

University to offer long-awaited engineering degree

A re-structured bachelor's degree in engineering physics will be offered by UTB/TSC next fall semester, and five graduate programs are in the works, university officials say.

Ragland, Martín focus on opening educational 'pathways' for students

Ruth Ann Ragland, the recently appointed UTB/TSC vice president for Academic Affairs, and José Martín, provost, have different responsibilities but they share a common goal: to open new opportunities for students.

City candidates touch on youth, voting issues

Brownsville City Commissioner at Large B Joseph A. Zavaletta and Ernie Hernandez faced off against each other at a debate Wednesday.

Possible schedule changes announced at SGA meeting

Chess team sweeps tournament, earns first place in state

By José Borjón
Collegian Editor

Six UTB/TSC Chess team members competed at the Southwestern Collegiate Chess Championship, returning home with a first-place trophy.

The Southwestern Collegiate Chess Championship was held in Dallas Feb. 25-27. A total of 1,642 players competed from elementary to college level, said Vince Solis, assistant vice president for Student Development.

The chess team members who participated in the tournament were Erick Vallarino, Luis Gomez, Ricardo Acevedo, Victor Flores, Vicente Flores and Antonio "Tony" Espino.

Vallarino and Victor Flores tied for first place and Espino played to a draw against the University of Texas at Dallas grand master, which played a huge factor in determining the team's championship. Acevedo won first place in the under 1600 category and Vince Flores beat a top player from Texas A&M University College Station.

A reception was held at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Student Union Veranda to welcome back the members, where UTB/TSC President Juliet V. García was present as well as other university administrators to congratulate the team.



DANIEL VALDEZ/COLLEGIAN

Members of the chess team are (first row, from left) Rick Acevedo, Victor Flores, Tony Espino and Erick Vallarino. Second row: Roman Dzindzichashvili, coach; Vicente Flores, Luis Roy Gomez and Vince Solis, assistant vice president for Student Development.

Espino, a freshman business major, said he has been playing chess since he was in fourth grade at Gonzalez Elementary School. He then went to Oliveira Middle School and Hanna High School, where he also participated in the chess programs.

To Espino, some of the key factors that played a role in capturing the first-place trophy were ambition and dedication to the program.

"Erick and Vince were dedicated to winning the chess tournament," he said.

Espino noted that he had a couple of fallbacks but was able to draw two boards away from UT-Dallas.

Victor Flores, a sophomore business major, said that Coach Roman Dzindzichashvili helped them a lot with their game techniques.

"With his help alone, our games have all elevated and we can compete with people who are at a higher level than us. ... Bottom line, our coach Roman has really done wonders with the team," Victor Flores said. "We have one of the best coaches in the nation."

The chess team practices daily and members are assigned homework by Dzindzichashvili.

Dzindzichashvili emphasizes that it is one thing playing and another practicing and that the members play online with other chess players around the world.

"They meet regularly with the coach. They meet two or three times a week with him individually, but they also have to do a set amount of homework that they are assigned with each lesson," Solis said.

Espino said, "Roman gives us killer openings, and that's what you need to do in chess, you win in the opening, you win the whole game. ... That's what we're basically doing right now, studying the openings."

Solis explained how each member's practice hours vary and how some practice more than others.

"A lot depends on the student, Erick Vallarino, for example, will play at least two to two and half hours a day," he said.

This is Vallarino's and Gomez's last year with the chess program as they will be graduating.

"We've offered the better player from Hanna High School [Arturo Gracia a scholarship]. He won the Region VII championships," Solis said.

Gracia has a full scholarship to

Please see 'Chess,' Page 12

Campus helping tsunami victim

By Priscilla Garcia
Staff Writer

Prabath Peiris, a UTB/TSC student from Sri Lanka, went home in December to renew his visa and visit his family.

On Dec. 25, Peiris, a senior physics major and part-time worker at the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, went to the beach with his friends. They sang, played the guitar and hung out past midnight.

Late the following morning, Peiris said his mother woke him and turned on the TV, where they heard the news about the tsunami that had struck Sri Lanka and other countries just hours before.

"My parents argued, not wanting me to go [volunteer], because we

didn't know if another tsunami would come," Peiris said. "They didn't say 'don't go,' but they were scared. But, I had to go."

The Sri Lanka military asked for volunteers, so Peiris rode on a military truck to the beach, where he and thousands of volunteers came face to face with the tragedy. They cried after seeing the bodies of the victims and the destruction. They helped evacuate the survivors.

He volunteered for five days until he got sick. He said he couldn't stand the smell of death.

By that time, U.S. soldiers arrived and evacuated volunteers from the damaged beach.

"Most of my friends got sick in three to four days," Peiris said. "They couldn't handle it. I couldn't

handle the smell or seeing the dead people."

Between 30,000 and 38,000 Sri Lankans died in the disaster, according to CBSNews.com.

Peiris said the tsunami is the most tragic experience he has ever faced. He lost close friends and said he couldn't sleep for two weeks remembering the destruction on the beach.

"We had to clean a lot of things, like a lot of homes; a lot of things were destroyed," Peiris said.

He said he not only cleaned the beach but also comforted the survivors and helped managed a food and clothing drive.

He said survivors were sheltered at Buddhist temples and schools, but mainly at friends' or relatives'

homes.

Peiris said he had about 10 people at his house.

He received vaccinations and medicine and wasn't allowed to travel back to the United States until he was completely well, which was two weeks after the spring semester began.

Once he returned, Provost Jose Martín asked him if there was someone the university could help. Peiris said he immediately thought of Javasinha, who works for his family and lost his grandparents and home in the natural disaster.

Javasinha runs errands for Peiris' father, a civil engineer for a Chinese firm, and serves as Peiris' chauffeur.

Please see 'Tsunami,' Page 2



The Collegian is the student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. The newspaper is widely distributed on campus and is a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association.

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All letters must be typed, saved on disk and no longer than 250 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter writer or the letter cannot be published. Opinions expressed in The Collegian are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Collegian or UTB/TSC administrators. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Collegian can be sent to:

The Collegian

Student Union Room 1.28

80 Fort Brown Brownsville, TX 78520
phone: (956) 554-5143 fax: (956) 554-5176
e-mail: collegian@utb.edu

Tsunami

Continued from page 1

firm, and serves as Peiris' chauffeur.

"He's a very poor guy," Peiris said. "He lost everything--his small home was flushed out," Peiris said.

His home was in Gall, south of the capital, Colombo.

Martín set up an account at the Business Office to collect funds to help build



Prabath Peiris

Javasinha a new home.

Pilar Saldivar, executive assistant to Martín, said the account already has \$600 and contributions are still being accepted. Checks should be made out to

"UTB/TSC Javasinha

Tsunami Relief," account number 51-0-0-000000-2203, and sent to the Business

Office in Tandy Hall 109 or to the Provost's Office in Gorgas Hall.

Peiris said he sees things differently now.

"One of my friends told me she had a very big dream to build a big house, to get a big job, be rich and all that, but the most poor people and the most rich people of the country ...lost everything in a minute. They had everything and they lost it," Peiris said. "I feel like it's not worth it anymore."

Briefs

The Catholic Campus Ministry offers **\$1 breakfast tacos** from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Monday through Thursday and **Steal-A-Meal** for \$1 a plate from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday. The ministry also celebrates **Mass** at 12:20 p.m. Tuesday and conducts a **"Bring Your Own Bible"** discussion at noon Thursday at the Newman Center. For more information, contact the **ministry office** at 541-9697.

Leadership and Mentorship Program mentors Sandra Meza, Salatiel Cano, Josefina Torres and Esmeralda Orozco will present a lecture titled **"The 8th Habit: From Effectiveness to Greatness"** at noon today in the SET-B third floor conference room. Another lecture titled **"How Full Is Your Bucket? Positive Strategies for Work and Life"** will be presented by Nancy Robledo, Ana Trejo and Nora Perales and is scheduled for noon Thursday in the same room. For more information, call the **LAMP office** at 554-5030.

Club Cultural Latinoamericano sells **tostaditas** and **soft drinks** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the Endowment Courtyard. The club also meets at noon Fridays in the Student Union's Salon Gardenia. For more information, call club sponsor **Aragelia Salazar-Figueroa** at 554-5113.

A presentation titled **"Stress and Time Management: What's Going on in My Life?"** will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday in Cortez Conference Room 204. The lecture is part of the **"Food for the Soul, Food for the Body"** Personal Enrichment Series. For more information, call **Ricardo Ayala III** at 544-8292 or visit the **Counseling Center** in Tandy Hall 205.

Comedy act **"Team Rootberry"** will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is free. For more information, call the **Office of Student Activities** at 554-5138.

The **Communication Council** will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union's Salon Jacaranda. For more information, call 459-5675.

Janet Xu, an 18-year-old Yale University freshman who **scored a perfect 1600 on her SATs**, will talk about her contributions to **"Up Your Score: The Underground Guide to the SAT, Revised**

for 2005-2006" (Workman Publishing, 2005), on **"Society Under Fire,"** which airs at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday on KMBH 88.3 FM. The book discusses the recent changes in the test. **David Pearson**, professor of sociology in the Behavioral Sciences Department, hosts the program.

The **Gorgas Science Society** meets at 1 p.m. Friday in Life and Health Sciences 2.806. All interested students are encouraged to attend. For more information, call **Joe Lee Rubio**, organization president, at 346-9177, call **Crystal Olivo** at 266-5310 or e-mail joeleerubio@hotmail.com.

The **South Texas Pre-Law Society** meets at 1 p.m. Friday in North Hall 233. Students interested in the pre-law program or participating in mock trials are welcomed. For more information, e-mail **Ana Trejo** at awyx7@yahoo.com.

Students can voice their opinions and ideas during the **"Let Your Voice Be Heard!"** segment of the **Student Government Association's** meetings, which are held at 1:30 p.m. Fridays in the Student Union's Salon Gardenia. For more information, visit the SGA office in Student Union 2.16 B or e-mail **SGA President Michael C. Camarillo** at michael.camarillo1@utb.edu.

INTENSITY, a **hip-hop dance club**, meets at 2 p.m. every Friday in the Manuel B. Garza Gym Annex. For more information, e-mail **Allison Chavez** at acchvz@aol.com. All are welcome to attend.

Fine Arts faculty members **George Lorio**, **Noe Palmenez** and **Nancy Sclight** will display their art during the **Studio Faculty Art Exhibition** which opens at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the **Richardson Art Gallery**. The exhibition runs through April 1. Admission is \$3. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 7p.m. Thursday. For more information, e-mail gallery@utb.edu.

Mariachi Escorpión will perform during **"Fiesta de Mariachi,"** a fund-raiser set for 7 p.m. Friday in El Gran Salon. Admission is \$5 and will pay for the organization's trip to the **International Mariachi Conference**. For more information, call the **Office of Fine Arts** at 544-

8247 or call 544-8943.

The **Sigma Psi Delta** sorority is accepting nominations of outstanding women on campus for the **Women's History Month Photo Gallery** to be displayed in the Student Union's La Sala March 21-25. The **deadline** to submit nominations is **March 14**. Applications can be turned in to Student Union 1.20. For more information, e-mail sorority president **Debbie Perez** at debbieann98@yahoo.com or sorority historian **Erika Trevino** at nikibeek3@yahoo.com.

Carmen Tafolla, an internationally acclaimed writer and educational consultant, will be the keynote speaker at the **Professional Women Speak** seminar scheduled at 11 a.m. March 22 in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Admission is free. A book signing and reception will follow in the lecture hall's lobby. For more information, call PWS chair **Norma Vera** at 574-6701.

The **Nutrition Research Laboratory** is seeking participants for its research on the correlation between specific **blood proteins** and **obesity in Mexican-Americans**. For more information, call Biological Sciences Associate Professor **Gerson Peltz** at 554-5066 or send him an e-mail at nutritionlab@utb.edu.

