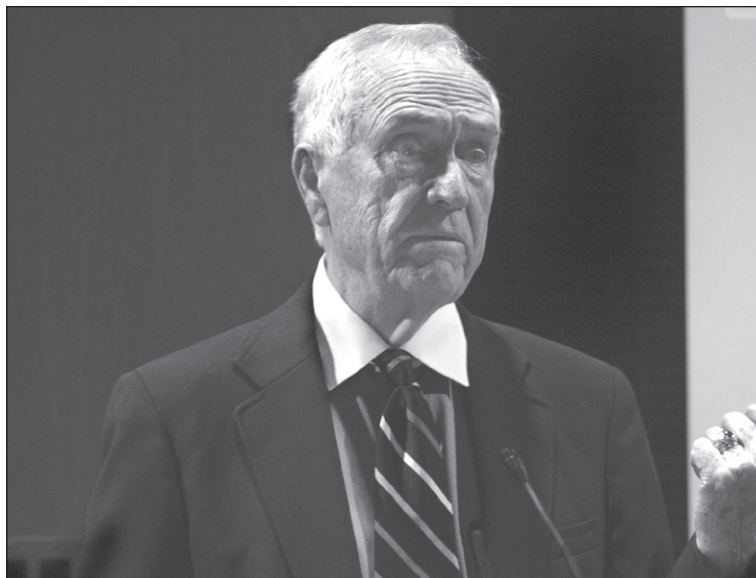
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'Family of readers' inspired Hinojosa-Smith

By **Graciela L. Salazar**
Spanish Editor



ELIZABETH A. PEREZ/COLLEGIAN

Rolando R. Hinojosa-Smith

Chicano writer Rolando R. Hinojosa-Smith was the keynote speaker at the VII Congreso Binacional Letras en el Estuario.

The literary conference was held Nov. 15 in the third floor of SET-B and Nov. 16 in the Instituto Municipal para la Cultura y las Artes in Matamoros.

More than 20 students, professors and others from throughout South Texas and Northern Mexico took part in the literary conference by sharing their poems, essays and short stories.

Among them were Modern Languages Department Professors Lidia Díaz and Juan Antonio González, and Adjunct Instructors Aragelia Salazar-Figueroa and Ramiro Rodríguez.

Hinojosa-Smith is a native of Mercedes and an alumnus of Texas Southmost College.

"Rolando Hinojosa is a novelist, essayist, poet, and the Ellen Clayton Garwood Centennial Professor in Creative Writing in

the English Department at the University of Texas at Austin," Cipriano Cardenas, chair and professor of the Modern Languages Department, said in introducing him.

In an interview with The Collegian before his presentation, Hinojosa-Smith said he decided

to become a writer when he was in high school.

"I come from a family of readers. ... I just thought that everybody read," he said. "I just loved it so much that I said, 'Why don't I do this?' So, the first story I wrote was in Spanish, and I wrote it in a little village called Arteaga,

Coahuila, [Mexico] and it was about the Mexican revolution."

The Chicano author said that reading is a decision youngsters have to make.

"That is a matter of just absolute taste," Hinojosa-Smith said. "There are so many distractions now, not only with television--which everybody blames--you also have the iPod, you have games, you have music, and people just don't make time to read."

When parents ask him how to get their kids to read, he replies with a question.

"Do you ever read? Do the kids ever see you reading? Do you have books at home? Do you have magazines at home? And, do you set the example?" Hinojosa-Smith said. "If the kids see you reading, there must be something in there, so then they'll pick it up. ... If you don't read, then how in the world do you expect them to read?"

Hinojosa-Smith has published more than 20 novels.

"He was born in Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley in 1929, to a

family with strong Mexican and American beliefs," Cárdenas said. "His father fought in the Mexican revolution, while his mother maintained the family north of the border. An avid reader during childhood, Hinojosa was raised speaking Spanish until junior high, where English was the primary spoken language."

On Nov. 15, the conference announced the winners of its third literary contest, in which Díaz won first place for the poem "Olvidos"; Jorge Melgoza del Angel, of Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas, Mexico, won second place for "Poema en tres actos"; and Rossy Evelin Limá, of Alamo, won third place for "Esperando espero".

The conference was hosted by UTB/TSC's Modern Languages Department and Ateneo Literario José Arrese of Matamoros, with sponsorships from Humanities Texas and the university's International/Multicultural Student Services.

