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UTPA ranks in magazine's top 100 colleges for Hispanics

By **LUKE KOONG**
The Pan American

For the second straight year, The University of Texas-Pan American has placed at the top of the pack in Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education's Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics.

The report, which was released May 8, reviews colleges that are standouts among their counterparts in awarding degrees to Hispanic students.

This year, the university held its second place ranking for bachelor's degrees but increased from eighth to fifth in master's degrees awarded. The university also placed 75th for doctoral

degrees.

Hispanic Outlook's rankings are based on data compiled by the National Center for Education, under the U.S. Department of Education. Last year, 1,666 or 86 percent, of the bachelor's degrees awarded at UTPA were to Hispanic students.

UTPA ranked the highest in bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanics among 21 Texas schools that made the list, including The University of Texas-Austin and Texas A&M.

In addition to degrees awarded, the report looked at 28 different academic programs at each university. UTPA

placed among the top ten for ten categories, including first in English literature.

This is the second year in a row the program has obtained a first place ranking. Steven Schneider, chair of the English department, said there are two key components to the department's successful program.

"There are two things that make our program popular," he said. "First, our courses, which are innovative. We do traditional literary work, but we also do a lot of contemporary literature that attracts students. Second, our faculty. We have a really excellent faculty that are

dynamic, student-oriented and creative."

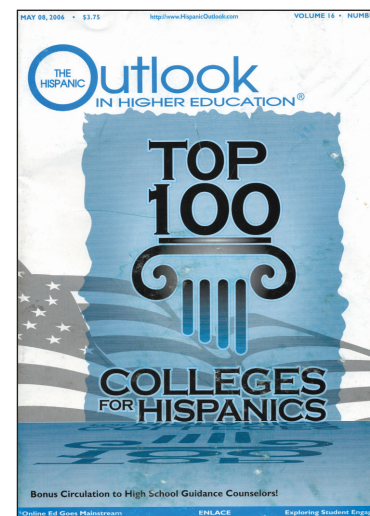
Schneider added that the popularity of the degree at the university is a large contributor to the No. 1 ranking and feels that the momentum will continue.

"We anticipate more students will continue to enroll in our major because of our innovative curriculum and faculty," he said.

UTPA also came in at second in the biological and biomedical sciences field.

Mohammad Farooqui, chair of the biology department, attributed the success of his department's program to dedicated faculty members and their

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Candidates for provost/vice president for academic affairs participate in forums

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
GAYLE	LaBRECQUE	SALE	UNNIKRISHNAN	CRUZADO-SALAS

By **SANDRA GONZALEZ**
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American's search for a new provost/vice president of academic affairs is almost over. After conducting interviews with the top ten candidates in secret airport hotel room meetings and extensive background checks, the search committee came up with the final five.

This week, those five candidates were each assigned a day to take the stage of the Library Media Theater to introduce themselves to campus and take questions from the audience in a forum.

MONDAY

Dennis J. Gayle, a current professor

of strategic international business at The University of West Indies, kicked off the week of forums. Gayle, who also serves as the senior advisor to the chancellor and vice chancellor at UWI, said one of the reasons that attracted him to the position at UTPA was because of the region's rapid growth.

"It's located in a border region, which represents a good deal of what the United States is becoming," he said. "If we look ahead at the next four years or so, we can see that the environment that UTPA is located in is one of the verifications of many of the communities in the country."

Gayle added that UTPA is on the

verge of a new beginning that he would like to be a part of.

"It represents a university which is on the cusp of change moving from a comprehensive master's to a teaching-centered research university," he said. "It represents a series of interesting challenges, which appeals to me."

TUESDAY

A new day brought candidate Suzanne LaBrecque, vice provost and associate vice president for the University of North Texas in Denton.

LaBrecque said that her 21 years of administrative experience have shown her the best approach to working with lawmakers.

"I feel like what we have to do with our legislature is help them understand who our students are, where they're going, and how their going to contribute and what we need from them to get it done," she said.

If selected, LaBrecque will not be short of issues to address. She said that dealing with problems such as lowering graduate requirements down to 120 hours and trying to advance scholarship among students and staff will require innovative thinking.

"I think we're in a very challenging period in the history of higher education," she said. "I think that this is going to force

See **PROVOST** page 4

Funding for autism center being sought

By **CAROLINA SANCHEZ**
The Pan American

The number of autism cases in Region One has increased 1,500 percent from 1994 to 2005. In the midst of this epidemic, the department of Educational Psychology at The University of Texas-Pan American is planning to open a Center of Excellence to help look into the medical condition.

"The Rio Grande Valley has a large number of autistics cases. Even the Center for Disease Control considers this problem epidemic," said Cheryl Fielding, educational psychology professor and coordinator of Education Valley Autism Program. "However, we don't have a specialized center to treat children with this problem."

For Fielding, the growing problem with autism, a disease that affects the areas of the brain that controls communication skills and social interaction, became apparent after came teaching graduate courses on autism and applied behavior analysis at UTPA for the past six years. Yet despite obvious need,

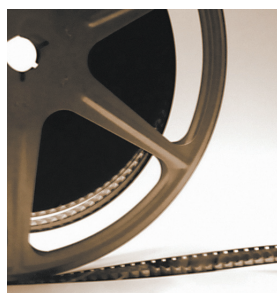
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Recreational sports offers large variety of summer activities

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June 29 2006

THE PAN AMERICAN

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Thursday at Noon

The PAN AMERICAN is the official student newspaper of The University of Texas-Pan American. Views presented are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the university.

Letters policy

The Pan American gladly accepts letters from students, staff and faculty regarding newspaper content or current issues. The Pan American reserves the right to edit submissions for grammar and length. Please limit submission length to 300 words. The Pan American cannot publish anonymous letters, or submissions containing hate speech or gratuitous personal attacks. Letters are printed at the discretion of the editor and must include the writer's name, class/title and phone number.

SUMMER READER FORUM

Students, faculty and staff:

Summertime is here and The Pan American wants to know what you are doing all summer. Whether you've traveled to far-off destinations or stayed at home drawing, we want to know all about it. Please e-mail any poem, short story, travel photos, art work, or cartoon to Summer.PanAmerican@gmail.com. Your submission could end up in the next summer edition of the paper.