The **Office of Student Activities** will sponsor a fine arts festival that will be directed by the **Film Production Club**. The event is scheduled for **April 30** in the SET-B Lecture Hall. Participants are asked to register for the festival, which will include dancing, live theater, independent films, poetry and other events. For more information, call **Sarah Kruger** at 371-1851 or e-mail her at YK65@aol.com.

Students can **spend the summer in China** during a five- to eight-week program to teach English to Chinese students. The cost is **\$690**; round-trip tickets, room, board, travel and **sightseeing are included**. Applicants must be native English speakers. For more information, visit www.uschinaedu.org, call (203) 576-6709 or e-mail uschinaedu@hotmail.com.

If you would like your club, organization or department news published in the briefs section, call Briefs reporter **Adrian Peña** at 554-5143 or e-mail him at collegian@utb.edu. The deadline for the March 21 issue is 5 p.m. today.

Watch The Collegian News online
at www.sa.utb.edu/collegian/

Correction

The Estudiante de Hoy feature published in the Feb. 28 issue identified the

student as Gabriela Ramos. In fact, her name is Gabriela Rangel.

University to offer long-awaited engineering degree

By Andrea Figueroa
Tiempo Nuevo Editor

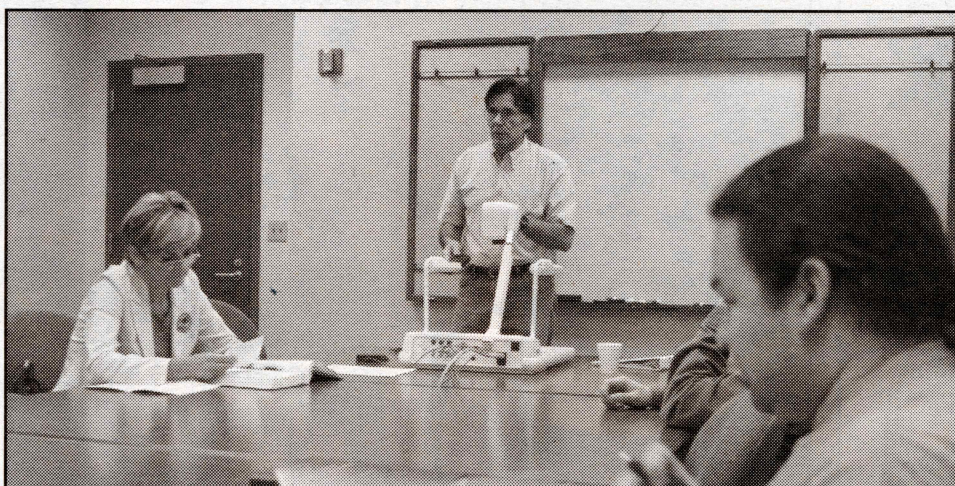
A re-structured bachelor's degree in engineering physics will be offered by UTB/TSC next fall semester, and five graduate programs are in the works, university officials say.

The university has an engineering technology program, but seven months ago the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology started proposing and planning new degree plans--master's and doctorates--and adding improvements to existing ones.

"When I first came here to UTB seven months ago, we had one program called Engineering Technology and they told me that there was no hope that we were ever going to get an engineering program here, because, politically, it was difficult to justify that [the University of Texas-] Pan Am had an engineering program and that UTB would also have one," said Emir José Macari, dean of the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology.

Macari said he did not like that statement, considering that students had been receiving engineering technology degrees while having taken classes at a higher level.

"We had been hiring professors that were engineering professors, and they were teaching the engineering technology classes at a higher level, yet giving our students



MARIA DURON/COLLEGIAN

Physics and Astronomy Professor Richard Price lectures during his graduate electrodynamics class Thursday. Listening are Danka Moglska (left) and Charlie Torres.

an engineering technology degree," he said.

Macari said that for the last seven months, there have been meetings with professors and students to discuss the changes. Many of them wanted to know when an engineering program would be offered at the university.

He said both the engineering technology and the engineering bachelor's degrees are good but serve a different purpose career-wise.

"There's nothing wrong with an engineering technology degree. It's a good thing

but it's a hands-on ... it's more applied, while the engineering degree, you go on to graduate school, you can go for [a] master's and a Ph.D.," he said.

Macari looked at the possibilities, including the engineering physics program, which was approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2001.

"It was administered and operated by the Physics Department, yet there was not too much engineering in there. It looked like it was a lot of physics and very little engineering," he said.

The engineering technology program and the physics program were fused into a complete engineering program, Macari said.

"I tried to get the engineering technology program and the physics program together and working together to see how we could come up with a full-fledged valid engineering program, and that's what has resulted out of this," he said.

Macari said the engineering physics degree, which will be offered in Fall 2005, will no longer be under the Physics Department but will now be under an engineering department.

"As of two weeks ago, it was approved by the Curriculum Committee and by everybody at UTB, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has already received all the paperwork," he said.


The engineering physics program will have four components: mechanical engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering and biology engineering, Macari said.

He said there is a great demand for graduates with engineering technology degrees in this area, so at the same time improvements to that program are in the works.

"The engineering technology program ... is a very good program because there is a lot of need for hands-on ... for people to be

Please see 'Degree,' Page 6

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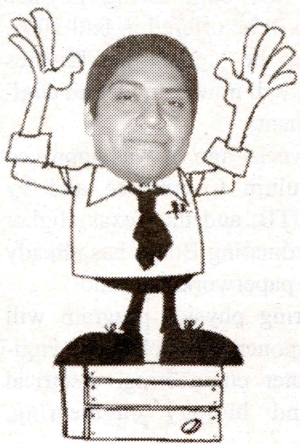
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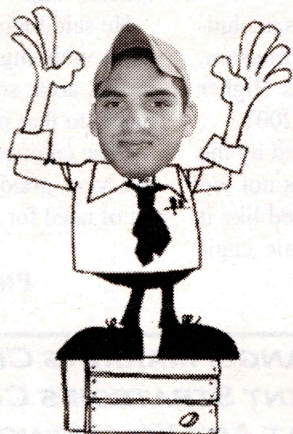
Student Soapbox

"As we enter the second anniversary of the war, should the United States still be in Iraq?"

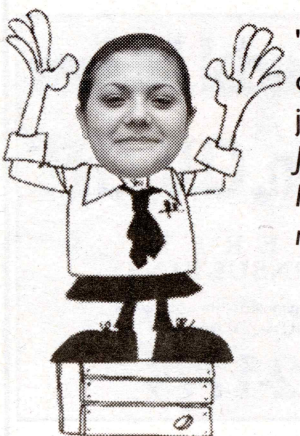


"No. I don't think the war should continue because there are innocent people dying just because Bush wants to kill people."
Arnold Martinez
 Freshman
 mathematics major

"En mi opinión, creo que no. Creo que es una guerra sin motivo específico. Nada más están perdiendo vidas inocentes que no tienen nada que ver."

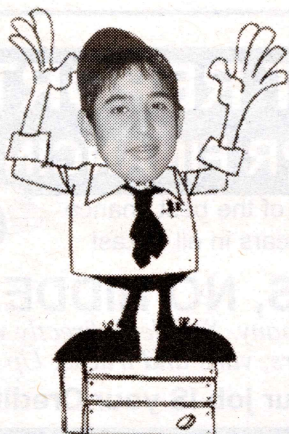


Francisco Aleman
 Estudiante de criminología segundo año



"I don't think so; I don't believe in war, just peace."
Josie Govea
 Freshman radiology major

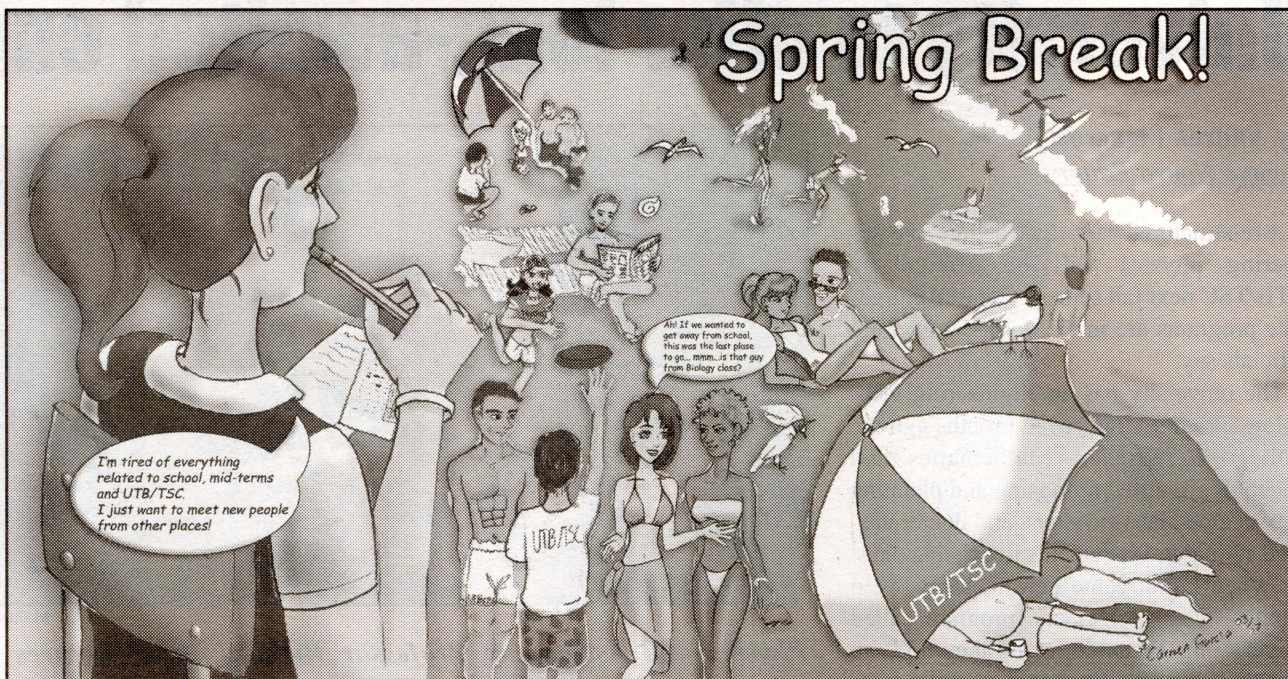
"Regardless of what we think, we have no say in it, so it really doesn't matter. That's what I think."
Jorge Mercado
 Freshman



--Compiled by Priscilla Garcia

Student Soapbox question for March 21:

"What did you do for Spring Break?"



Can lame ducks soar?

By James R. Hedtke

Now that President Bush has laid out his agenda for his second term, pundits like Leon Panetta are predicting that George W. Bush will be a lame duck in the latter part of his second term.

Their wisdom goes like this: As soon as Bush missteps on Iraq, Social Security, immigration or tax reform, the media and the Democrats will gleefully pounce and try to stymie his initiatives. They cite two-term presidents whose egos got them in deep trouble --Eisenhower and the U-2 snafu, Nixon and Watergate, Reagan and Iran-Contra, and Clinton and Monica.

They should all look closer at history. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the lame-duck theory is more myth than reality. The parties in control of Congress, the ability of the president to bargain and persuade, and the occurrence of unforeseen events are far better predictors of presidential success than are term limits.

Since the ratification of the 22nd Amendment in 1951, only three presidents have served two full terms in office. Despite being lame-duck presidents, Eisenhower, Reagan and Clinton all saw their support scores in Congress rise in their final year in office. Reagan and Clinton had higher public approval ratings in their second terms than in their first, and each got a lot accomplished. Even after his impeachment, Clinton maintained an energetic foreign policy agenda.