Staff writer José Luis Padilla contributed to this report.

Grad

Continued from Page 1

graduate degrees.

Four students will receive doctoral degrees in curriculum and instruction. Paul Doyno, Silvia Leal, Belinda Torres and Brian Warren are a part of the Collaborative University of Houston doctoral program. The program is no longer in existence here at UTB/TSC and offered its last classes in Fall 2005. UTB/TSC now offers its own doctoral program, which began this semester.

Several students are receiving graduate degrees from newly established programs.

Nazul Grimaldo, at age 24, is the first student to be receiving a master of science in interdisciplinary studies with an

emphasis in computer science.

"It's very exciting," Grimaldo said. "I got my bachelor's from this university, in computer science, and when I was about to graduate ... they announced that they were going to have this new program in computer science, so I was really thinking about improving my knowledge. And since I already knew the department, it was very easy to continue."

Grimaldo plans to pursue a doctorate in computer science in San Antonio, and hopes to one day work for Microsoft.

He hopes that the growth in the Computer and Information Sciences Department will encourage more students to continue their studies.

"When [students] see people continuing to study after their bachelor's, they really get influenced by that," Grimaldo said.

Juan Mendoza, Rosalinda Alivares and Cesar Garcia will each receive a master of arts in history, another newly established degree.

"It's definitely an honor being one of the first ones to receive a master's in history," Mendoza said. "As soon as I finished my bachelor's, I really was looking forward to start working on a graduate program. So, it's definitely a privilege and an honor."

Mendoza, 24, is a history teacher at Homer Hanna High School and sees this master's degree as a stepping-stone to, hopefully, working on a doctoral program in history in the future.

"Right now, I'm just trying to advance as an educator," Mendoza said. "Eventually, my ultimate goal would be to pursue a Ph.D. program and become a professor."

Alivares and Garcia could not be reached

for comment as of press time Monday.

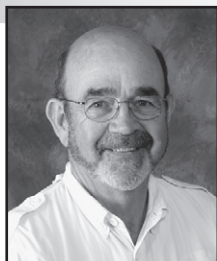
Ruben Gallegos, CEO of International Education Services Inc., will be the ceremony's keynote speaker. Gallegos graduated from Texas Southmost College with an associate's degree in 1957, and is the 2008 UTB/TSC Distinguished Alumnus Award Recipient. He received a bachelor's degree in education from Pan American College, now the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, in 1959. He earned a master's in education in 1962 and a doctorate in curriculum supervision and instruction in 1970 from East Texas State College, now Texas A&M University-Commerce.

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‘Familia de lectores’ inspira a Hinojosa-Smith

Por Graciela L. Salazar
Editora de Español

El escritor chicano Rolando R. Hinojosa-Smith fue el expositor principal en el VII Congreso Binacional Letras en el Estuario.

La conferencia literaria tuvo lugar el 15 de noviembre en el salón de conferencias del tercer piso del edificio SET-B y el 16 de noviembre en el Instituto Municipal para la Cultura y las Artes en Matamoros.

Fueron más de 20 estudiantes, profesores y habitantes del sur de Texas y norte de México quienes participaron en esta conferencia literaria compartiendo sus poemas, ensayos y cuentos.

Entre ellos estuvieron los profesores del Departamento de Lenguas Modernas Lidia Díaz, Juan Antonio González, Aragelia Salazar-Figueroa y Ramiro



Rolando R. Hinojosa-Smith

Rodríguez.

Hinojosa-Smith es nativo de Mercedes y ex-alumno del Texas Southmost College.

“Rolando Hinojosa es un novelista, ensayista, poeta, y *Ellen Clayton Garwood Centennial Professor in Creative Writing* en el Departamento de Inglés de la Universidad de Texas en Austin,” dijo Cipriano Cárdenas, profesor y

jefe del Departamento de Lenguas Modernas, al presentar a Hinojosa-Smith.

En una entrevista con El Collegian, antes de su presentación, Hinojosa-Smith dijo que decidió ser escritor cuando estaba en la preparatoria.

“Vengo de una familia de lectores. ... Pensaba que todos leían”, comentó. “Me gustaba tanto que dije ‘¿Por qué no hago esto?’ Así que la primer historia que escribí fue en español, y la escribí en una pequeña ciudad llamada Arteaga, Coahuila, [México] y era sobre la Revolución Mexicana”.

El autor chicano dijo que la lectura es una decisión que los jóvenes deben tomar.