-The Pan American summer staff

UTPA around the globe: Tulum, Mexico

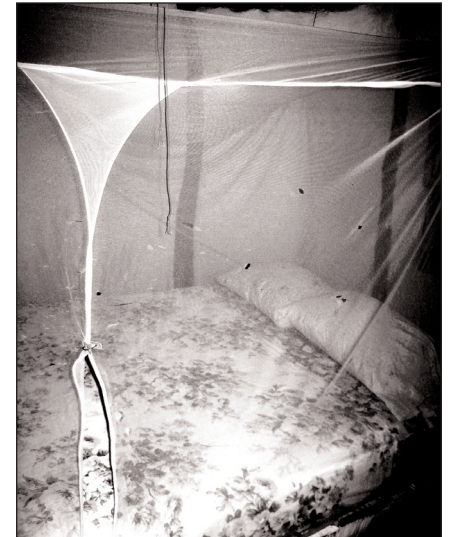


Journalism lecturer Donna Pazdera took a five-day solo trek to the Yucatan peninsula in June. These are some of her photos.



"One of the hazards of solo travel is that there usually isn't anyone to take photos of you. So, one must resort to a self-portrait. This is a self-portrait at the Tulum ruins, which overlook the Caribbean sea. The water is the most vivid blue you have ever seen."

"The Maya apparently knew what they were doing when they built a series of temples on the Caribbean coast of Tulum, Mexico. The ruins today overlook a breathtaking vista of the sea. Be sure to pack a bottle of water and your swimsuit because you'll want both."



"A mosquito net is *de rigueur* in many parts of the Yucatan peninsula. This is a hut where I stayed in Tulum, at a hotel called Rancho Tranquilo. There was also a bed with a mosquito net. Quite honestly, it was the best sleep I had on my trip."

Cartoon: By Lucy Gonzalez

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PAN AMERICAN Available July 13



The results are in Find out how UTPA President Blandina Cardenas was evaluated among faculty, staff



Giving back UTPA alum and "George Lopez" actor establishes theater scholarship

NEWS

WE'VE MOVED



News in brief:

The Center for Distance Learning and Teaching Excellence has moved to room 2.202 in the Education Complex.

Congressman calls for diversity in science

By JAVIER CAVAZOS
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American had 2,670 students in the college of Science and Engineering in the 2006 spring semester. Of those students, Congressman Ruben Hinojosa wants to make sure minorities do not go unrepresented in a series of bills in the House of Representatives.

A recent letter co-authored by Hinojosa and co-signed by 53 other members of Congress showed concern with recent bills in the House geared toward the science, math and engineering fields.

In the letter, Hinojosa cited the need to raise participation by minorities in those fields, which will increase the number of Americans entering these fields.

"As our country becomes more and more diverse, we have to ensure that the talented individuals pursuing these challenging and crucial jobs reflect this diversity," said Hinojosa.

The three bills, H.R. 5358, the Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act of 2006, H.R. 5356, the Early Career Research Act of 2006 and H.R. 5357, the Research for Competitiveness Act of 2006, are supposed to encourage competition among American researchers. However,

Hinojosa felt as though something was missing.

"The congressman felt that they also should target minority populations," said Hinojosa's press secretary Ciaran Clayton. "Rep. Hinojosa and his co-author Silvestre Reyes sent the House Science Committee the letter to show that members of Congress support increasing the number of women and minorities in these fields."

"Women are now attending college at a higher rate than men according to the most recent U.S. Census data and yet they remain underrepresented in the workforce," added Clayton.

"Congressman Hinojosa has also introduced H.R. 5106, the Partnership for Access to Laboratory Science Act (PALS). The resolution requests \$50 million for a matching grant program at the National Science Foundation," Clayton said. "The bill is designed to reinvigorate high school laboratories in rural and high-need school districts."

Kelly Cramer, a junior biology major, agrees with Hinojosa's efforts, saying it is important to plant the seeds of science and related fields early on.

"I think it's important that women and minorities be given better access to careers in science and math," Cramer said.

Cramer said she became interested in science while in high school and credits the enthusiasm of teachers who led her into biology.

"Thankfully I had supportive teachers who pushed me to pursue science," said Cramer.

Vanessa Weaver, a sophomore chemistry major, credits some of her past educators and several opportunities through school for her decision to pursue a career in chemistry.

"It was my favorite class and we were exposed to opportunities through programs like HESTEC (Hispanic Engineering, Science and Technology) Week. We should be encouraging more women to become scientists," said Weaver.

According to government statistics, a large percentage of college students who eventually left the science fields cited some problems related to high school science preparation.

"These problems included a lack of laboratory experience and no introduction to theoretical or analytical modes of thought," said Clayton.

The legislation is currently co-sponsored by 33 members of Congress and has the support of the American Chemical Society and the National Science Teachers Association.



Onydia Garza/*The Pan American*

CULTIVATING A NEW ORDER - Rebeca De Luna, junior biology major, looks for bacteria in a swab sample while in her microbiology class.

Students, faculty volunteers honored

By ADRIANA GARZA
The Pan American

Adina Michelle Zamora, a senior graphic design major at The University of Texas-Pan American, has a love for graphic design. She shares her passion and skills for the craft with local businesses in the Rio Grande Valley by volunteering through the Volunteer Resource Program.

"I wanted experience before I graduated. I wanted to know what I was getting into, what I had to look forward to, what to be aware of, what to expect, to prevent and perfect my skills as a graphic designer before I moved out of school," said Zamora, who has been in VRP since Spring 2006. "When I learned about the opportunity, I decided to go ahead and take it."

On June 18, VRP, a program that works with UTPA and the community to encourage volunteering, hosted !Volunteer Celebration 2006! to recognize volunteers, who like Zamora, have dedicated their time to a cause. The stu-

dents were lauded for the work they put into the program, and faculty were honored for having incorporated the service learning concept into their classes.

"That was a one-day event where we basically highlighted the achievements of our volunteers and UTPA faculty," VRP outreach specialist Omar

Rodriguez said.

Zamora, who averaged 24 hours a week in spring, said she did several projects for Bentsen State Park that enabled her skills to compliment what she learned in class. With so many projects to work on, Zamora said she has learned time

See **VRP** page 4



Volunteer Resource Program

TIME WELL SPENT - Dave Martinez, a graphic design professor, speaks at !Volunteer Celebration 2006! which honored dedication to volunteer work.

AUTISM continued from page 1

Fielding said the idea for the specialty center has not materialized because the university does not have enough funds to make it possible

"We have been denied when we ask for funding, but we are writing a new proposal," Fielding said. "We are planning to collaborate with some other universities of the UT system and partner with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the UTHSC's Regional Academic Health Centers in Edinburg and Harlingen."