In the fall of 2000, The Federalist Society and the Wall Street Journal asked 78 presidential scholars to

rank the presidents. Two-term presidents dominated the top 10. Reagan ranked eighth and Eisenhower ninth. Bill Clinton finished 24th, ahead of 14 one-term presidents.

In 2004, Bush received a majority of the popular vote for the first time since his father defeated Dukakis in 1988, giving his presidency a legitimacy it lacked after the disputed 2000 election. With an enlarged Republican majority in both houses of Congress, he no doubt feels confident, and will seek to secure his place in the pantheon of American presidents. Two-term presidents have used this quest as a magic elixir to cure lame-duck syndrome and soar in their second terms. However, it is also the source of the imperial hubris that brings them crashing back to earth.

Bush is eager to overhaul Social Security by adding private investment accounts, but already members of Congress from both parties are voicing opposition. And he should brace for a battle with Democrats should he have to fill a Supreme Court vacancy and offer a nominee the opposition considers too extreme.

Lame-duck presidents have historically not suffered from losses of power as much as they have from abuses of power. Their transgressions are monuments to the arrogance and misuse of power that have pervaded lame-duck administrations. Term limits break the chain of accountability and responsiveness that link the presidency to the people. The lack of accountability can lead presidents to resort to extra-constitutional means to achieve their second-term agendas. As Alexander Hamilton wrote in 1788, "Without the opportunity for re-election, the

president has no inclination or resolution to act his part well."

Thus, as his second term begins, Bush stands at the crossroads of his presidency. He can be confident about his agenda, but not too confident, for the ghosts of past lame-duck presidencies also haunt him. If he avoids the arrogance that comes from winning a second term and resists the temptations to arbitrarily increase executive power and set himself above the law, he should be OK.

This means he should not regard opposition and criticism as tantamount to treason. Competence and depth of vision, not blind loyalty or partisanship, should be his criteria for appointing officials to public office.

And public trust is essential if Bush is to have a successful second term. The failure of inspectors to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has already challenged the credibility of the Bush administration. If the president's dire predictions for Social Security prove to be misleading, Bush could find himself mired in the political muck that has bogged down prior second-term presidents.

In the end, however, the success or failure of Bush's second term in office will hinge on events in Iraq. The situation is far from settled as elections in that troubled nation approach. Bush may not have directly mentioned Iraq in his second inaugural address, but historians certainly will in their assessment of his presidency.

James Hedtke is chairman of the political science and history department at Cabrini College in Pennsylvania and the author of "Lame Duck Presidents: Myth or Reality."

Arraignments

Student charged with indecent exposure

A UTB/TSC student has been arraigned on charges of indecent exposure.

Gerardo Duarte, 21, of the 3400 block of Island Estates Street in San Benito, was arraigned March 2 on a misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure by Cameron County Magistrate Judge Antonio "Tony" Torres, who set bond at \$2,500.

Duarte was released the same day from the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center after posting bond.

According to the magistrate's warning, Campus Police arrested Duarte at 9:10 a.m. March 2 after a person complained about seeing a man rubbing his genitals with his hands and his pants down to his knees on the second floor of the Arnulfo L. Oliveira Memorial Library. The incident occurred at 4:45 p.m. March 1, according to the warning.

According to an affidavit of arrest, Duarte provided a written statement, in which he admitted being in the library and rubbing his genitals with the intent to arouse a male student.

Indecent exposure is a Class B misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or a jail term of up to 180

days upon conviction.

Man faces indecent exposure charges

A man has been arraigned on charges of indecent exposure with a child.

Israel Antonio Gracia, 20, of the 200 block of East Jefferson Street, was arraigned Feb. 18 on a felony charge of indecency with a child by Cameron County Magistrate Judge Antonio "Tony" Torres, who set bond at \$20,000.

Gracia was released from the Carrizales-Rucker Detention Center after posting bond.

According to an affidavit of arrest, Campus Police arrested Gracia at 8:03 p.m. Feb. 17 after an officer on patrol in parking lot R noticed two individuals behind the Life and Health Sciences building engaging in sexual contact and touching each other's genital areas.

The other male is a minor. He was released to his parents and referred to the Cameron County Juvenile Probation System, Campus Police Sgt. Armando Pulido said.

Indecency with a child is a second degree felony and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or imprisonment from two to 20 years upon conviction.

--Compiled by José Borjón

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THE FILEMON B. VELA PRE-LAW ACADEMY At UTB/TSC 2005 APPLICATION

The Filemon B. Vela Pre-Law Academy is a non-credit, two-week preparatory program for current UTB/TSC undergraduate or graduate students, or recent UTB/TSC graduates, who are interested in pursuing a career in law. Some applicants already may have decided to attend law school and are preparing to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT). The Academy will be taught by professional LSAT instructors provided by Kaplan and by UTB/TSC faculty and staff.

There will be no cost to applicants who are accepted for the Pre-Law Academy, but they will be required to attend each day's activities from 9 AM to 4 PM for a two-week period, May 16 to May 27. Each applicant must have no less than a 2.75 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale, as of January 2005, and must have at least 60 hours of course credits by the end of the Spring Semester 2005. An applicant may have any major.

Applicants will be accepted for the Pre-Law Academy, at the sole discretion of UTB/TSC, except that UTB/TSC will not discriminate in its selection on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, or physical impairment. Please provide the information requested below.

All eligible applicants will be considered for a full scholarship to attend the Academy. Those applicants selected to attend the Academy but not awarded a scholarship may attend the Academy for a fee of \$899.00.

NAME: _____ UTB/TSC Student #: _____

(First) (Last)

Mailing Address: _____ University Major: _____

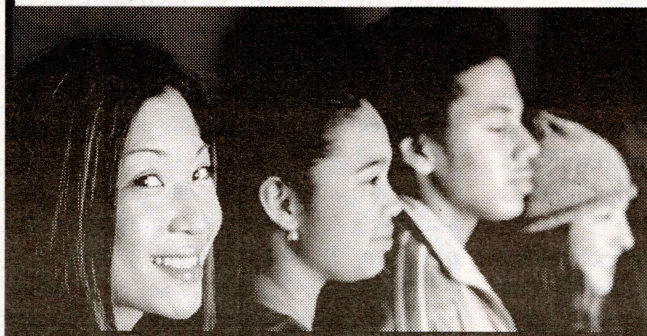
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Degree

Continued from page 3

applied, to be able to work at AMFELS, at *maquiladoras*, in various industries here locally," he said. "We want to make it more hands-on and less of what we were trying to push, more calculus and more physics into them, to bring it back to what it needs to be really."

Macari said an engineering technology degree differs from the engineering one because it has a more technological emphasis, rather than a scientific one, and the students learn to work the equipment with their hands.

"They do have algebra and basic calculus, but not differential equations and a lot of different linear algebra courses, and they don't require either the big physics courses that an engineering degree would," he said.

A master's in software engineering already has been approved, a master's in telecommunication is awaiting approval and a master's in engineering physics will be proposed, Macari said.

In the science area, Macari said proposals for doctorates in physics and biology will be submitted.

"Those will be the first two Ph.D. programs coming to UTB. ... The School of Education is also going to be proposing a Ph.D. in education. ... We are going for these three programs because that is where our strengths are," he said.

Ten students have registered for the master's in mathematics, which started this

year, Macari said.

"Anybody who graduates with a master's degree right now will be hired immediately by school systems. ... They're desperate for math and science with master's degrees. All of our biology graduates, all our physics graduates with master's, they are all getting employed."

Macari said students who graduate with a master's in engineering can get jobs that pay from \$50,000 to \$80,000 a year.

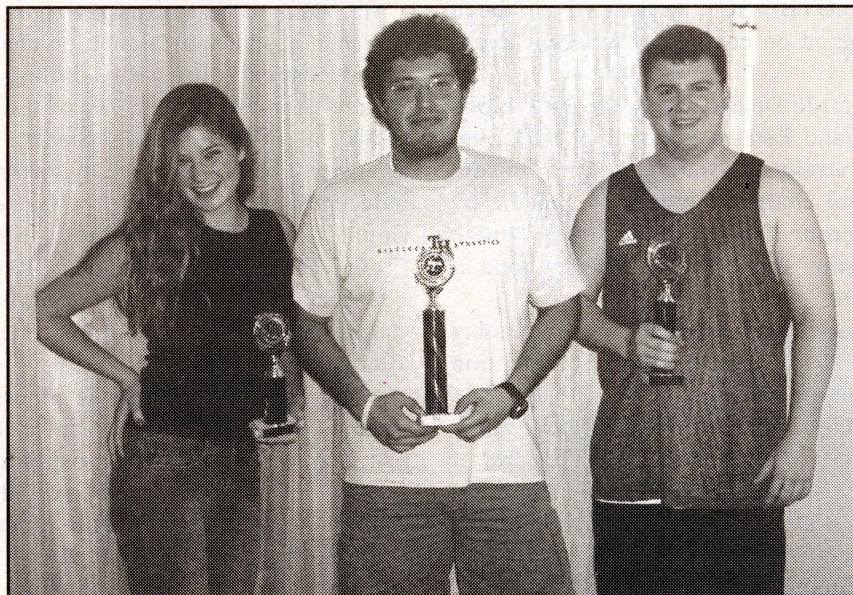
"Master's in math, let's say at a school system, probably it would be around \$35,000; so it's a little bit lower than the engineering degrees, but it depends--this is in this area," he said.

Macari said the Physics Department needs high-level researchers for the gravitational wave astronomy program.

"We have one of the best programs in the country, if not the world, with a significant number of faculty members and they need to have high-level researchers in order to be able to do their research. Those researchers have to be students, so we need to offer that high-level Ph.D. program," he said.

The biology programs need doctoral students as well, Macari said.

"When [students] go into biomedical research, you need to have Ph.D. graduate students, in order to be doing all the work we are doing. Molecular biology, cellular biology, genomics, all the programs that are really very high tech and highly scientific, you need to have graduate students," he said.

Best in the Village

COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of The Village at Fort Brown's Feb. 23 chess tournament are mathematics major Eva Altfuldish, third place; biology major Erick Vallarino, first place; and health sciences major Dave Edlund, second place. The Village plans to host a tournament every semester, which is open to all UTB/TSC students.

Ragland, Martín focus on opening educational 'pathways' for students

By Andrea Figueroa
Tiempo Nuevo Editor

Ruth Ann Ragland, the recently appointed UTB/TSC vice president for Academic Affairs, and José Martín, provost, have different responsibilities but they share a common goal: to open new opportunities for students.

"We are truly in a wonderful place, at a wonderful time in this university. This is an exciting place to be because of all the growth, because of the opportunity for opening pathways for students," Ragland said.

Ragland said the goals of her division are concerned with new academic programs.

"New pathways for students to go from one degree to another degree, such as going from associate degrees to bachelor's degrees to master's degrees, and we hope to have doctoral degrees not too far into the future," she said.

Ragland said all the academic deans, the office of Enrollment Planning, the office of the Liaison for Part-time Faculty and anybody in the Academic Affairs area report to her.

Martín previously held position of provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, but the post was divided in two on Jan. 10. He said that aside from the Office of Institutional Advancement, he coordinates all the divisions.

Martín said the university wants to open the door to students with different needs,

such as the traditional high school graduate who does not have the economic resources to go to college and the non-traditional student with a job or a family.

"We want to open pathways to people to whom pathways were always closed ... at every level," he said.

Martín said this can be a challenge to UTB/TSC because colleges and universities are usually ranked on the basis of criteria such as selectivity, which means how many people a university turns down.

"The main challenge is to be true to our mission. Our mission is to be a place that is open to all people," he said. "Our biggest obstacle ... is to show how well we are doing, without closing doors."

Ragland said one of her division's main challenges is enrollment.