“Es cuestión de gusto”, aclaró Hinojosa-Smith. “Hay tantas distracciones ahora, no solo la televisión--a quien todo el mundo culpa--también está el iPod, tienes

los juegos, tienes la música, y la gente simplemente no aparta tiempo para leer.”

Cuando los padres de familia le preguntan cómo hacer para que sus hijos lean, él les responde con otra pregunta.

“¿Usted lee? ¿Sus hijos lo han visto leyendo? ¿Tiene libros en su casa? ¿Tiene revistas en casa? Y usted, ¿pone el ejemplo?”, dijo Hinojosa-Smith. “Si usted no lee, entonces como quiere que sus hijos lo hagan”.

Hinojosa-Smith ha publicado más de 20 novelas.

“El nació en el Valle del Sur de Texas en 1929. Su familia es de firmes creencias mexicanas y americanas”, mencionó Cárdenas. “Su padre luchó en la Revolución Mexicana, mientras su madre mantenía a la familia en el norte de la frontera. Un ávido lector durante su niñez, Hinojosa fue

criado hablando español hasta la secundaria, donde el inglés era el idioma principal”.

El 15 de noviembre la conferencia anunció los ganadores del tercer concurso literario, en el cual Díaz ganó el primer lugar con el poema “Olvidos”; Jorge Melgoza del Angel, de Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas, México, ganó el segundo lugar con “Poema en tres actos”; y Rossy Evelin Lima, de Alamo, ganó el tercer lugar con “Esperando, espero”.

La conferencia fue auspiciada por el departamento de Lenguas Modernas de UTB/TSC y el Ateneo Literario José Arrese de Matamoros, con el patrocinio de Humanities Texas y el departamento de Servicios para Estudiantes Internacionales y Multiculturales de la universidad.

El reportero José Luis Padilla contribuyó en este reportaje.

Semana de Educación Internacional



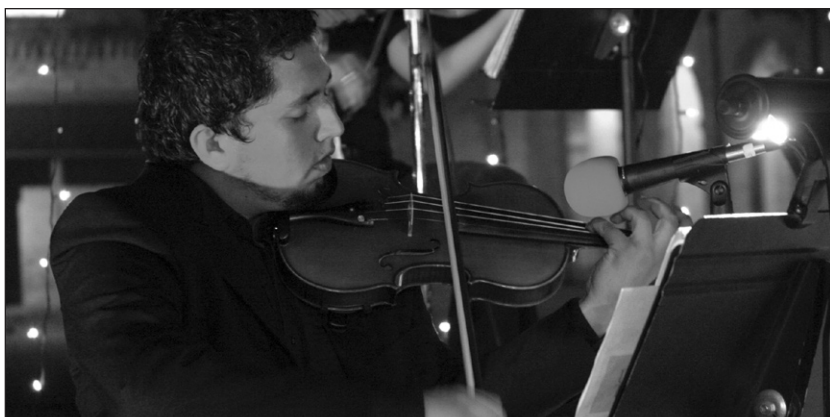
MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

Por lo menos 250 personas asistieron al Festival de Comida Internacional auspiciado por la Organización de Estudiantes Internacionales. El festival tuvo lugar en el Gran Salón del edificio Unión Estudiantil el 21 de noviembre. Con este festival de comida culminó la Semana de Educación Internacional en UTB/TSC.



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

María Olivares, estudiante de enfermería de segundo año, observa los artículos en el festival de mercado “Ten Thousand Villages” el 19 de noviembre en el edificio Mary Rose Cárdenas Sur 117. Los artículos vendidos por la organización sin fines de lucro son producidos por artesanos de todas partes del mundo.



REBEKAH S. GÓMEZ/COLLEGIAN

El violinista del grupo Camerata Concertante Aldo Peraltá interpreta melodías de música clásica el 20 de noviembre como parte de la celebración de la Semana de Educación Internacional.



REBEKAH S. GÓMEZ/COLLEGIAN

De izquierda: Anel Pacheco, estudiante de radiología de último año; Karla Pérez, estudiante de matemáticas de segundo año; y Perla Vásquez, estudiante de primer año, tocan en el grupo musical Estudiantina Azul y Fuego durante la “Callejoneada” el 19 de noviembre. La “Callejoneada” empezó en los quioscos de la universidad (Gazebos) y terminó en el Gran Salón del edificio Unión Estudiantil.