The University of Texas-Pan American is seeking \$10 million, \$2 million each year for five years from the National Institute of Health (NIH).

The center will focus on researching early identification of autism and best practices in teaching intervention strategies. In addition to research, the center would also provide evaluation services and treatment intervention.

Even without a location or funding, Fielding has already started work without a formal organization in place.

"Right now I have evaluated eight

children from the area, and because I am not teaching during the summer, I have the time," Fielding said. "We did it for free, but there are a lot of cases and we do not have enough time to treat them."

Besides providing research and innovations for the Valley, the venture would help UTPA students.

"The center would give them the experience necessary to work on real life cases," said Fielding.

While the symptoms of autism sometimes appear from age two to six, according to experts, there are no tests to detect it.

The first step to public education about the disease occurred at a symposium held on June 24 at the Regional Academic Health Center in Harlingen. The symposium also discussed medications used for treatment, parenting, nutrition's impact on autism and advocacy.

For now, Fielding and her associates are looking for enough funding and support in order to make this cause possible.

To be part of this cause or collaborate with the program please contact Fielding at (956) 381-3404.

PROVOST continued from page 1

us to be as creative as we possibly can be.”

WEDNESDAY

While LeBrecque believes creativity is key, Paul Sale, dean and professor of the College of Education and Human Development at Radford (Virginia) University, said his approach is collaboration.

“We just created some faculty governance systems at my college. I enjoyed working with the faculty on developing those,” Sale said. “I want to build relationships.”

However, while some feel there is much work to be done, Sale countered saying that he would be pleased to come to UTPA because it is off to a good start.

“By the looks of what has happened in just the first couple of years of your president’s tenure, it looks like UTPA is on the accelerated path,” he said.

THURSDAY

For provost candidate Raman Unnikrishnan, dean of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University-Fullerton, getting the provost position is all about fixing certain situations. However, not in the way one may think.

Unnikrishnan, who currently works in California, shared that he and his wife are living thousands of miles apart with her working in Rochester, NY. He added that while passion for his work has kept him in California, it will also help him do well as provost.

“A position like this should be filled by someone with a certain level of enthusiasm for the job,” Unnikrishnan said. “We know where we want to be, and I have some ideas on how we can get there.”

Unnikrishnan said that if chosen, he plans to see his ideas through.

“A vision without a plan is just a dream. A plan without a vision...is too mechanical, but a vision with a plan, change the world,” he said. “I believe my background and accomplishments and willingness will allow you to bring together the will and the vision to do all we want to accomplish.”

FRIDAY

Closing out the week was Waded Cruzado-Salas, dean of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University.

Cruzado-Salas, who got her master’s and Ph D. from the University of Texas-Arlington, said the provost position is the perfect opportunity to give back to the UT System that has done so much for her.

“The education I’ve gotten from the University of Texas System has made me the kind of person, the kind of individual, the kind of professional I am today,” she said. “So I will always be grateful for that.”

Cruzado-Salas was also grateful for was the attendance of the crowd on a Friday afternoon. She added that the audience’s presents at the forum was a testimony to the care they are putting into selecting a provost and their dedication to the university.

“The students that come to university want to have high standards,” she said. “I think I can get help get this institution to its next level of excellence because you have everything you have right here.”

DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Feedback forms were distributed at the beginning of each forum.

Those forms were due back to President Blandina Cardenas on June 26. She is currently in the review process and is expected to make a choice for provost “in a timely manner.”

TOP 100 continued from page 1

efforts to achieve success for students.

“[The ranking] is attributed to our strong and hardworking faculty teaching pre-med courses and the Health Profession Advisory system we have built with Scott Gunn and Cindy Wedig,” Farooqui said.

Farooqui believes that the ranking will help strengthen the program with more individuals interested in entering the biological and pre-medical fields.

The university boasts an impressive acceptance rate of 68 percent for students applying to medical schools across the nation. That statistic is almost

double the statewide average of 38 percent.

Other strong points for UTPA included second place rankings in foreign language, social services and third in business and marketing. Visual and performing arts obtained a sixth place ranking, communications and engineering/engineering tech a ninth place award, and protective services was tenth.

To continue the success of their programs, Farooqui and Schneider both said their departments will continue to improve by strengthening the faculty and continue offering students the best opportunities to succeed in their fields.

VRP continued from page 3

management and how to pace herself. Moreover, she says the rewarding experience has re-affirmed her decision to pursue a career in graphic design.

“When VRP gets good feedback from Bentsen State Park employers, it’s rewarding in itself because it just shows that I’m doing a good job and that price is more than any pay check,” Zamora said. “They’re scientists so they have nothing to do with graphic design or art, but when they’re blown away, the smile on their face and just how excited they get about my vision, is also very rewarding.”

VRP is currently working on facilitating service learning at UTPA so students can learn just how rewarding the experience can be. They’re also trying to get professors to combine curriculum with volunteer work.

“We think that that’s a very good way of reinforcing what students are learning from books, to go out and do something hands-on,” Alejandro Moreno, VRP program director, said.

David Martinez, a graphic design professor, has

been including volunteer work in his classes and plans to make it a requirement in the fall. He believes it’s important for college student learning.

“For the students, it’s important to get them involved with real companies so they get a real experience rather than always working for the professor on another project,” Martinez said.

Zamora’s dedication to volunteer work earned her the Outstanding Volunteer award for spring 2006, because she had the most volunteer hours and an impressive diversity of work in the graphic design field. Zamora says she has no plans on stopping any time soon.

“I plan to continue my volunteering through my last semester at Pan Am, maybe even afterwards,” Zamora said. “I’ve developed a great relationship with the department and with Bentsen State Park. I mean, I enjoy it. It helps me polish and practice my skills and it’s a great creative outlet for me.”

For more information, contact VRP at (956) 292-7566 or visit their UTPA Annex Office.



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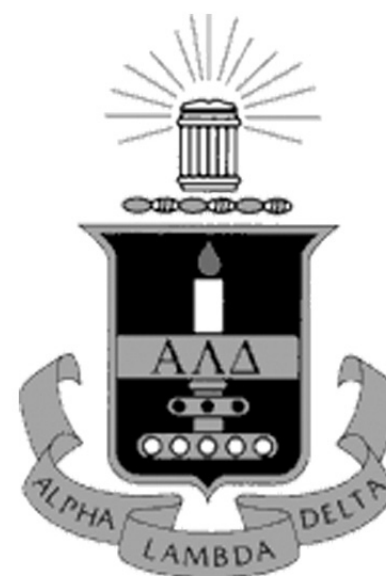
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"Superman Returns" starring Brandon Routh, Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth

UTPA film company keeps it reel

By TREY SERNA
The Pan American

The University of Texas-Pan American's production company, Reel-to-Red Productions, keeps busy during the regular school year by filming on-campus events. Now that the summer has arrived, the university's activities have slowed down, but that hasn't stopped Reel-to-Red from keeping activities on their agenda.