"Our enrollment goals are at 20,000 students by 2010, to help close the gaps in Texas, so we have a lot of challenges ahead of us," she said.

Martín said he is also responsible for finding new sources of revenue that will help the university increase capacity and elevate standards.

"There are different sources of funding. The funding can be used for different things. It can be used for operations, for capital, construction ... for specific projects," he said.

Ragland said she is hoping the university will get funding for a student retention program.

Please see 'Pathways,' Page 15



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City candidates touch on youth, voting issues

By Hector Zamarripa
Staff Writer

Brownsville City Commissioner at Large B Dr. Joseph A. Zavaletta and Ernie Hernandez faced off against each other at a debate Wednesday.

Sponsored by the South Texans for Good Government and conducted at the Brownsville Public Library, the debate focused on issues ranging from Brownsville Public Utilities Board appointees to the history of the candidates. They also spoke about curfews and the UTB/TSC campus being used as a polling site.

Both candidates supported the idea of having a polling site on campus for the city election.

On the issue of a city curfew, Hernandez said he does not know enough about it but that he would "probably not support it." He admits, however, that his stance "can change."

Zavaletta said he supports a curfew because he believes parents should know where their children are at all times and must be responsible for them.



JORGE MARTINEZ/COLLEGIAN

Brownsville City Commissioner Joseph A. Zavaletta (left) addresses the crowd while challenger Ernie Hernandez reviews his notes during a debate Wednesday night at the Brownsville Public Library. Zavaletta and Hernandez are vying for the commissioner at large B post in the May 7 municipal elections. The debate was sponsored by South Texans for Good Government.

"I would like to see a curfew patterned after some other cities that have had success with this," he said.

Zavaletta said the city manager and police chief would plan how to implement a curfew and they would then present it to

the city commission.

The schedule for the rest of the debates sponsored by the organization is as follows:

-March 16: City Commission District 4 candidates Ernesto de Leon (incumbent), Edward Camarillo and Justin Ramos

-April 6: City Commission District 3 candidates Carlos Cisneros (incumbent) and Robert Sanchez.

-April 20: Brownsville School District board candidates

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Continuing Ed offers student second chance

By Abraham Figueroa
Staff Writer

Rolando Saldivar lost his job. He also did not have a high school diploma, so at age 36 he decided to hit the books.

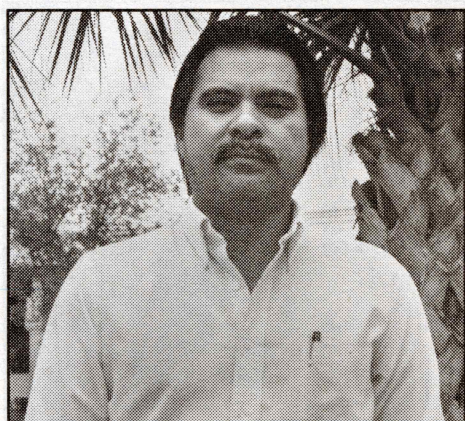
"It was a hard experience, because I let too much time pass by," said Saldivar, now a microcomputer specialist major at UTB/TSC. "I should have done that way back ... but when the company where I worked shut down, that's when I got the opportunity to continue an education."

Saldivar was employed by Levi Strauss & Co. for nine years, but when the company's Brownsville manufacturing plant closed in 2002, he decided to pursue an education. He started attending Continuing Education classes at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Campus as a full-time student and did some work building and remodeling homes when he had the opportunity.

"I attended ITECC ... for 18 months, attending GED classes, [English as a Second Language] and computer support specialist [classes]," Saldivar said.

Saldivar said he had to take the GED, or general education development, test three times before completing it successfully.

"I took the first exam for my GED. I needed some points for two subjects, so I continued studying and re-tested here at the



MARIA DURÓN/COLLEGIAN

Rolando Saldivar

UTB/TSC Testing Office. ... I had to wait six months, and still came back for re-testing. I paid a small fee of \$20 and, thanks to God, I finally got my GED."

Patrick McGehee, Testing Center director, praised Saldivar's perseverance.

"He could have given up, but he just stuck with it," McGehee said. "There's times when we want to quit, and this guy had every reason to quit, but he kept on struggling, and look where he's at now."

But Saldivar doesn't plan to stop there. He has already taken the next step.

"I decided to attend the UTB/TSC main campus, where I am ... about to finish my certificate as microcomputer specialist," Saldivar said. "I plan to finish my certi-

cate, go into my associate's [degree] and plan to keep on going as far as I can to get a better job, a good-paying job with benefits."

In order to take the GED test, a person cannot be enrolled in high school and must be at least 17 years old.

"We offer the testing in English once a month and [in] Spanish once a month," McGehee said. "One test takes two days. One full battery is five individual exams. So one day we have writing and the math, then the next day we'll do science, social studies and then reading. That is the whole battery."

The test is \$20 per exam and \$100 for the battery, which includes all five exams. There is a limit of one battery every six months.

The UTB/TSC High School Equivalency Program offers GED classes for migrant workers who need assistance in receiving their GED. Certain requirements must be met.

"They must be 17 years of age or older, they must be migrants or seasonal farm workers, they must have worked 75 days or more within the past two years ... Those are the most crucial requirements," said Mary Treviño, director of the High School Equivalency Program. "Also, they must score at an eighth-grade level or above on our entrance exam in order to be eligible for

our program."

The program is free of charge for migrant students and lasts three months.

"We have an open enrollment," Treviño said. "If they come in, that's when they start their three months. We are year-round."

Classes are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"If they're not migrants," Treviño said, "we refer them to either the Brownsville Independent School District Adult Education Center or the Brownsville Literacy Center."

Asked what advice he would give to others pursuing a GED, Saldivar replied:

"It's never too late to come back to study. ... Don't be afraid of the exams or of studying. It's a very important thing to do--to come back and study. I learned that now; I should have done it before."

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Possible schedule changes announced at SGA meeting

By Hector Zamarripa
Staff Writer

The university is considering changing the schedule for classes offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

During the Student Government Association meeting Feb. 26, President Michael C. Camarillo read an e-mail from UTB/TSC Vice President for Academic Affairs Ruth Ann Ragland that notes the prospect of changing the current Monday, Wednesday and Friday schedule.

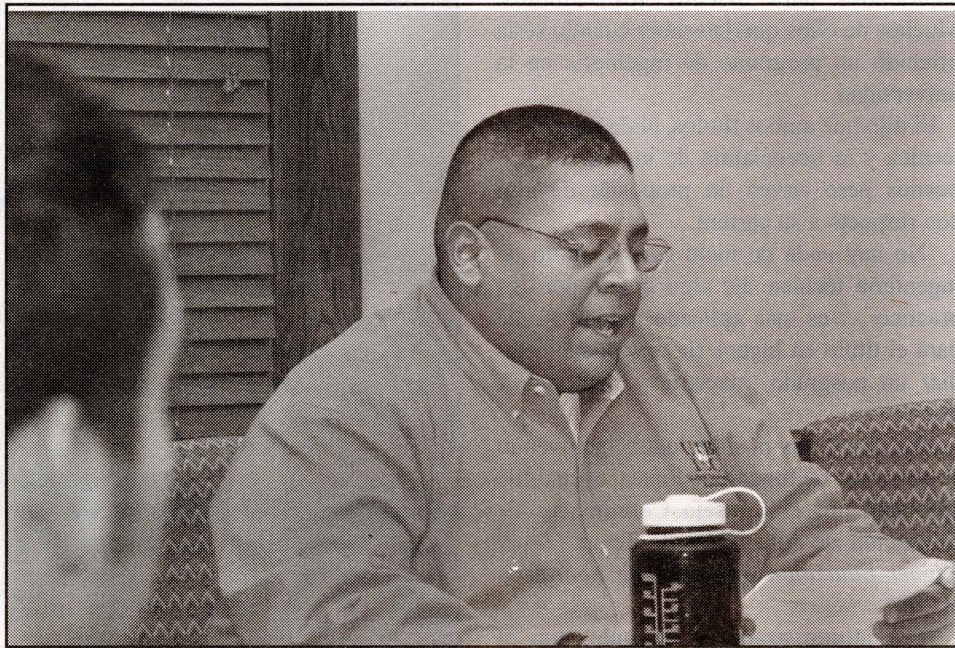
Camarillo summed the up e-mail.

"Students are coming to classes on Monday and Wednesday, we're not being able to accommodate them and [because] big influxes of students are coming, we actually need to offer Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes to spread it out more."

The current schedule has classes offered Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:40-2:55, 3:05-4:20. On Fridays, they are scheduled from 1 to 4. Under the proposal, classes will now be offered from 1-1:50, 2-2:50, 3-3:50 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Camarillo said that Hugo Perez, a student representative on the Academic Affairs Partnership Committee, would talk to the SGA about what the committee proposed regarding those changes.

Camarillo also discussed his meeting with the Transportation Task Force



MARIA DURON/COLLEGIAN

Student Government Association President Michael C. Camarillo reads an e-mail he received from Ruth Ann Ragland, UTB/TSC vice president for Academic Affairs, about the possibility of changing the schedule of Monday and Wednesday classes.

Committee and the possibility of the campus offering a shuttle service for students.

"The city actually came down with a plan. ... The only reason why we didn't jump on the proposal is that we needed ... research," he said.

Camarillo also spoke about students who were concerned with being charged for stu-

dent service fees for the fall semester during this semester and said he is in contact with the Business Office to find out the reason for those charges showing up now.

SGA Vice President for Administration Abraham Ponce announced that the SGA would hold a constitutional convention, scheduled for March 4 in the Gorgas Hall

board room.

SGA Vice President for Public Relations Leo Castro talked about the selection committee and that the SGA has about 15 openings. He said the committee will screen members to see if they meet certain criteria for membership. He urged anyone who wants to join to see him for more information.

Absent from the meeting were Freshman Senators Jessica Chavez and Roman Gonzalez, Vice President for Parliamentary Procedures Mike Ramirez, upper-level Senator for the College of Science, Mathematics and Technology Raul Rivera, Senator at Large Lewis Vega, upper-level Senator for the College of Liberal Arts Gaby Sosa and upper-level Senator for the School of Education Melissa Castaneda.

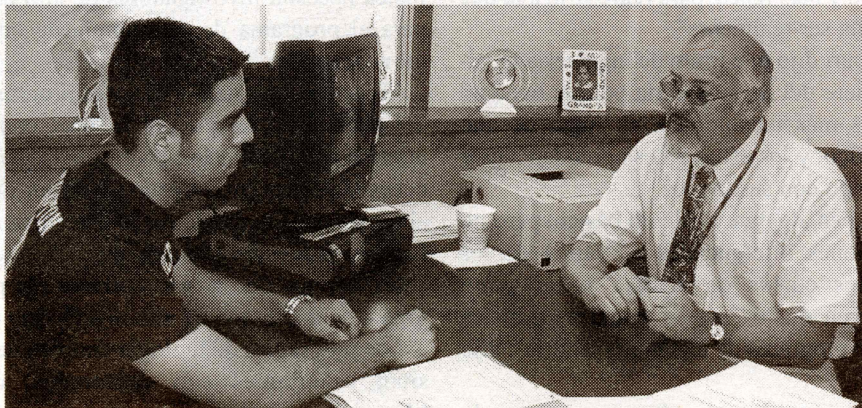
The next SGA meeting will take place at 1 p.m. Friday in the Student Union's Gardenia room.