Robotics

Continued from Page 8

engineering and physics but ultimately settled on computer science because it's a combination of all fields, he said.

The field of robotics can be applied to anything and everything, Reynoso said.

"Think about anything and you can apply robotics to it some way or another," he said. "If you get bored of one subject and you jump in to another one, it's still robotics. You learn every little field and you learn how old technology can be combined with new technology."

However, he did have to overcome a few struggles to get where he is today.

"Financially, I did not come from a wealthy family ... so I had to go on my own and look for sponsors, which was one of the hardest parts," Reynoso said. "You go to one competition, you go to two competitions and you win something and now you have something to show for it. You go to these sponsors, and they say, 'You know what, I'm going to throw some money at this kid,' and they did. That's what has gotten me this far ... I would be nowhere without them."

Reynoso has received several scholarships and internship opportunities due to his accomplishments in robotics.

"The beauty about it is ... because I worked so hard, now that I apply to these scholarships and internships, I got them all," he said. "So, now ... I can go here, I can go there, and everything is paid for."

Last summer, Reynoso spent 10 weeks at the University of Southern California, which was a part of Research Experience for Undergraduates under the National Science Foundation. While there, he conducted research on autonomous operation for robots, which simply means using sensors to function on its own.

"That's what I want to go into as a career, sensor-based networking robotics," Reynoso said.

Reynoso recently came back from an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where he was one of 35 scholars chosen out of 600 who applied. He attended informational lectures, met political leaders and even chatted with a few company leaders, including the CEO of Google.

The event, sponsored by the Hispanic College Fund, provided several mentors for each of the scholars.

Reynoso's mentor, Nadia Ramasawmy, a network engineer for Apptis Inc., had nothing but good things to say about him.

"He has one of the advantages of being a team player, and keeps me posted with what he is working on," Ramasawmy said. "He encourages other local students and helps them, since there was no one there to help him. He is, basically, a mentor himself."

Reynoso values and takes hold of any opportunity that comes his way.

He was chosen out of 400 students who applied for the NASA-sponsored Motivating Undergraduate Science and Technology scholarship, also known as



MATTHEW LERMA/COLLEGIAN

Junior computer science major Heriberto Reynoso displays one of the robots he created during a presentation to Gladys Porter High School students on Nov. 6.

NASA MUST. This scholarship offers support to undergraduate students from across the United States in science, technology, engineering and math. The program is funded by the Hispanic College Fund, the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corp. and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers.

Through this scholarship, Reynoso receives \$10,000 for his university tuition and fees and a \$6,000 stipend to attend a 10-week NASA internship at one of the agency's 10 centers.

"I chose the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., which is the unmanned robotics center," Reynoso said.

He attended a conference Nov. 12-16 for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in Phoenix. This conference was organized by the Hispanic College Fund and was funded by NASA. This conference also provides the scholars with firsthand information.

"I'm going to be meeting with NASA engineers and see what they have to say about robotics," he said.

Along with the NASA MUST scholarship, he has also received the Google scholarship, also through the Hispanic College Fund. Reynoso has been awarded \$10,000 for academics and has been invited to a three-day, all-expenses-paid Annual Google Scholar's Retreat at the Google Headquarters in Mountain View, Calif., which he will be attending in March.

This retreat will allow him to attend technical talks and professional development workshops at the Googleplex.

Along with this scholarship, he plans to intern at Google in summer 2010.

His future plans in robotics are to begin the concept phase of building Robot No. 10.

"All I've been building is robots for certain tasks but never for the community, something that could say, 'Wow, now that's a robot that's going to help someone,'" Reynoso said.

Each of his nine robots

has its own unique abilities and accomplishments.

Robot No. 2, which he calls "Dragger," took two weeks to construct and was a successful competitor, winning the Texas State Technology State Association competition in Waco. Robot No. 6, "SuckAmps," literally sucks in amperage because of its 7.2v 27-turn, high-torque motor and won second place at the National Robotics Event in 2006. Robot No. 8, one of his most recent and intricate robots, is called the "Hexapod." This particular robot has six legs and can walk autonomously in any direction or be controlled through a radio. It is used to simulate the movement of an insect.

Reynoso plans to make Robot No. 10, which does not have a name yet, based on ideas and concepts from the Rio Grande Valley.

So far, the ideas for Robot No. 10 are that it will have its own GPS and WiFi capability, its own optic; it's going to be amphibious, being able to go over obstacles, and its own rechargeable station.