The group is producing a film this summer with the help of TRiO, an organization that works with first-generation, low-income, pre-college middle and high school students.

Sonia DelAngel, director of special programs, works with students in the TRiO program. Together, DelAngel and Chelse Benham, director of Reel-to-Red, came up with the idea for this year's film.

"Chelse showed last year's film, 'Going Nowhere,' to my students, and she enjoyed the interaction with them," DelAngel said. "Chelse and I had been talking and she said she wanted to work with my students on another project. She and I brainstormed, and I gave her examples of real-life experiences that my TRiO students have gone through."

According to DelAngel, money was made available through grants. In addition, she wrote a mini-grant for 10-15 students to stay seven days in the UTPA dorms and assist in the making of the film. The students will also be assigned Reel-to-Red mentors.

This year's film, "Dead Letter," will focus on serious issues that teenagers in the Valley are faced with. Benham's approach to the project will be much more real in the sense that she is dealing with serious issues such as physical violence, relationship abuse, drinking and driving, drug abuse, and pregnancy.

"TRiO has worked with students who have dealt with all of this, so we're using the film for both dramat-



ic effect and real testimonial," Benham said. Unlike last year's film, which sugarcoated many of the issues dealt with, Benham hopes the ones tackled in this film move the audience and the crew.

"I want to make the audience uncomfortable to make it real. I don't think we will have done our job nearly as well as we could have if we don't," Benham said. "I also want my students who are participating to become equally uncomfortable on the set when the acting begins."

The film will also help the TRiO students to experience a miniature-set version of what a film set is like.

"We hope they find a passion and interest to the extent that it will encourage them to go onto college and possibly enroll here," Benham said.

OTHER GOALS

Besides the learning experience for the crew and students, the film will serve as a trigger film.

"There are teaching materials that are being drafted that go along with the film," Benham added, "so that when counselors or anyone gets the film and wants to use it to create some sort of dialogue and conversation, they can have the teaching tools and questions to help lead the conversation in a structured manner."

Crew members of Reel-to-Red have a positive outlook for this project and understand the importance

behind the overall message of the film.

"I feel that these are the issues that need to be brought up because this is what the youth are facing everyday," said Javeria Farooqi, a crew member since November 2004. "Not only do teens need to be exposed to the reality of the situation, but adults as well."

The first day of filming is set for July 16, and in all they will work for seven solid days.

"Regardless of anything, we will end on the seventh day of shooting," Benham said. "The 15 high school students and the cast and crew have to release themselves knowing they're working these long hours. It could be a 16-hour day and they just have to do it."

After the principal photography, the film will then go into post-production, and according to DelAngel, hopefully be finished by the end of August.

Benham hopes it will hit the film circuit and enter competitions to see how it stacks up among the efforts

of peers.

"Talent searches also take these films to national competitions, at which point, they will sell them to any of their agencies that wish to take them back to their local places and use them," she said. "In order to achieve that, we must be vigilant in getting the film done."

Benham hopes to have a premiere of the film in the Student Union some time during the fall semester. As for advice for her crew and all students, her words are simple.

"The best thing a student can do is to be quiet, listen, learn and take direction well," Benham said. "Exceed the standard of expectation and be ever present and ready when you're called to do your job, and do your job well."

For more information on Reel-to-Red Productions, go to www.myspace.com/reel2red.



Oscar H. Garza

CRASH - Owner of American Garage, Robert Rendon (right), assists Chelse Benham (center) and Nate Garcia (left) in shooting the car accident scene of the film. Due to the danger on set, this shot was filmed prior to the principal photography that will take place in July.

'Me and My Gang' puts Rascal Flatts on top

By ANGELA SALAZAR
The Pan American

Country music has always drawn a line in the sand when it comes to the styles in which bands and solo artists can perform. In the past few years, however, the lines have been blurred, allowing mainstream pop and even rock to filter into the once traditional form of music.

Rascal Flatts, who headlined last year's Borderfest at Dodge Arena, was one of the first country trios to bring a sugar-pop sound into country. With their fourth album release, "Me and My Gang," there does not seem to be any slowing down. The album was released in April, and went double platinum only two months later. It also held the top spot on the Top 200 Chart for three weeks, which is unique for country artists.

Gary LeVox, Joe Don Rooney and Jay DeMarcus make up the trio and are best known for their catchy

hooks and sweet harmonies. With the debut of their first single off the album "What hurts the most," they hit listeners strong with bittersweet feeling.

"A killer melody, universal lyric about being left in the dust by your lover and passion-fueled vocals make this one of the best songs we've heard this year—in any genre," said a review on Billboard.com.

The video for the single has also reached its peak as No. 1 on the Country Music Television video countdown. The video, which is

more like a mini-movie, seems as if its concept was modeled after a Lifetime movie script. It follows the story of a young woman dealing with the loss of her mate.

The album ranges in emotion as well as style. The song "Backwards" is a funny, fast-paced tune that jokes about what happens when you play a country song in reverse. The tune claims if you lose something in a country song you will get it back if you play it backward.

One of the most unique and memorable songs on the

album is "Ellsworth." It is a tear-jerking song that can remind anyone of their grandparents. It is a tale of a grandmother who is slowly losing her memory and only remembers the good old days of her youth.

"With her world quickly fading, Grandmother can't remember what she did yesterday, but just mention grandpa and see what happens. Beautifully written and performed with so much passion it can easily bring you to tears," said Sue Bauman on [The Bottom Line at countrymusic/about.com](http://TheBottomLineatCountryMusic/about.com).

Rascal Flatts has always reached a younger demographic, but their level of harmony, vocals and arrangements puts them into some unknown adult pop/country category. Now, their popularity only seems to be getting stronger.

"Looks like they're going to have to send in a SWAT team to topple Rascal Flatts from the top of *Billboard's* country albums and singles charts," said Edward Morris of CMT.

For more information on Rascal Flatts check out www.cmt.com or www.rollingstone.com.