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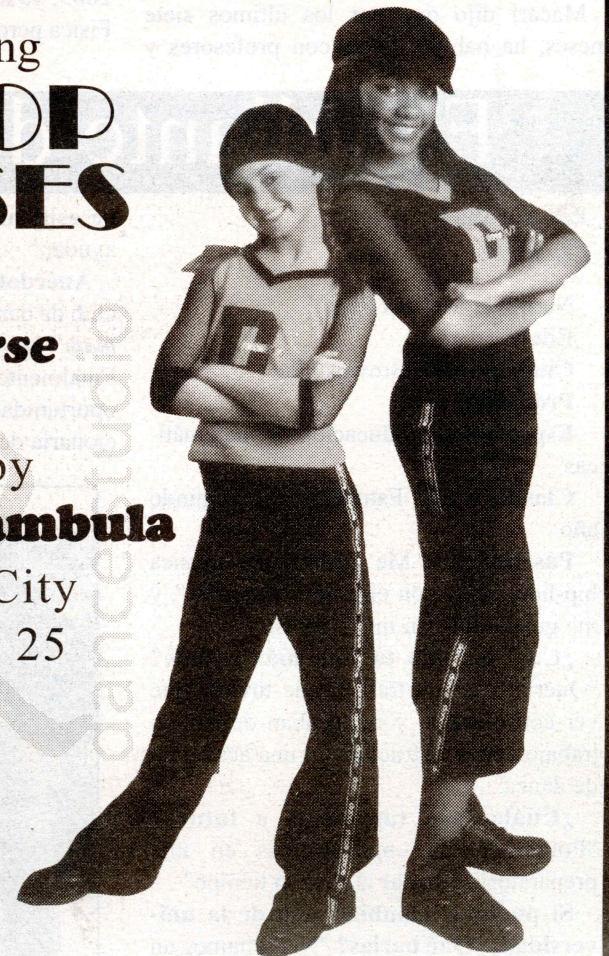
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Esperado programa de ingeniería será ofrecido

Por Andrea Figueroa
 Editora de Tiempo Nuevo

Una licenciatura reestructurada de ingeniería física será ofrecida por UTB/TSC el próximo semestre de otoño y cinco posgrados están siendo preparados, dijeron funcionarios de la universidad.

La universidad tiene un programa de ingeniería técnica, pero hace siete meses la facultad de Ciencia, Matemáticas y Tecnología empezó a proponer y a planear nuevos planes de estudio --maestrías y doctorados-- y a mejorar los ya existentes.

"Cuando vine por primera vez aquí a UTB hace siete meses, teníamos un programa llamado Ingeniería Técnica y me dijeron que no había esperanza alguna de que llegáramos a tener un programa de ingeniería aquí, porque, políticamente, era difícil el justificar que [la Universidad de Texas-] Pan Am tuviera un programa de ingeniería y que UTB tuviera uno también", dijo Emir José Macari, decano de la facultad de Ciencia, Matemáticas y Tecnología.

Macari dijo que no le gustó esa declaración, tomando en cuenta que los estudiantes han estado recibiendo títulos en ingeniería cuando tomaron clases de un nivel más alto.

"Habíamos estado contratando profesores que eran profesores de ingeniería, y que habían estado enseñando clases de ingeniería técnica a un nivel más alto, y sin embargo nuestros estudiantes recibían un título de ingeniería técnica", dijo él.

Macari dijo que por los últimos siete meses, ha habido juntas con profesores y

estudiantes para discutir los cambios. Muchos de ellos querían saber cuándo sería ofrecido un programa de ingeniería en la universidad.

El dijo que ambos títulos, el de ingeniería técnica y la licenciatura de ingeniería, son buenos pero sirven un propósito distinto con respecto a su carrera.

"No hay nada de malo con un título de ingeniería técnica. Es algo bueno pero es práctico ... es más aplicado, mientras que para el título en ingeniería uno puede estudiar un posgrado, maestría y doctorado", dijo él.

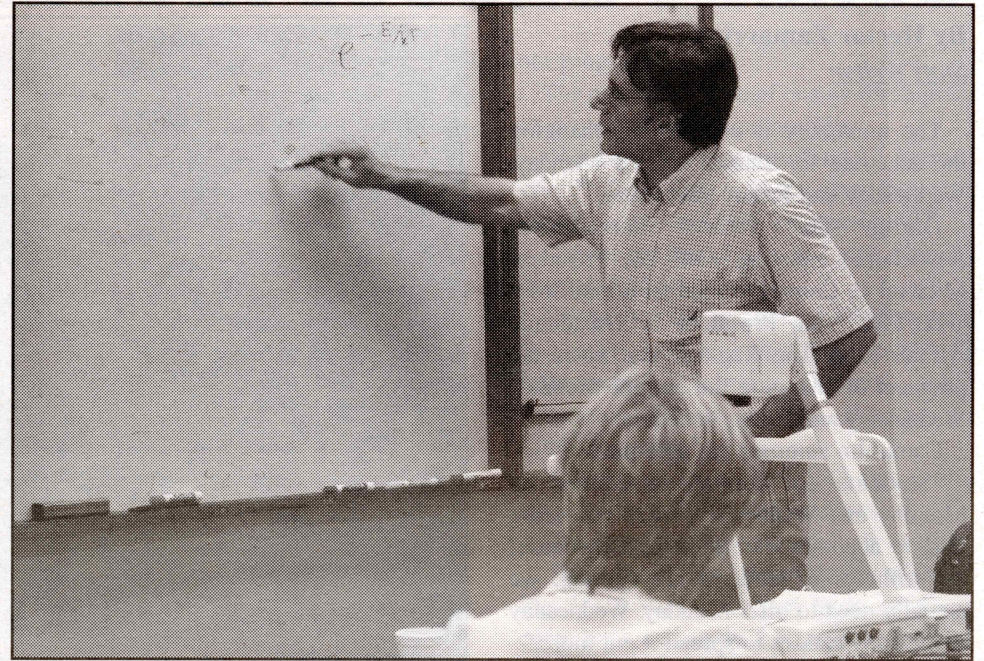
Macari vio las posibilidades, incluyendo el programa de Ingeniería Física, el cual fue aprobado por el Consejo Coordinador de Educación de Alto Nivel de Texas (*Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board*) en el 2001.

"Era administrado y operado por el Departamento de Física, sin embargo no había mucha ingeniería ahí. Se veía como que era mucha física y muy poca ingeniería", dijo él.

El programa de ingeniería técnica y el programa de física fueron fusionados en un programa de ingeniería completo, dijo Macari.

"Traté de combinar el programa de ingeniería técnica con el programa de física para ver cómo podíamos proponer un programa de ingeniería completo y válido, y eso es lo que resultó de esto", dijo él.

Macari dijo que el título de ingeniería física, el cual será ofrecido en el otoño del 2005, ya no estará bajo el Departamento de Física pero ahora estará bajo el departamen-



MARIA DURÓN/COLLEGIAN

El profesor de Física y Astronomía Richard Price imparte el jueves una clase de electrodinámica mientras el estudiante graduado de física Danka Moglska pone atención.

to de ingeniería.

"Hace dos semanas fue aprobado por el Comité de Programas de Estudios y por todos en UTB, y el Consejo Coordinador de Educación de Alto Nivel de Texas ya recibió el papeleo", dijo él.

El programa de ingeniería física tendrá cuatro componentes: ingeniería mecánica, ingeniería en sistemas, ingeniería eléctrica e ingeniería biológica, dijo Macari.

El dijo que hay una gran demanda de graduados con títulos de ingeniería técnica en esta área, así que al mismo tiempo mejoras para ese programa están siendo preparadas.

"El programa de ingeniería técnica ... es un muy buen programa porque hay mucha necesidad de gente que pueda realizar tareas prácticas, que puedan trabajar en AMFELS, en maquiladoras, en varias industrias locales aquí", dijo él. "Queremos hacerlo más práctico y menos de lo que estábamos tratando de presionarles con más cálculo y más física, para regresarlo a lo que necesita ser realmente".

Macari dijo que título de ingeniería técnica difiere del de ingeniería porque tiene un énfasis más tecnológico, en lugar de uno científico, y los estudiantes aprenden a usar el equipo con sus manos.

"Tienen álgebra y cálculo básico, pero no ecuaciones diferenciales ni varios de los distintos cursos de álgebra lineal y no requieren de los cursos grandes de física que un programa de ingeniería tendría", dijo él.

Una maestría en software ya ha sido aprobada, una maestría en telecomunicación está esperando aprobación y una maestría en ingeniería física será propuesta, dijo Macari.

En el área de ciencia, Macari dijo que propuestas para doctorados en física y biología serán presentadas.

"Esos serán los primeros dos doctorados en UTB. ... La Escuela de Negocios tam-

bién propondrá un doctorado en educación. ... Iremos por estos tres programas porque ahí es donde están nuestra fuerza", dijo él.

Diez estudiantes se han registrado para la maestría en matemáticas, la cual empezó este año, dijo Macari.

"Cualquiera que se gradúe ahora con una maestría será contratado inmediatamente por sistemas escolares. ... Están desesperados por matemáticas y ciencia con títulos de maestría. Todos nuestros graduados de biología, todos nuestros graduados de física con maestría, están siendo contratados".

Macari dijo que estudiantes que se gradúan con una maestría en ingeniería pueden obtener empleos que pagan de \$50,000 a \$80,000 al año.

"Maestría en matemáticas, digamos en algún sistema escolar, probablemente sería alrededor de \$35,000; así que es un poco menos que los títulos de ingeniería, pero depende-esto es en esta área", dijo él.

Macari dijo que el Departamento de Física necesita investigadores de alto nivel para el programa de astronomía de ondas gravitacionales.

"Tenemos uno de los mejores programas del país, si no es que del mundo, con un número significativo de profesorado y ellos necesitan tener investigadores de un nivel alto para que puedan hacer su investigación. Esos investigadores tienen que ser estudiantes, así que necesitamos ofrecer ese programa de doctorado de alto nivel", dijo él.

Los programas de biología también necesitan estudiantes con doctorados, dijo Macari.

"Cuando [los estudiantes] entran a investigación biomédica, se necesita tener estudiantes graduados con doctorados, para estar haciendo el trabajo que hacemos. Biología molecular, estudio de cromosomas, todos los programas que son de alta tecnología y altamente científicos, se necesita tener estudiantes de postgrado", dijo él.

Estudiante de Hoy

Por Abraham Figueroa
 Reportero

Nombre: Melissa Peña

Edad: 19 años

Ciudad natal: Brownsville

Promedio: 3.1

Especialidad: Educación de matemáticas

Clasificación: Estudiante de segundo año

Pasatiempos: Me gusta bailar música hip-hop, estoy con el grupo "Intensity", y me gusta salir con mis amigas.

¿Cuál ha sido tu reto más grande? "Quería tener un trabajo que tuviera que ver con el baile, y me acaban de dar un trabajo como instructora en una academia de danza".

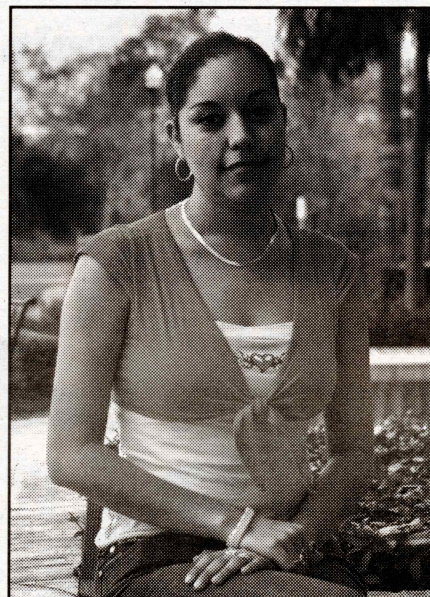
¿Cuáles son tus metas a futuro? "Poder enseñar matemáticas en una preparatoria y bailar al mismo tiempo".

Si pudieras cambiar algo de la universidad, ¿Qué harías? "Necesitamos un cuarto designado para bailar, y más espacios de estacionamiento".

¿Qué te gusta de la universidad? "Los profesores y las otras personas que trabajan aquí son muy hospitalarios. Cuando

necesito algo, siempre están dispuestos a ayudar."