"Through GPS ... it's going to ... know where it's at in relation to the world," Reynoso said. "So if you are in a setting like UTB ... and ... you have WiFi capability all over the university, you can transmit all this data through WiFi and I can be across the world viewing where the robot is."

He plans for this robot to be able to carry out many tasks and serve several different purposes.

"It shows a lot of applications, and that's why I want to get everyone's input. I can build it, but the idea itself is huge,"

Reynoso said.

He has set up a Web site, <http://ValleyBots.com>, where students, staff, faculty and anyone with an interest in robotics can post their ideas about what Reynoso should take into consideration when building his next robot. The Web site allows you to view Reynoso's previous robots and hold forums with others who share an interest in robotics.

As much success as he has achieved in robotics, Reynoso credits becoming a computer tutor for ASPIRE (A Support Program In Reaching Excellence) for keeping him humble.

"Through ASPIRE, it helped me visualize ... that there is a bigger aspect, not just you, you, you," Reynoso said. "It changed the way I thought. ASPIRE helped me realize that and kept me humble."

He looks forward to a future in robotics with hopes of working for NASA or Google.

"I would love to work at [the Jet Propulsion Laboratory] because they have amazing research going on and, plus, you're right next to Los Angeles, so it's the best of both worlds," Reynoso said.

He encourages others students to come together and get involved.

"I would like for other UTB students to get on the ball and start doing something," Reynoso said. "There are so many students working on their own fields that could be used for something greater. ... If we could all join [together] and do one huge project—that would be awesome."

CLASS MEETING TIMES AND FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE FALL 2008		EXAM DATES	EXAM TIMES
CLASS MEETING TIMES		Wed. Dec. 10, 2008	8-10:30 a.m.
MWF CLASSES:		Fri. Dec. 12, 2008	8-10:30 a.m.
7-7:50 a.m.		Mon. Dec. 15, 2008	8-10:30 a.m.
8-8:50 a.m.		Wed. Dec. 10, 2008	11-1:30 p.m.
9-9:50 a.m.		Fri. Dec. 12, 2008	11-1:30 p.m.
10-10:50 a.m.		Mon. Dec. 15, 2008	11-1:30 p.m.
11-11:50 a.m.		Wed. Dec. 10, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
12-12:50 p.m.		Fri. Dec. 12, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
1-1:50 p.m.		Mon. Dec. 15, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
2-2:50 p.m.			
3-3:50 p.m.		Mon. Dec. 08, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
MW CLASSES:		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	8-10:30 a.m.
5:45- 7 p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	8-10:30 a.m.
T TH CLASSES:		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	11-1:30 p.m.
8- 9:15 a.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	11-1:30 p.m.
9:25- 10:40 a.m.		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
10:50- 12:05 p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
12:15- 1:30 p.m.		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
1:40- 2:55 p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
3:05- 4:20 p.m.		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
5:45- 7 p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
EVENING/NIGHT/FRIDAY/SATURDAY CLASSES:		Mon. Dec. 08, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
Mon. 4:25-7:05 p.m.		Mon. Dec. 08, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
Mon. 7:15-10 p.m.		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
Tues. 4:25- 7:05 p.m.		Tues. Dec. 09, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
Tues. 7:15-10 p.m.		Wed. Dec. 10, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
Wed. 4:25-7:05 p.m.		Wed. Dec. 10, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
Wed. 7:15-10p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	5-7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 4:25- 7:05 p.m.		Thur. Dec. 11, 2008	8-10:30 p.m.
Thurs. 7:15- 10p.m.		Fri. Dec. 12, 2008	2-4:30 p.m.
Fri. 1-4 p.m.		Sat. Dec. 13, 2008	8:30-11 a.m.
Sat. 8:30- 11:30 a.m.			



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Dec. 19	6:30 am - 6 pm	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!		Jan. 5-9	6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Dec. 20	Closed	Dec. 27-28	1 pm - 5 pm	Jan. 10	Return to Regular Hours
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!		Dec. 29-30	8 am - 5 pm		
Dec. 21	1 pm - 5 pm	Dec. 31	11 am - 4 pm		
Dec. 22	8 am - 5 pm	Jan. 1	Closed		
Dec. 23	11 am - 4 pm	HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR!			
		Jan. 2	11 am - 4 pm		

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Participant's Signature

Parent's Signature if Under 18 yrs of age