Do celebrity books belong with 'greats'?

Child stars, pop singers sneak on shelves next to Shakespeare

By **FRANK CALVILLO**
The Pan American

Everyone remembers Macaulay Culkin, the precocious young actor who stole America's hearts in films such as "Home Alone" and "Ritchie Rich" and went on to become one of Hollywood's reigning stars throughout the early '90s. However, in the spring of 2006, the 25-year-old star made an unusual career move when he released his debut novel, "Junior."

The book tells the story of a former child star who must deal with a fledgling career, overbearing parents and mental health problems.

Though "Junior" failed to win any new admirers for Culkin—Publishers Weekly called the book "self-indulgent" and "infantile"—this is just one of many instances where celebrities have tried to parlay their earlier success into the literary arena.

While celebrity authors are nothing new, whether they deserve to have their thoughts resting next to the likes of Virginia Wolfe or Ernest Hemmingway on a bookshelf remains the question.

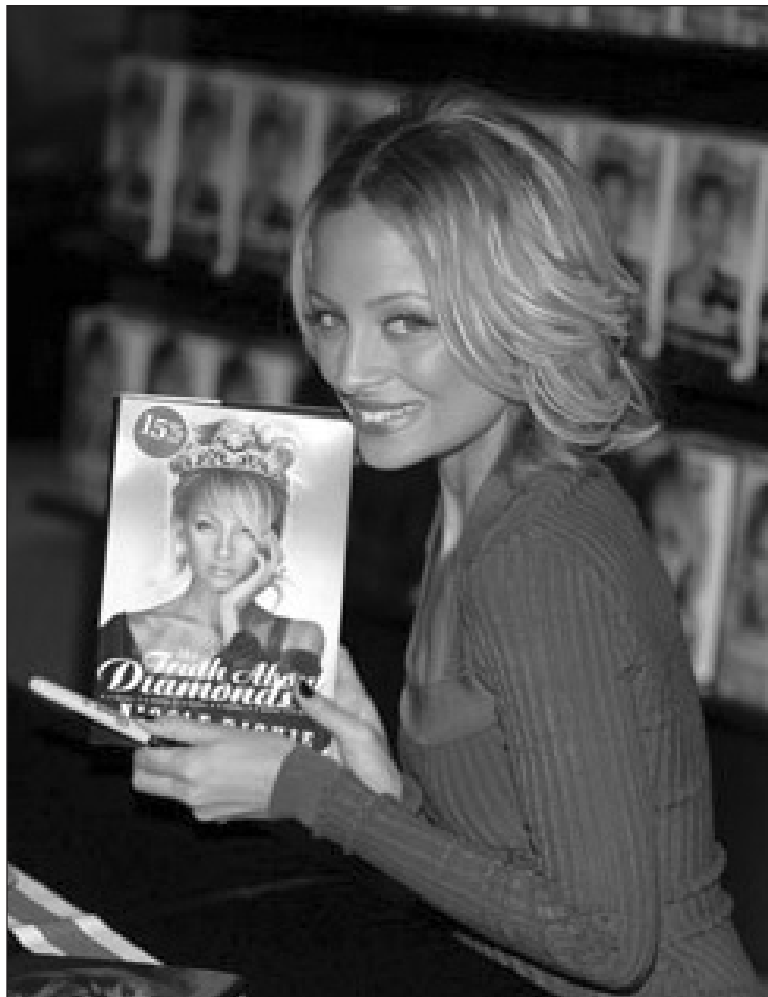
Donna Pazdera, who teaches communication classes at The University of Texas-Pan American, has a theory as to why novels written by celebrities exist today.

"We live in a culture where people are famous because they are on TV or in movies," Pazdera said. "It doesn't matter whether they have accomplished anything like saving the world or even their community. People buy books written by celebrities because it is the celebrity that drives them to it."

Despite her theory on celebrity novels, Pazdera believes that these works also have their share of advantages.

"Any time you can get the masses to go out and read, even if it's Pamela Anderson, it's probably a good thing," she said.

Indeed, it is only natural when a celebrity is popular at the moment that



STAR STRUCK - Nicole Richie enjoys her new role as celebrity author. Here, she signs books for fans and poses for photos next to her recent release, "The Truth About Diamonds."

their representatives would choose to capitalize on popular status. It would seem, however, that the success of a celebrity novel has a lot to do with the type of celebrity who is writing it.

For example, "A Mother's Gift," written by Britney Spears and her mother Lynne, was released in April 2001, and drew mixed reviews. Publisher's Weekly called the book "fast-paced" and "jerky." Another prime example would be that of television star Nicole Ritchie and her 2005 novel "The Truth About Diamonds." Ritchie's novel fared no better than Spears' as critics branded it

"transparent."

Despite the reviews, both novels sold well thanks to the popularity of each girl and her respective career. In complete contrast, novels written by well-known, yet relatively low-key celebrities have opposite results.

Ethan Hawke, the star of such films as "Reality Bites" and "Training Day," is no stranger to the literary world after publishing "The Hottest State" in 1997 and "Ash Wednesday" in 2002. Both novels, which barely made dents on any best-seller's list, received praise from literary critics everywhere.

Similar to Hawke is the case of "My Best Friend's Wedding" star Rupert Everett. Everett's novels, which include 1995's "The Hairdressers of St. Tropez" and 1998's "Hello Darling, Are You Working?" drew stellar reviews yet made very little profit.

What differentiated novels written by Spears and Ritchie from the ones by Hawke and Everett is perhaps the difference in the amount of exposure of the celebrities. The more exposure, the more the public will be aware of his book.

However, with too much time in the public eye, the chance of not being taken seriously among critics becomes greater.

One notable exception is the case of "Baywatch" beauty Anderson, who wrote the 2004 novel "Star," and its 2005 sequel "Star Struck." To the surprise of many, Anderson, a high-profile celebrity, received very favorable reviews for her literary works and both proved to be best-sellers as well. This came as little shock to those who know of Anderson's turn as a columnist for *Jane* magazine in 2003.

However, for some, like Rico Trevino, a UTPA English major, celebrity novels are not a form of literature they would choose to read.