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BERNARDO FIGUEROA/COLLEGIAN

Sosa settles in with Orioles

By Larry Stone
Seattle Times

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.--Sammy Sosa answered a question the other day by referring to "that other team I was on in Chicago."

He couldn't bring himself to even say "Cubs." It was an ugly divorce, complete with hidden-camera surveillance, endless rounds of he-said/he-said accusations, and one shattered boom box, which used to blare his Salsa music in the Wrigley Field clubhouse.

When Sosa infamously ducked out on the team last year during its final game--left early and lied about it, until the Cubs produced timed footage from their security camera that showed him leaving--an unnamed teammate took a bat to his boom box.

The music had become an irritant, just like Sosa himself, who went from being maybe the most popular player in Cubs history to one who, when traded to the Orioles in January, had come to be regarded as selfish, fraudulent and no longer worth the effort.

You wouldn't know it now. Sosa is very happy, two weeks into his first Baltimore spring training. He loves it here, and they seem to love him right back--the fans who have been worshipping him daily, and teammates who have been soaking up his still-raging aura, without (yet) attaching it to a



Sammy Sosa

diva's craving for special attention.

"Ah, he's exciting," said infielder/outfielder David Newhan. "I liken him to a rock star, a movie-star type personality. He transcends everyone--the fans, even everyone playing alongside him. It's just fun to have that energy."

Sosa showed up a day early to camp, and declared that Baltimore manager Lee Mazzilli doesn't lie to him--a judgment made in the first 24 hours of their association, seemingly spoken for sole purpose of contrasting his new skipper with Cubs manager Dusty Baker.

Sosa has been launching tape-measure home runs in practice on a daily basis, clanging them off jets at the executive airport that borders the field.

"It's just so much fun to watch him hit batting practice now," said Baltimore first baseman Jay Gibbons. "I can't even wait for the first spring-training game to announce the lineup."

It's the sort of full-muscle spectacle that helped make Sammy Sammy, before the corked-bat incident and steroids allegations took much of the allure away from those blasts.

He seems to fit in beautifully, so far, in the clubhouse, where his locker is next to

fellow Dominican Miguel Tejada, who no longer is the ranking baseball superstar in Baltimore.

Feb. 27, in a bunting drill, Sosa dutifully ran the bases along with rookies and non-roster prospects. He smiles constantly, banter with reporters, and interacts easily with his teammates.

"Oh, yeah. I'm having a good time," Sosa said. "Everything is looking pretty good. I feel great. I like to be around the guys. Everyone is together. I feel great about it, the way it worked for me here. All these guys are great."

Mazzilli pulled a good one on Sosa at the end of the Feb. 26 workout. The players gathered at home plate for the usual base-running drills, and Sosa was tabbed to go first. He put his head down and sprinted toward first. As he approached second, he heard a commotion and looked back to see the rest of the team walking back to the clubhouse, hooting with laughter.

Mazzilli had put them up to it, and Sosa laughed the hardest of anyone. When he trotted back in, he hugged Mazzilli and bullpen coach Elrod Hendricks, and seemed to revel in being one of the guys. The Orioles are ready to let him be that.

Second baseman Brian Roberts, like the rest of the Orioles, has heard the negative spin coming from Chicago, but said, "I reserve judgment until I meet somebody. Everyone has bad things said about them by somebody. We're excited to have him

here, and we expect fully that he's going to be a great teammate."

Sosa said he believes he's going to have a big, rebound year after hitting just .253, with 35 homers and 80 runs batted in last year--humbling numbers for the only player ever to exceed 60 homers three times.

If so, the Orioles could make unexpected noise in a division where only the Yankees and Red Sox have been relevant for nearly a decade. Last year, the Orioles had more hits than any team in the American League, and their .281 team average was just a point behind Anaheim and Boston.

Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro are the first teammates in history with 500 home runs. Melvin Mora may be the most unrecognized offensive force in baseball. Tejada led the majors in RBI last year, and Jay Gibbons, Larry Bigbie and Javy Lopez have all had recent productive seasons.

"Without a doubt, I think we match up with Boston and New York in offense," first baseman Gibbons said.

Not in pitching, ominously, which is why the Orioles lost 84 games and finished 23 games behind the Yankees, even though their staff's earned-run-average plummeted after Ray Miller took over as pitching coach in June.

The Orioles hope that Sosa is the X factor that puts them back on the divisional map. On his first day, Mazzilli told Sosa, "I don't want you to fit in. I'm looking for you to be Sammy."

Scorps lose 2 conference games

By Nydia Gutiérrez
Sports Editor

The UTB/TSC Scorpion Baseball Team is tied for fourth place in the Region XIV Conference and is two games away from second place. The Scorpsion faced the Blinn College Buccaneers on Feb. 25-26 and lost the series 2-1.

In Game 1, shortstop Osiel Flores hit a one-out double down the left field line. He then went to third base on a strike out on Manny Villavicencio that the catcher dropped, and was followed by an infield hit by second baseman Trent Mathis that brought him home.

The Scorpsion's bullpen was highlighted by pitcher Jonathan Taylor, who threw a shutout game with a final score of 1-0.

"He just dominated. Best pitching performance that I have ever been a part of as a head coach," Herrera said.

After being rained out on Saturday, the series continued on Feb. 27 with pitcher Justin Davies on the mound and Buccaneers offense on the rise in Game 2. The Buccaneers hit the Scorpsion down the line and found gaps in the infield allowing them to score five and give up two runs. Buccaneer pitcher Josh Blakley kept the

ball low and got several ground balls.

"[Blakley] did a really good job. I am very impressed by him," Herrera said.

Game 3 was a duel between Buccaneer pitcher Justin Thell and Scorpion pitcher Josh Lara. Shortstop Justin Pearlman hit a two-run home run on an inside fastball by Thell, giving the Scorpsion a 2-0 lead by the sixth inning.

"Josh Lara walked eight batters and he was in trouble all day long, but he worked his way out of it every single time. He got the groundouts, strikeouts and the pop-ups he needed and did a great job," Herrera said.

By the eighth inning, the Scorpsion were up 2-1, with bases loaded, two outs on the board and a 3-1 count on second baseman Chance Beasley. Lara threw a belt-high fastball that Buccaneer Beasley turned into a grand slam, giving the Buccaneers the win, 5-2.

The Scorpsion faced the Laredo Community College Palominos last Saturday and Sunday. Scores were not available at press time.

The Scorpsion will compete against the Alvin Community College Dolphins at 6 p.m. Friday in Alvin.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Jonathan Taylor

Age: 23

Major: Kinesiology

Classification: Sophomore

Position: Pitcher

Hometown: Aransas Pass

Q: What awards did you receive in high school?

A: "First team All-State."

Q: Why did you decide to play baseball?

A: "It is fun."

Q: What do you like about being a pitcher?

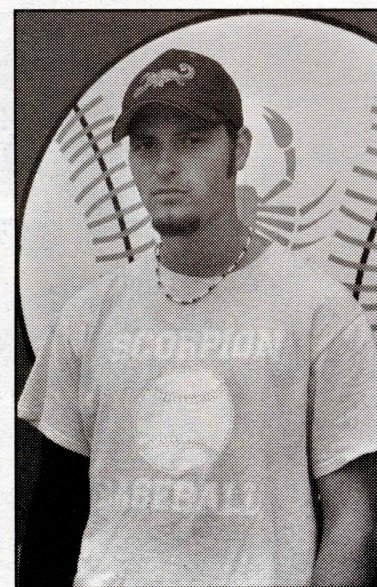
A: "I control the tempo of the game."

Q: Where do you plan to go from here?

A: "Pro [ball]."

Q: How do you think the Scorpsion will do in the conference?

A: "We will see."



MARIA DURON/COLLEGIAN

--Nydia Gutiérrez

On the dotted line



CARMEN GARCÍA/COLLEGIAN

Freshman nursing major Martin Resendez signs up to receive more information about Aflac Insurance during last Thursday's career fair in the Lightner Student Center. Also shown is freshman nursing major Nelda Urbina, whose question is being answered by (from left) agents Ken Ostos, Jessica Garcia and Zack Dickerson. Two other career fairs are scheduled for this semester: one on March 31 in the SET-B Lecture Hall and the other on April 6, also in Lightner Student Center, according to Juan Andres Rodriguez of the UTB/TSC Career Services Department.

Chess

Continued from page 1

UTB/TSC.

We're anticipating that he'll be here when Erick [and Luis] leave. He'll be a good addition to our team," he said.

Most of the chess team members are on scholarships, which include tuition, fees and housing.

As for the future of the chess team, Solis said that Dzindzichashvili has made the whole difference in the less than two years he has been here and that he had not yet met with him to determine if the chess team would like to participate in any other tournaments for the spring semester.

Espino said he was surprised and happy at the same time because he didn't think the chess program was such a big deal at UTB/TSC, but is glad to be part of the accomplishments.

"We are just real proud of them, they did great. We are really surprised by the fact that they were able to take state in such a short period of time," Solis said.

Victor Flores said he was also surprised and could not believe that UTB/TSC went to the trouble to welcome the champions back.

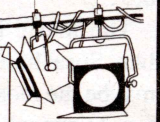
"We are going to have to really work hard because next year state is going to be tougher and more is going to be expected from us," he said. "We have about a year to prepare and anything is possible--we could do it again ... We can go two in a row."

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Club Spotlight



Sting Extreme-Outdoor and Recreation Team



BERNARDO FIGUEROA/COLLEGIAN

Members of the Sting Extreme-Outdoor and Recreation team are (seated, from left) Johnny Gutierrez, treasurer; Kelsey Torgerson, vice president; Lewis Vega, president; Annie Martell, secretary; and David Carey, historian. Standing: Abel Guerra, Nancy Galvan, Yajaira Fuentes, Crystal Cuevas and Kevin Fears.

Purpose: To provide health and wellness outdoor activities to the UTB/TSC student body in order to foster personal growth and development.

Established: Spring 2003

President: Lewis Vega

Vice President: Kelsey Torgerson

Secretary: Annie Martell

Treasurer: Johnny Gutierrez

Historian: David Carey

Sponsor: James Beale

Events: Sponsors car washes, barbecue plate and bake sales

Community Service: The club is

involved with the Don't Mess with Texas Campus Cleanup campaign and the Brownsville Community Boxing Club. It also has reconstructed a home in Harlingen.

Meetings: 8 p.m. Thursday in the Student Union's Salon Gardenia

Requirements: Must be a UTB/TSC student with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Dues: \$10 per year

For more information: call Vega at 551-0771 or send an e-mail to sting-extreme@yahoo.com.

--Compiled by Priscilla Garcia

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Club attends conference, visits historic Texas sites

By Mary Infante
Special to The Collegian

Members of the Border History and Culture Club recently attended the John Stormont Conference on South Texas at Victoria College.

The first lecture, given by Miguel Bedolla, was on "The Production Possibilities of the Economy of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in the 1790s as Reported by Felix Calleja." In 1794, Calleja was commissioned by the viceroy to visit and report on the state of the colony of Nuevo Santander. Bedolla is a professor at the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

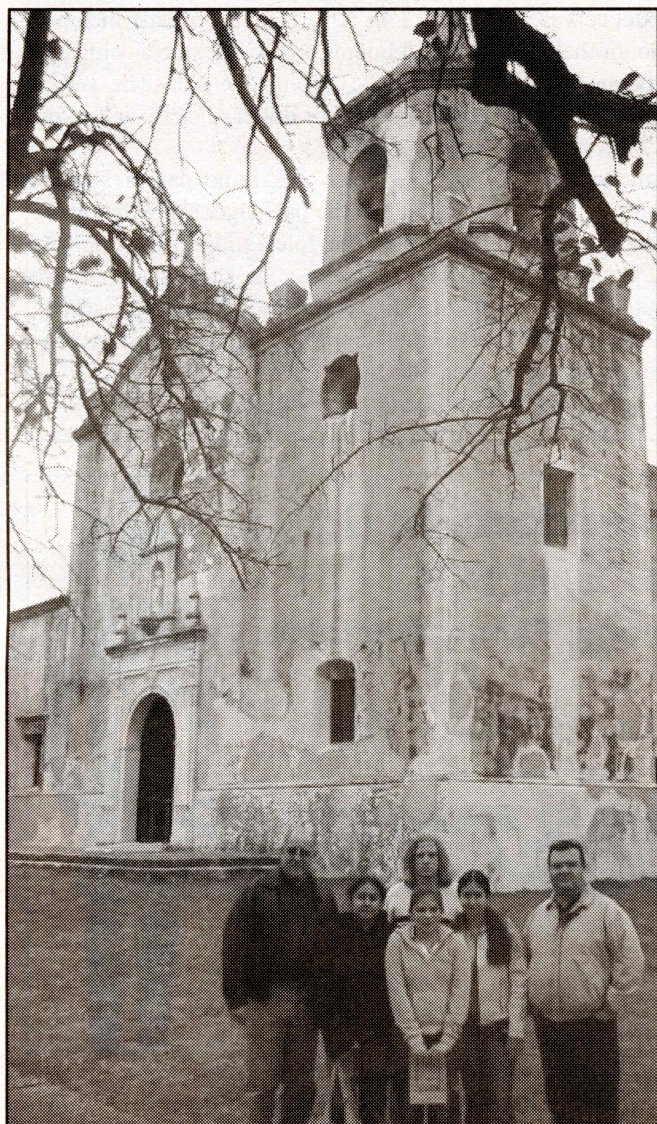
Douglas Monroy, another lecturer, spoke on "Who Was Felix Longoria and Should We Care? How NAFTA Has Changed Mexican and American History." Monroy, who is the Ray Allen Billington Distinguished Visiting Professor at Occidental College and the Huntington Library, explained that Longoria, a private in the U.S. Army, was killed in the Philippines during World War II. After this hero paid the ultimate price, the city of Three Rivers denied his family's request to bury him there. With the help of American

GI Forum founder Dr. Hector P. Garcia and Lyndon B. Johnson, Longoria was buried at Arlington National Cemetery alongside other heroes.

Other lectures the club attended were "The Changing Face of Ranching in South Texas" by Wayne Hanselka of Texas A&M University and "The Life and Times of Carlos Truan" by Ward Albro, professor emeritus of history at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

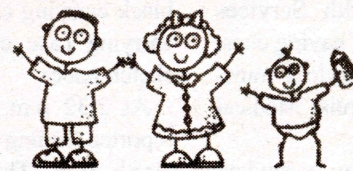
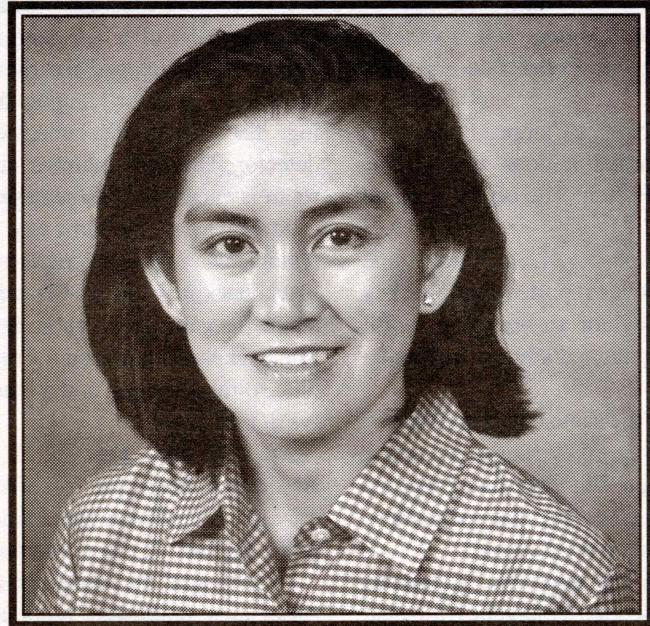
After the lectures, members toured the Museum of the Coastal Bend, which is located at Victoria College. They saw items excavated from Fort St. Louis, established in 1684 by Frenchman Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle. The club also visited Goliad State Historical Park, which includes Mission Nuestra Señora del Espiritu Santo de Zuñiga, established in 1722, and the nearby Fannin Battleground State Historical Park, the site of one of the most disastrous defeats of the Texas struggle for independence-the Battle of Coleto. There, Col. J.W. Fannin surrendered to Mexican Gen. José Urrea.

The club then toured Presidio La Bahía, also in Goliad County, an important fort in Texas history because it participated in six revolutions/wars for independence.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Border History and Culture Club stand in front of Mission Nuestra Señora del Espiritu Santo de Zuñiga in Goliad State Park, one of the historic Texas sites they visited earlier last month. Shown are Manuel Medrano (from left), Social Sciences professor and club sponsor; Mary Infante, vice president; Isabel Shea, treasurer; Tim Miller (back); Martha Arias, secretary; and Joe Valles.



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Campus Police Reports

Following are among the incidents reported by Campus Police between Feb. 20 and 27.

At 10 p.m. Feb. 20, a Campus Police officer reported finding a door ajar at The Village at Fort Brown. The officer secured the door.

At 9:10 a.m. Feb. 21, a Marcis and Associates employee reported finding a key ring in the first-floor restroom in North Hall. The ring contained a house key and a vehicle key.

At 10:12 a.m. the same day, a staff member reported losing a key ring at his house about a month ago. The man stated that the key ring contained one key that opened several offices throughout campus.

At 12:17 p.m. the same day, a Campus Police officer escorted emergency medical technicians to Student Health Services where a student complained of having chest pains. Emergency Medical Services transported the man to Valley Baptist Medical Center-Brownsville.

At 12:45 p.m. the same day, a student reported that his ex-girlfriend had been following him around campus. The man stated that she had been following him to his classes, the Arnulfo L. Oliveira Library and to a classroom in the Life and Health Sciences building. The man also stated that as he greeted another woman in the classroom, his ex made vulgar comments about the woman.

At 1:25 p.m. the same day, a student reported losing her graduation class ring in the women's restroom in Eidman Hall. The woman stated last seeing her ring at noon while in the restroom. The loss was estimated at \$100.

At 3:25 p.m. the same day, two students reported being harassed by an employee at a local restaurant. The women stated that the employee ran outside, got in her vehicle and followed them, yelling obscenities from inside the vehicle. The women reported that a similar incident had happened earlier, but did not report it to Campus Police.

At 7:55 p.m. the same day, a staff member of The Village at Fort Brown reported

the activation of a fire alarm. A Campus Police officer opened the room and found the smoke detector hanging from the ceiling. The officer disconnected the smoke detector. The staff member stated that the room is vacant for this semester.

At 11:41 p.m. the same day, a Marcis and Associates employee reported finding a black backpack on a sofa while cleaning inside the game room in the Student Union. The backpack contained a Convergys ID, a blue spiral notebook and a notebook with a UTB/TSC logo.

At 3:25 a.m. Feb. 22, a Marcis and Associates employee reported finding a gray spiral notebook and a black sports bra in the Manuel B. Garza Memorial Gym.

At 3:45 a.m. the same day, a Marcis and Associates employee reported finding a black carrying case in Rusteberg Hall. The carrying case contained a clipboard and sketch paper.

At 2:32 p.m. the same day, a student reported finding a key ring on a bench near North Hall. The key ring contained six keys, a vehicle remote control and a heart-shaped key ring.

At 4:38 p.m. the same day, a staff member reported that posters advertising a rock concert had been glued around campus. The case remains under investigation.

At 10 p.m. the same day, a student reporting leaving her purse in a classroom in the Life and Health Sciences building. An officer found the purse and transported it to Campus Police. The purse contained five credit cards and \$183.83 in cash.

At 8 a.m. Feb. 23, a staff member reported that a microphone and two 20-foot cords were missing from the Lightner Student Center. The man stated that another staff member had checked out the equipment on Feb. 22 for a presentation. The other staff member reported that he did not remove the equipment from where it had been installed. The loss was estimated at \$50.

At 10 a.m. the same day, a Campus Police officer reported that a student was being rude and uncooperative while outside the Lightner Student Center. The officer report-

ed that the student entered the center and remained there. He then asked the student to step outside and the student used vulgar language. The officer then asked for an ID; the student handed him a Texas driver's license. The officer informed the student that if he continued to use vulgar language he would be arrested for disorderly conduct and the student stopped using vulgar language. The enrollment of the student was verified as active.

At 7:05 p.m. the same day, a student reported that his 2000 Pontiac Firebird was stolen while it was parked in lot O. The man stated that he parked his vehicle at 5:30 p.m. to go to class and noticed it missing after returning from class at 7 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m. the same day, a woman reported that her son had lost his T-Mobile Sony Ericsson cellular phone while in the Manuel B. Garza Memorial Gym. The loss was estimated at \$250.

At 9:31 a.m. Feb. 24, a staff member reported finding a camera near Rusteberg Hall. The man stated that the camera had two serial number tags.

At 10:32 a.m. the same day, a man reported finding a key ring on a Chrysler vehicle parked in lot V. The key ring contained three keys, one of which had the words "IMC Magnetic Corp" inscribed on it.

At 1 p.m. the same day, a staff member reported a digital camera missing during the golf cart parade. The man stated that he last saw the camera at 9:15 a.m. that day. The loss was estimated at \$300.

At 1:30 p.m. the same day, a student reported finding a Motorola Nextel cellular phone between North and South halls. Minutes later the owner of the phone went to Campus Police headquarters to pick it up.

At 8:25 p.m. the same day, a Marcis and Associates employee reported smoke coming out of an office on the second floor of the Life and Health Sciences building. The woman stated that two students had knocked on a door of LHS and reported that a large fire was visible from the Paseo inside one of the offices. The woman stated she opened the door to the office and

grabbed the burning candle and placed it in a nearby sink; she then notified Campus Police.

At 11 p.m. the same day, a Campus Police officer reported finding several doors at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Campus ajar. The officer secured the doors.

At 2:27 a.m. Feb. 25, a Campus Police officer on patrol noticed a 1995 Chevrolet Corsica's rear window broken. The officer notified the Campus Police dispatcher who informed her that the vehicle was registered to a UTB/TSC staff member. The officer made contact with the staff member who was working in an office in the Student Union. The staff member reported that nothing was missing from the vehicle. The damage was estimated at \$50.

At 2:15 p.m. Feb. 25, a student reported finding a key ring on a bench near North and South halls. The key ring contained one key, two key chains and a keyless entry remote.

At 4:30 p.m. the same day, a staff member of Security International Alarm Systems reported that an alarm had sounded in the Auto Mechanics shop at the International Technology, Education and Commerce Campus. A Campus Police officer reported that he did not have the code to deactivate the alarm. The alarm was silenced and the doors were secured.

At 9:07 p.m. the same day, a Marcis and Associates employee reported finding several doors ajar at the Education Building. A Campus Police officer secured the doors.

At 12:45 p.m. Feb. 27, a staff member reported finding a jacket next to a computer in the SET-B Computer Lab. The jacket contained a Texas driver's license and a key inside a pocket.

At 6:30 p.m. the same day, a student reported that the passenger side window of her 1995 Chevrolet Jimmy was broken while it was parked at The Village at Fort Brown. Taken were a CD player, two speakers and an amplifier. The loss was estimated at \$820.

--Compiled by José Borjón

The Student Publications Office is accepting applications for the position of reporter. Applicants must be eligible for work/study and have a 2.2 GPA or higher. Applications are available in Student Union room 1.28. For more information, call 554-5143.