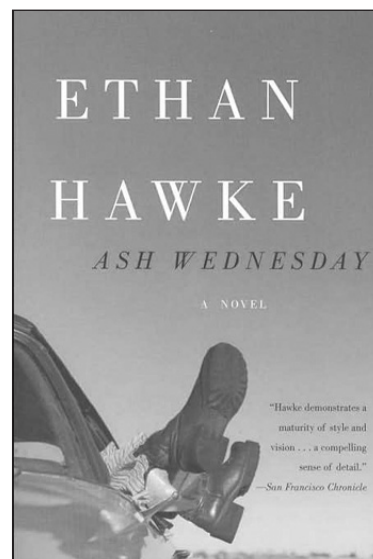
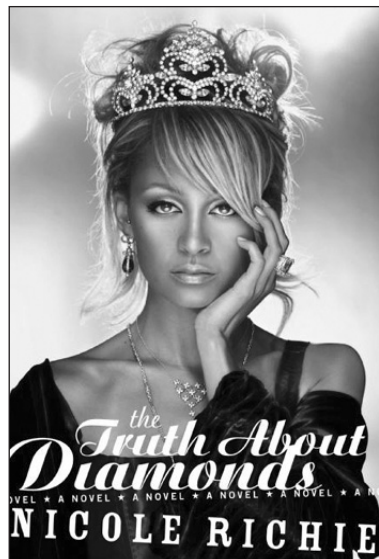
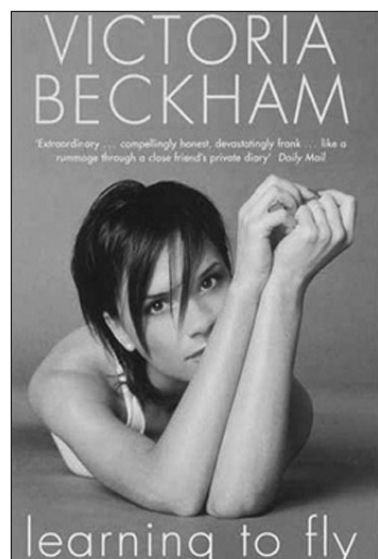
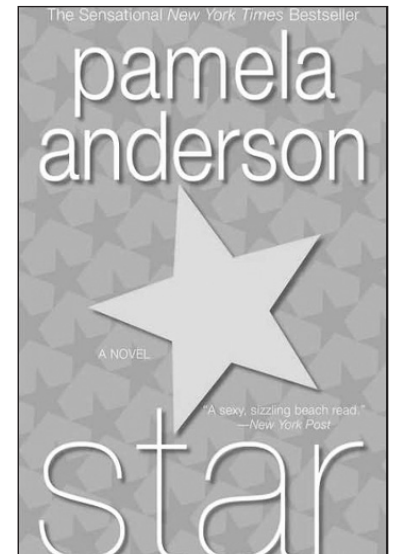
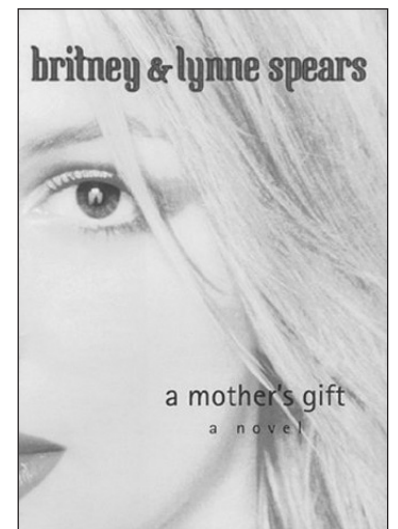
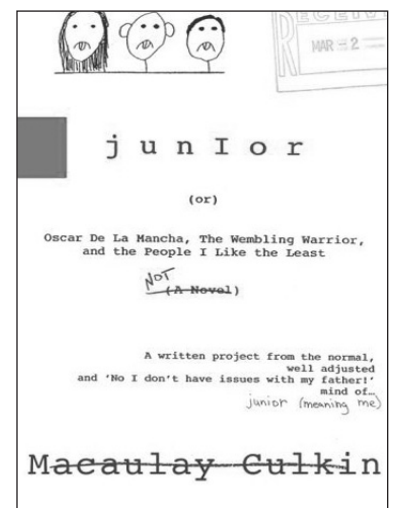
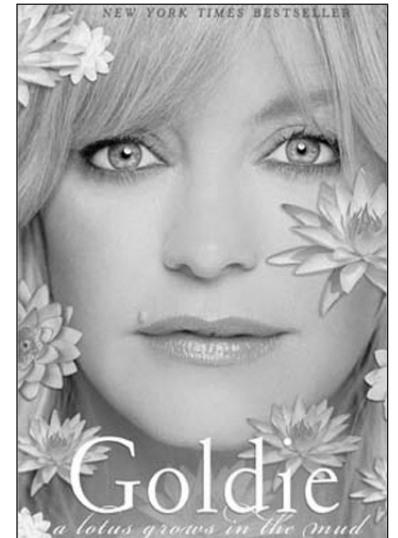
"Celebrities undermine the credibility of the text just because of who they are," Trevino said. "As an English major, I think it would be difficult not to be critical of their work, mainly a work of fiction."

In contrast, Severo Ochoa, a computer science major, says he gives these novels a chance.

"It's interesting to hear what the actual person has to say instead of the tabloids," he said.

For Trevino though, celebrity novels will always be style with no substance.

"I hate to be cynical, but I don't think I would take a book like that too seriously," he said. "I mean you can't compare Britney Spears to (Fyodor) Dostoevsky."



Tredway, Tudi keep Bronc golf team strong during offseason

By **KRYSTINA MANCIAS**
The Pan American

In his first season as The University of Texas-Pan American head men's golf coach; Andrew Tredway has already begun to make his mark. As a player, Tredway qualified for the



TREDWAY

2006 Texas Open after firing a 74 at the Texas Open Qualifying Tournament at South Padre Island.

I r o n i c a l l y , Tredway qualified after he out-performed former Bronc Craig Berger, by a single stroke through the 18-hole qualifying tournament.

"It was fun playing against Craig," said

Tredway.

"To be honest I didn't play that well and he didn't play that well either but that just goes to show you that some of the best players are going to school down here."

Tredway, who replaced former UTPA head coach Drew Scott, competed on the Australian PGA Tour from 2000-02, and was a five-time winner on the U.S. Mini-Tour circuit. He holds five course records as a professional.

Qualifying for the Texas Open came as a surprise to Tredway, who has suffered from back injuries in the past.

"I was surprised because I haven't played that much. My back hasn't been very healthy for the past year. Now I have something to practice for in the next couple of weeks," Tredway said. "It will be fun."

Tredway will now turn his attention to the 2006 Texas Open, which will take place in Tyler

July 11-14. If he wins, he'll bank \$140,000.

In other golf news, UTPA junior Kyle Tudi finished second overall at the Arizona Western Amateur with a two-round score of 139 (69-70) held at the Desert Hills Golf Course.

■ "It was fun playing against Craig. To be honest I didn't play that well and he didn't play that well either but that just goes to show you that some of the best players are going to school down here."

UTPA men's golf coach
Andrew Tredway

At the Pacific Coast Amateur Qualifying Tournament Tudi finished with a two-round tally of 140 (73-67), but missed out by three strokes in his chase to earn a berth at the Pacific Coast Amateur Championships.

UTPA's golf program looks strong for the 2006-2007 season. Though Berger has left the squad due to graduation, the signing announcements of High Wongchindawest, a member of the Bangkok National Team in 2003 and 2004, and Armen Kirakossian, one of the top players in the state during the 2005 season, have the team looking very bright. They will join a program that captured the 2006 National Minority College Golf Championships and had a pair of individual tournament champions last season.

"I'm really looking forward for next season. I can't wait, I'm excited we're going to have a great team next year," said Tredway.

UTPA Rec-sports offers students with summer programs

By **RODERICK DORSEY**
The Pan American

Sports are an integral part of the lives of many Americans. In particular, students at The University of Texas-Pan American have paid close attention to the World Cup soccer tournament, watching the United States and Mexico battle their opponents in an attempt to move on to the next round.

"To be honest, I never watched soccer before, but I have friends from Mexico who go to school here that pumped up the World Cup a lot, and it got me excited to watch," said Patrick Kennedy, a junior management major.

But the organic feeling of playing soccer can be experienced best when one physically participates in the activity. Intramural athletics allow students the opportunity to take part in competition among their peers instead of just watching someone else play.

"I think that intramurals are awesome," replied Kennedy. "We don't have an official football team, but at least we have intramurals to make up for it."

UTPA also offers recreation sports for students who want to stay healthy and fit, or for those who simply want to take time away from the books. According to Jerome Osborne, coordinator of campus activities, the university will be conducting intramural sport leagues starting this fall, but is currently opening its facilities for student recreation.

"Currently, we are not doing intramural sports for the summer," said Osborne. "We're doing open recreation for the summer. You can come out and play racquetball, basketball, volleyball, go swimming, do some weightlifting and fitness, or take one of our aerobics classes from six to seven in the evening."

Starting this fall, according to Osborne, the softball fields will be the site for students to get involved in Cal Ripken quick-ball instead of traditional softball. "Cal Ripken quick-ball is a quicker sport," Osborne explained. "It's like wiffleball, but the ball goes about 150 to 200 feet, compared to the wiffleball traveling 25 to 50 feet in

distance."

Volleyball and flag football tournaments will be held in the fall, while basketball tournaments will be held in the spring.

"The biggest events will be the volleyball and flag football tournaments in the fall," Osborne informed.

The only requirements for the recreation athletics hosted by UTPA are that the individual must be a student and present his/her student identification card before he/she can use the facilities. Towels are not provided, so students must bring their own when using the facilities. The hours of operation for recreation sports this summer are Mondays through Thursdays from 3 to 8 pm. at the Health and Physical Education complex on campus.

As for intramural sports, being a student at UTPA is also required, and signing up for the league is not difficult.

"The easiest thing for the students to do (to sign up) is to read our advertisements on the covered walkway pillars," replied Osborne when asked how the university's campus activities department planned on spreading the word about intramurals.

"The second easiest thing for the students to do is to go to the university's home webpage, go to the site index, then go to 'I' for Intramural Recreation Sports and click on it. It will take them right to the webpage and have everything there for them to do."

Another element that the CA department will add to their lineup of sports this fall will be indoor soccer, with outdoor soccer as usual in the spring. "It's good to have both (indoor and outdoor soccer)," said Elvira Villarreal, a student at UTPA. "Some people would rather play indoors to beat the hot weather, while others who enjoy contact and the elements of the environment would prefer outdoor soccer."

"We will instate Cal Ripken quick-ball, a hot sport I'm pretty sure students will love to play," Osborne stated. "We will be offering soccer both semesters as well as other sports to be determined soon." According to him, students will be involved in one-day tournaments or league play, depending on which sport they decide to participate in.

Osborne has been one of the people behind the success of the intramural and recreation sports programs since he joined the staff in October 2004. But he was humble when asked about the success of the program, giving the bulk of the credit to the students.

"I think one of the biggest successes that we have here is our student workers," Osborne responded. "When I first got here, we had nine student workers. Now we have grown to 45 within

opportunity to experience the same amenities they would get at a health club.

"Once our new building opens up, we are going to continue with our growth," Osborne noted. "When you also factor in the intramural sports, we could possibly be looking at somewhere around the ballpark of 200 potential staff members, which would include 80 to 120 student workers and hired staff at the new facility."

According to Osborne, those interested in



Onydia Garza/The Pan American

PUMPING IRON - Junior psychology major Jason Randolph stays active during the dog days of summer at the UTPA weight room.

a year.

"The ability to grow without all of the headaches; it's just been a natural progression, and everyone is looking forward to it. They (the students) know that the bigger we get with our student worker staff, the more things we will be able to offer to them. It has been great working with the student staff."

UTPA is currently constructing a mega-complex at the corner of Sugar Road and Schunior Road. This facility will be home to the university's new recreation center, giving students the

applying for a job with the recreation staff or intramural personnel can use the same link mentioned for signing up for intramural athletics.

"The Web page is very interactive and user-friendly," explained Osborne.

"If you scroll down the page, you can click on the link that will allow you to see what jobs are available, job descriptions and the requirements. There is also an application to fill out, and it allows you to get prepared for jobs a year from now (when the doors open at the center) that require certification."

SPORTS



Ronaldo

Editor's Pick: Game to watch

Brazil vs. France

Saturday at 2 p.m.
Can be viewed on ESPN



Zidane

No llega el ansiado quinto partido en Copas del Mundo para Mexico

Brazil y Francia, un clasico del Futbol Mundial

Por **FERNANDO MARTINEZ PECHS**
The Pan American

La selección Mexicana comandada por Ricardo Antonio Lavolpe quedo eliminada por cuarta vez consecutiva de los octavos de final de la copa del mundo. Después de una primera fase no muy afortunada y calificando de segunda de grupo, se vio las caras ante la temida Argentina en la segunda ronda de Alemania 2006.