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House Calls



States, colleges increasing merit-based financial aid

By Frank Greve

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON--Take heart: College tuitions are soaring, but fewer families are paying the sticker price.

A multibillion-dollar surge in financial aid based on merit--rather than only on financial need--is the big reason. Fourteen states now offer residents merit-based grants to help middle-class families meet college costs. Hundreds of colleges and universities woo top scholars and gifted musicians with tuition breaks regardless of family income.

"It defies the principles of lots of vice presidents for finance, but it makes sense to the parents," said Kevin Coveney, the admission dean at Washington College in Chestertown, Md., where any high school National Honor Society member is guaranteed a \$10,000 tuition break.

The effect of all the new aid is to drive down the number of students who are footing full college costs themselves. It's 37 percent now, down from 45 percent in 2000, according to the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. At private four-year colleges, the number drops to just 17 percent. The aid's abundance makes tuition increases for many students as theoretical as list price increases for new cars.

Georgia's HOPE scholars--high school grads with B averages in college prep courses--get free tuition at state schools plus \$300. Florida's Bright Futures scholars get three-quarters tuition breaks plus \$300 at state schools if they earn B averages and SAT scores of 970 or better. B-plus students with 1270 SAT scores get free tuition. Students at in-state private colleges in Georgia and Florida get equivalent breaks.

Michigan asks only that its students pass a state exam to score a \$2,500 grant for a state school or \$1,000 for an out-of-state one.

The programs are huge. Georgia has spent \$2.3 billion on 800,000 students since its pioneering program began in 1993. Florida's merit grants now help 120,000 college kids; Michigan's, 49,000.

So popular are the state initiatives, many funded with lottery revenues or tobacco-settlement proceeds, that legislators find they're difficult to cut, especially given that tuition increases averaged 10.5 percent at public universities last year. That's about four times the overall inflation rate.

The biggest fans are "mainly middle-class families," according to Jamie Merisotis, the president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy in Washington, which promotes access to college. "It's due both to rising tuitions and the belief that if

low-income people are getting a benefit, there should be something for other groups based on merit."

To be sure, most of the more than \$75 billion in annual aid for higher education remains need-based. But the growth is in merit aid. States now spend a quarter of their scholarship money on merit awards, up from 10 percent a decade ago, according to financial aid organizations. Merit aid's share of private college scholarships is 36 percent, compared with 27 percent in the early '90s.

"We've found hundreds of new awards in the past year," said Baird Johnson, the vice president for production and marketing at FastWeb, an Internet database scoured by seekers of merit-based aid. FastWeb's directory grew 20 percent this year, according to Johnson.

For high school seniors, the hunt for merit-based help means a new round of applications in the spring after they've won college admission. "It takes as much legwork as applying to college, with all the applications and essays and recommendations," said Barbara Weintraub, a college counselor at James Hubert Blake High School in Washington's Maryland suburbs. Hunting for merit aid can be especially frustrating, she added, because "while there's a lot out there, it tends to be in \$500 and \$1,000 pieces that don't go very far."

Suzanne Adjogah, 17, an academically outstanding senior at nearby Montgomery Blair High School, is undeterred. She's already scored a \$30,000 scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh. Now she's trying to piece together a combination of need-based aid, merit grants and loans that would make New York University in New York City, her first choice, equally affordable.

She doubts she'll succeed, however, and when asked her parents' preferences, Adjogah said: "They want me to go where I'd be happy. They also want me to go to where it's free."

Pathways
Continued from page 7

"We were hoping to get some extra funding to help support some of the retention projects that we have for both our developmental students and for our non-developmental students," she said. "Some of this would be through special programs that support them in their academic work, so that they will be able to succeed ... make better grades and ... stay in school."

The Collegian Spring 2005 Publication Schedule

The Collegian is the student newspaper serving the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Soutmost College. It is published each Monday, during the fall and spring semesters, except during holidays and exams. A total of 5,000 copies of each issue are distributed on and off campus.

Advertising agreements must be finalized by the deadlines shown below. For advertising rates and more information, call the advertising department at (956) 554-5143. The Student Publications Office, which produces The Collegian, is located in Student Union 1.28. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Monday, March 14, 2005
Monday, March 21, 2005
Monday, March 28, 2005
Monday, April 4, 2005
Monday, April 11, 2005
Monday, April 18, 2005
Monday, April 25, 2005
Monday, May 2, 2005

Advertising Deadline

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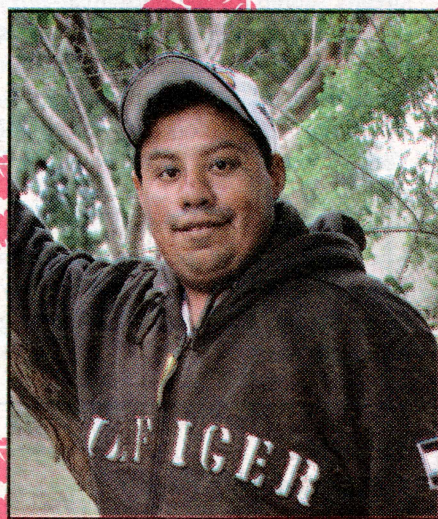
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Bachelor of the Week

Adrian Muñoz



Age: 25

Major: Business

Classification: Junior

Have you ever gone out on a blind date? "I never have gone out."

What do you look for in a girl? "To be nice with me."

What do you think is the sexiest part of the human body? "Pretty much everything."

What is the shortest relationship you've ever had? "I've never had one."

What's a good age to get married? "28."

Have you ever given somebody a fake phone number? "No."

What's the first thing you notice about a person you're attracted to? "Nice eyes and hair."

What is the lamest excuse somebody has given you to not go out? "I'm too busy."

What's the lamest line you've ever used? "Have you been working [out]?"

What do you wear to bed? "[A] warmer set."

Opening a door for a woman, still chivalrous or politically incorrect? "Chivalrous."

Is it OK for men to cry? "No."

Do you believe in love at first sight? "No."

What is your idea of the worst thing that can happen on a date? "Invite her out."

Which have you been most often, the dumper or the dumpee? "Dumpee."

What twist would you like your life to take? "Meet a wonderful girl."

What's one skill you have that you think women should know about? "I'm a good runner."

What was the last CD you bought? "Los Acosta."

Zodiac sign: "Cancer."

Favorite color: "Red."

Favorite car: "Chevy Malibu."

Favorite Pet: "Bull terrier."

Meats or vegetables? "Vegetables."

Favorite song or band: "Los Temerarios."

Favorite movie: "Karate Kid."

If you would like to be featured as a Bachelor or Bachelorette of the Week, call reporter Priscilla Garcia at 554-5143 or send her an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu.

Violin concert takes audience back in time

By Abraham Figueroa
Staff Writer

Music of the Baroque period was brought to life last Tuesday in the SET-B Lecture Hall during Judith Ingolfsson's violin performance. Accompanied by Ronald Sat on piano, she performed music from such classical composers as Mozart, Brahms and Bach.

Ingolfsson started off the night by

performing Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Violin sonata in G. K. 301." The sonata was divided into Allegro con spirito and Allegro, and like the Italian terms indicate, were cheerful and spirited.

The concert then took on a more melancholic feel with the performance of Johannes Brahms' "Violin sonata in d. Op. 108." The sonata came in four movements: Allegro, which was a slower, ominous piece; Adagio, which was

also gloomy; Un poco presto e con sentimento, a shorter rendition with feeling; and Presto, which was vivid, aggressive and full of life.

After a brief intermission, Ingolfsson returned to perform a solo rendition of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Partita in B minor, No. 1 BWV 1002." Once again, this piece consisted of four movements: Allemanda, Corrente, Sarabande and Tempo de Borea, which had a fast beat.

Amos' 'Beekeeper' mostly a treat for fans

By Howard Cohen
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The good news is that Tori Amos has, for the second album in a row, returned to the sort of melodic, piano-based pop that made her 1992 debut "Little Earthquakes" such a striking record.

She's never topped that one, and "The Beekeeper" has its problems, but after losing her direction into noisy, electronic-based, full-band rock in the late '90s,

it's a pleasure to hear Amos framing her expressive voice with piano playing and a B3 Hammond organ on mostly accessible songs. First-rate "Beekeeper" tracks "Parasol," "Sweet the Sting" and "The Power of Orange Knickers" rank with her best work.

But Amos, who produced this 19-track, 79-minute concept album, is in serious need of an outside producer or editor who could trim her excesses. She may be in love with her concept--some-

thing male-female about six "gardens" of songs inspired by the six-sided cells of a honeycomb--but only her most devoted fans will wander these lyrically insular paths with her for all that time. "The Beekeeper" is easily 35 minutes too long and its crushing overlength does a disservice to its good songs, which get lost.

Horoscopes Horoscopes Horoscopes Horoscopes Horoscopes Horoscopes



Pisces

(Feb. 20-March 20): There they go, right out that door--your worries--will you miss them? One thought says yes, the other no; but just the same they're gone, no sense in reminiscing. Trust that life is like a box of--something or another--where what you get is what you got and soon that too will go missing.

Tammy Faye

March 7, 1942



By Marquis de Castille
Staff Writer



Aries

(March 21-April 20): To step out of time is to release one's mind from the troubles that do plague it. In this journey look at life and all it's rife with and know that happiness is no myth. Clever as you, your trek is through; look into life and crave it.



Taurus

(April 21-May 21): Your heritage has narrative and in those words find comfort. While those before you came and went, their traditions stand unbent--a test of family tradition. So on these days stand not alone but with the whole--family needs no partition.



Gemini

(May 22-June 22): A mutual love brings fiery hate, as stars bring change, the planets rotate. A jealous moon steals light from the sun that beams for you; take note and discuss, find out what makes this true.



Cancer

(June 23-July 22): Worries mount as tests do count and overall things stagger. But fear not, sit down and plot, plan out your goals and get them. As grades do go, you've started slow, but time there is to change them.



Leo

(July 23-Aug. 22): The hand of stress, is the caress, that on your neck you feel. Peel away from worries that mount like winter flurries; instead use that fury--and hurry, hurry. Bury them like goldfish in the garden..



Virgo

(Aug. 23-Sept. 23): You think it wise to hide your eyes from those not fit for seeing, but know it so that their deep glow does dim for lack of merit. That vanity, that sanctity, is sullied by your grimace. Much like a phase within a moon that feels but does not sense things, you shine for all, but reflect others' brilliance.



Libra

(Sept. 24-Oct. 23): Ha! You've done it, found love, but now it slinks off elsewhere. These words bring worry--you should be sorry--to have cast aside such presents. Decadent and such, do what you must--perchance by joust--win back your true love's heart.



Scorpio

(Oct. 24-Nov. 22): Fortunes change as money brings pain to those who've had and lost it. Pressures fill their aching head as bills burn great, unfrosted. Good luck chum, don't be a bum, get three jobs now--then add one.



Sagittarius

(Nov. 23-Dec. 21): Rage and furies clean out impurities, which sometimes taint your reef. Like coral prisons, these thoughts glare, glisten, begging for relief. Let friend or foe, break down the cove and burn with penchant smitten. Swim fast, take off the mittens.



Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Their eyes on you, you feel a fool as rosy cheeks show much. Your love is present; they see it--resent it? Why don't they notice the things that matter, like stares that make you sadder? Fear not, in time, they'll see that rhyme brings hearts apart to touch.



Aquarius

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Put down the food that seems too much, as on your plate there's lunch accompanied by brunch. Your health is fair but not quite there as too much good brings bad. Spare the fad and don't get mad, just exercise a tad--plus more.

Have an item for our news brief section? Call Adrian Peña at 554-5143 or send him an e-mail at collegian@utb.edu