Con la filosofía Lavolpista de un equipo bien parado y de un juego versátil, México salio como de costumbre con una línea de cinco defensores con dos de ellos sirviendo de laterales volantes. Un medio de contención junto a dos volantes de creación, y dos jugadores en punta era el esquema con el que México intentaría dar la sorpresa en contra de Argentina.

Al comienzo del partido, México se vio mejor que Argentina en todos los sectores. Ya para el minuto cinco de juego, en una jugada de pelota fija el capitán Mexicano Rafael Márquez alcanzo a rematar un servicio de Pavel Pardo para poner a México adelante en el marcador. A México no le duro mucho la alegría, ya que Argentina empataría el partido por medio de Hernán Crespo en un tiro de esquina seis minutos después. Durante el cotejo, Argentina y México se alternaron el dominio del partido con pocas jugadas de peligro. Este empate

en el marcador provoco que los dos equipos enfrentaran los tiempos complementarios. En un partido tan cerrado y de mucha lucha, Argentina saco esa magia de los equipos grandes y campeones del mundo. Solo una genialidad de uno de sus cracks podía cambiar el rumbo del cotejo. En el primer tiempo extra Maxi Rodríguez jugador del Atlético de Madrid, recibió un cambio de juego que detuvo



VIVA MEXICO! - Over 500 screaming Mexico supporters gather before a Confederation Cup game held last summer in Germany.

con el pecho para sacar un potente remate de pierna izquierda para poner el balón en el ángulo derecho que resguardaba Oswaldo Sánchez.

A pesar de la eliminación de la selección Mexicana, el equipo dio un buen sabor de boca. La integración del joven volante creativo Andrés Guardado, le dio a México frescura por el sector derecho. En general el equipo salio a la cancha con buena actitud y con ganas de calificar a cuartos de final. Pero al final, no se pudo. Talvez, en Sudáfrica 2010 ese final pueda ser otro.

de enorme nivel futbolístico. En la primera llave el ganador de Alemania en contra de Argentina jugara las semifinales ante el vencedor de Italia y Ucrania. En la segunda eliminatoria el poderoso Brasil de Ronaldinho y compañía se vera las caras ante Francia y el ganador de esta llave enfrentara a Inglaterra o a Portugal.

En la Universidad de Texas-Pan Americana como en todo el mundo la algarabía por la copa del mundo esta en su máxima expresión. Juan Salinas un estudiante de periodismo comento sobre su ídolo Brasileño Luiz Nazario de Lima Ronaldo.

“Ronaldo es un gran jugador. Mucha gente lo critica por su estado físico y su mala temporada en el Real Madrid, pero acaba de demostrar el gran jugador que es. Acaba de romper el record de goleo en copas del mundo que tenia Gerd Muller con 12 anotaciones. Yo pienso que Brasil será campeón del mundo nuevamente.” Afirmando Salinas.

Por el otro lado, Karla Olivares una estudiante de mercadotecnia apuesta por Argentina pasar salir campeona del mundo. Ella explico que el buen paso de la albiceleste en la primera ronda le da el favoritismo para llevarse la ansiada copa de la FIFA.

“Argentina es mi equipo favorito para ganar la copa. Han demostrado mucha calidad en la primera ronda y pienso que sin problemas como en 1986 puedan ganar el mundial de nuevo.” Destaco Olivares.

UTPA volleyball offering week-long camp to teens of RGV

By **DARYL GONZALES**
The Pan American

In the dog days of summer, kids sometimes find it hard to stay out from under of the intense UV waves released by the sun. The University of Texas-Pan American volleyball program might have the solution to all their problems when it holds its 2006 volleyball camp July 5-8.

The camp will bring forward the teachings of associate head coach Fabiana de Abreu and assistant coach Stephanie Doran, as well as help from past and present members of the UTPA volleyball team.

“We will have former Lady Broncs such as Stephanie Redd and Misty Cook alongside current players such as Heather Bravo, April Young, Chelsea Blakely and Deanna Schneyer,” De Abreu commented.

The Brazilian De Abreu will be bringing a ton of previous knowledge from both her playing and coaching days. De Abreu was once part of her country's national team, and was once recognized as the best hitter at the South American and World Championships.

Skills are one part of the camp, but she said it is also very important to give back to the

community.

“We will be teaching them (campers) the same things we teach our girls (Lady Broncs),” she added.

De Abreu played collegiately at the College of Southern Idaho where she won one NJCAA National Championship and was twice named the NJCAA Player of the Year. She then finished her career at Iowa and came to UTPA after serving as a student assistant at Iowa.

Doran is entering her second year at UTPA after helping as the graduate assistant at Kent State, where she also played collegiately. The Universal City, Texas, native holds the program record at her alma mater for assists per game and was the first player to even record 5,000 assists and 1,000 digs in a career.

The camp will run from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. during which campers will work on individual skills before taking an hour break from 11 to noon for lunch: which campers will be responsible for providing their own. Then comes team skills work until 3 p.m. to close off the day.

“We will not know the exact numbers on whose going to attend until the day before,” Da Abreu commented.

Cost for the camp will be \$160 per camper

with possibilities for a discount price of \$145 or \$130 for large groups and/or early registration.

For further information concerning the camp, please contact Fabiana de Abreu at (956) 384-5090 or by e-mail at abreuvb@panam.edu. Registration forms can be found on the UTPA athletic Web site at www.utpabroncs.com.

MORE BRONC NEWS

Aside from sophomore Tim Haines signing a minor league contract with the Brooklyn Cyclones, a New York Mets “A” affiliate; seniors Dane Mason and Kelly Casares have both signed contracts. Mason inked a free agent deal with the Cincinnati Reds on June 9, and Casares signed with the local Edinburg Coyotes, who have been on a tear of late.

The Coyotes are currently 29-9 on the season and have a six-game lead over the nearest club. The United League Baseball will be holding its 2006 All-Star Game on July 12 at the Edinburg Baseball Stadium.

Also in the news, former University of Minnesota standout Ben Johnson has been added to the Tom Schuberth's corps of assistants on the sidelines. Johnson is the second coach penciled in after Mark Coffman was added to the group on June 5.



Onydia Garza/*The Pan American*

ONE ON ONE - Along with the volleyball camp, the UTPA men's basketball program is also holding the Future Bronc Camp this week. Marco Flores of San Manuel contests a pass attempt by T.J. Nowakowski Tuesday at the UTPA Field House.